

Species of the Month

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura



Turkey Vulture

- A large dark bird with long, broad wings
- Adults have a red head
- Feathers protrude at the wingtips and while soaring vultures hold their wings raised, making a slight “V”
- Larger than other raptors
- Ranges from southern Canada to the southernmost tip of South America
- Can be found in the Plan Area year round



Photo: Luke Seitz

Turkey Vulture

- Vultures serve an important part in the ecosystem
- Vulture have increased in population since the 1960s.
- Vultures find carrion by sight and smell
- Wintering vultures will often form large roosting colonies
- Vultures nest on cliffs
- 1-3 eggs are laid
- Nesting sites are remote



Monitoring and Management

- Conserve and maintain open habitat for foraging
- Include within the MSHCP conservation area known nesting sites
- Monitoring known nesting sites
- Include in the MSCHP conservation area cliff sites which provide nesting habitat



Thank You



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