Case Study - A Population of Turkeys within a Farming Community

During the last 7 to 10 years local environmentalist and the Government have integrated populations of wild turkey into the County of Pontiac in the province of Quebec. The wild turkey is native to North America but is usually found further south. This bird has however adapted very well to the environment and harsh winter climate of this region. It is the same species as the domestic turkey. Wild turkeys are omnivores which mean that they eat plant products as well as animals. They forage on the ground or in small trees to feed. They feed on nuts, pine cones, seeds, berries, roots and insects. They occasionally consume amphibians and small reptiles. They are often found feeding in cow pastures and they even visit backyard bird feeders. The Pontiac has an abundance of farm land and many beautiful plantations and diverse forests, and marsh areas. Perhaps the presence of a diverse number of biomes has made survival for this bird possible.

What other living organisms would this population of turkeys interact with? Name at least 5 animals, several insects, and several plant species.

What type of relationship would this population of turkeys have with each of the animals you mentioned? Provide an explanation for each.

For the turkey population to flourish, what would this bird have to have in common with other organisms in this environment? Define how each factor may affect them.

Do the turkey and these organisms form a community? Explain why or why not.

How does the presence of the new turkey population that was introduced into this environment affect the other native organisms living in the Pontiac?

What methods could be used to track the turkey population and their effects on other populations?