

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A TURKEY VULTURE

### Range and Habitat:

This vulture breeds from southern British Columbia, central Saskatchewan, the Great Lakes, and New Hampshire southward. It winters in the Southwest, and in the East northward to southern New England. This bird is found in deciduous forests and woodlands; and often seen over adjacent farmlands.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Two whitish eggs, heavily marked with dark brown, are laid and placed without nest or lining in a crevice in rocks, in a hollow tree, or in a fallen hollow log. Incubation ranges from 38 to 41 days and is carried out by both sexes.

### Foraging and Feeding:

The Turkey Vulture is a common carrion eater. Most of the bird's time is spent soaring gracefully over the land in search of the animal carcasses on which it feeds. The Vulture's keen senses of both smell and sight aid in the location of rotting meat. Because this species does not kill in order to attain food, its claws and feet are rather weak appendages for grasping.

### Vocalization:

Although this vulture is usually silent, it often hisses or grunts when feeding or at its nest.

### Similar Species:

Similar is the Black Vulture, which is also dark with an unfeathered head, but has a much different shape in flight. It is short-winged, short-tailed, and intersperses glides on flat wings with quick, snappy wing beats. Bald and Golden eagles are both superficially similar, but fly on flat wings, have feathered heads, and do not have contrastingly gray flight feathers.



### Breeding Locations:

Bushes, shrubs, and thickets, Desert, Desert, semi, Forests, coniferous, Grassland with scattered trees, Open landscapes, Scrub vegetation areas

### Breeding Type: Common

### Breeding Population:

Bushes, shrubs, and thickets, Desert, Desert, semi, Forests, coniferous, Grassland with scattered trees, Open landscapes, Scrub vegetation areas

### Egg Color: White

### Number of Eggs: 1 - 3

### Incubation Days: 38 - 41

### Egg Incubator: Both sexes

### Nest Material:

No material added to nest.

### Migration: Migratory