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**WILLIAM A. BECKER**  
 CONSULTING, LLC.

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## “FROM THE KEYS FOR THE KEYS”

You might not think The Keys lost money from the BP oil spill...  
**BUT ... BP says we did... and ALOT of it!!!!**

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 even better - visit one of their offices in The Florida Keys  
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 Adjacent to the Post Office  
 Call Tom Theisen at 575-779-1456

Main Office:  
 Key Largo  
 Pink Plaza  
 MM 103400 Overseas Hwy. Suite 277  
 Call Jim Mahley at 305-849-1962

**WILLIAM A. BECKER**  
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Big Pine  
 In the big Pine Winn Dixie Plaza  
 Next to the tax office  
 Call At Tom Griffin 305-896-0042

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# Buck Naked and Wild Turkeys in Key Largo!

I was heading home from work at Ocean Reef on the Friday afternoon before Thanksgiving at about 2:30 pm, going South on US 1... at about MM 104.5 (across from Taylor Creek Village area) on the bay side I saw a large turkey running down the side of the road !!!

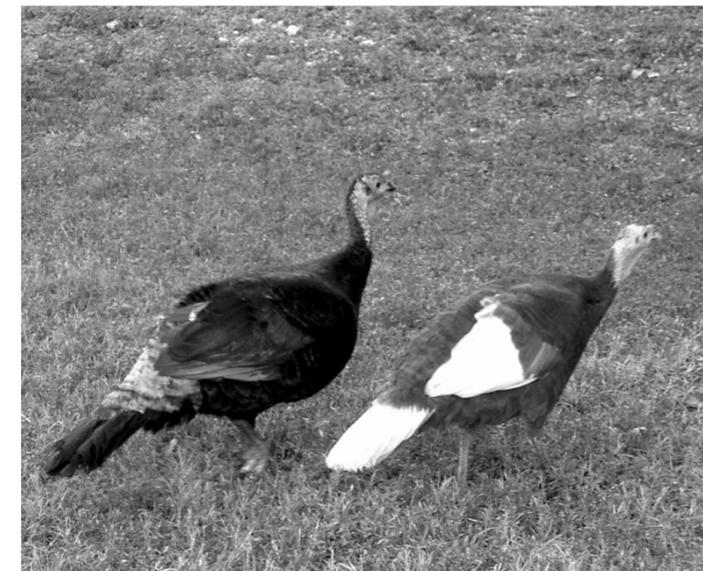
I quickly turned on my hazards and pulled off the side of the road and began to signal other drivers to slow down and be aware of the bird... who was looking to cross the road (which reminds me of a joke—for some reason).

It was at this point that I saw the second bird coming to meet the first. I tried to keep them from going out on to the highway... much like a soccer goalie defending his net (but with more arm flapping and making noises like a honey badger!!) but ultimately to no success.

As the first of the two got past me and was nearly struck twice... I was able to slow up traffic enough to allow the birds to cross with hope they would get away from the road. Once again with no luck, as they decided to lie down in the median grass about 6 inches from the speeding traffic.

At this point I called the sheriff's office... which connected me to someone somewhere(??) who began a series of transfers which finally reached Monroe County Dispatch. They sent out two officers and contacted the Wild Bird Rescue Center and I believe the Upper Keys Animal Shelter as well.

At one point, both lanes north- and south-bound were closed, as one of the officers and I chased the friskiest of the two birds around and around (which I actu-



These turkeys were on the loose on US 1 at Mile Marker 104.5 — trying to escape just before Thanksgiving.

ally managed to video on my phone in spits and spurts)... until finally it jumped up onto the top of his squad car. He quickly attempted to net it —unsuccessfully— just as it released a fresh batch of turkey droppings on the rooftop before it flew off toward the road again (with what appeared to me a large smile on its beak!! “Ha-ha!” I was breathing heavily but laughing too by this point)

As the bird launched in the air and flew toward the southbound lane of US 1, I ran and leapt up in the air to greet it with a two-handed, rope-type grab around its long, frantic, feathered neck!! “Ha-ha!” I thought... who was laughing now, as I tucked the flapping (uninjured) bird's wings under my arm I actually heard a cheer from the crowd of halted “auto on lookers” !!! Many had cameras and phones in hand. (I would love to see if some one captured the mid-air grab!) It felt like a game-saving pass

interception ...only with more weird noises involved!

The first bird now bagged, I headed for the second but this time with help of Mike the animal catcher (or at least “chaser”). At this point I think the officers had decided that wild turkey chasing was a more enjoyable as a spectator sport (which I would probably agree with... as the first bird had managed to scratch up my arms pretty good...I just had not noticed it yet!) Better to enjoy wild turkey as an off-the-clock-event, in a shot glass and followed a cold beer!

Number two hopped the fence and looked to be headed back in to the woods but was thwarted by the net and glove-bearing Mike.

A lady who stopped to watch all the fun and roadside frolic had a key to the heavy gauge lock to the boat trailer storage area where the bird was now hiding out. As she was unlocking the chains to let us in to the gate (and then

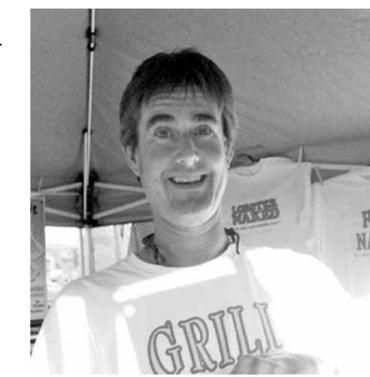
quickly close it behind us), I thought, “Oh gee, great, now a cage match! This should be fun!” And it was... as the three of us were able to play several “rounds” of ring around the giant ficus tree before the feisty foe fowl was cornered, corralled and captured... and yes, once again with only the quickness and accuracy that a trained Chef's bare hands can bring to gobble grabs!

Both birds were now happily next to one another (caged) and out of harm's way .

Thanks to every one who was involved in the Key Largo Wild Turkey Chase of 2012. It was a team effort to bring them to safety.. and just in time for dinner ! Look for raw footage of the event in upcoming episodes of the “Keys Kitchen” show filmed locally here in the Upper Keys and airing on WEYE both Friday & Sunday nights at 8pm, or on [www.TVChannel19.com](http://www.TVChannel19.com) over the internet.

My best recommendation for treating your bird right this holiday season? A cold soak in a brine with Buck Naked's Spices, then a thorough rub down with our Poultry Powder. After all, it “Charms Chicken, Pampers Poultry & Tantalizes TURKEYS Too” ! :)

Chef Buck Naked  
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Is Buck Naked testing spices on live turkeys?