

## **I wish you a wonderful, safe, healthy and happy 2020!**

Having created and published Animal Life for some years and now Berkshire Mountain Animal World for almost two years, I want to tell you how blessed I feel to be connected to other people who love animals.

### **TURKTURK**

Last year, I was adopted by a baby wild turkey who entered my yard, hid next to my porch and cried. She came out of the woods with two siblings and without a mother. I hadn't seen them but was told, the three siblings walked around the neighborhood. It seemed that two of the babies (poults) had lost their lives somehow and Turkturk ended up in my yard. She cried and cried. So she took up residence at my house for the next 6 months. Turkeys grow up really fast. She roosted in my yard and as she grew up, ventured around the neighborhood. I would get reports from fellow neighbors about her whereabouts, whose yard she was in for the day, but every night, she'd come home.

Her personality was priceless and her joy was remarkable. She talked to me and was filled with child-like wonder. I'd come home from work and she'd be there and bounce around when she saw me. Every morning, I'd get up early and she'd fly down from her roost.

Some months went by and I think she realized she was big and all grown up. The realities of nature starting to creep up on her life. A fisher cat started to stalk her. I didn't see it, my neighbor did, and took pictures of its tracks and Turkturk starting sleeping on the electric wire over my driveway instead of in the trees. She slept with one eye open and was terrified. She was so tired during the day, she could hardly function and stayed by my house.

I think some force of nature told her it was time to go. I didn't want her to think I didn't want her anymore but I never tried to make her a pet or tried to touch her or train her. She wasn't imprinted on me. And she was ready for a mate. I felt like she thought she was supposed to stay. I talked to her everyday and told her it was okay to leave, even though I didn't think she necessarily understood English!

Finally she left. I was relieved and sad. She came back to visit about two weeks later and I haven't seen her since but somehow I know she is ok.

That's my animal story for 2019! What's yours? There is a section in BMAAnimal World for people's stories, and I know that even in our electronically-focused world, it is still pleasurable to actually see your story in print in a publication and hold it in your hands.

*Join us!! Send us your animal story for 2019. Doesn't matter the length!*

*Thanks again and talk soon.*

*Gayle*