

Turkey Vultures



While not usually known for its beauty, the Turkey Vulture's main talents revolve around finding and eating dead animals. Unlike most birds, Turkey Vultures have a keen sense of smell to find their decaying food. Featherless heads allow these birds to remain clean while eating

carrion and their excellent immune systems protect against diseases such as botulism, anthrax, cholera or salmonella.

The sight of a dark bird of prey soaring might make you think eagle or osprey, but if the wings are two-toned and bent in the shape of a "V," it's a Turkey Vulture.



This time of year Turkey Vultures are starting to return from their overwintering sites in the southern U.S. Look for large groups of migrating Turkey Vultures, also known as kettles, soaring on thermal air currents in the sky. Late in the day and during the night, these same groups roost in trees, on top of buildings or other high secluded spots.

Signs of Spring

Western Chorus Frogs and other spring frogs are calling to attract mates.



Spring wildflowers such as **Bloodroot** emerge before trees leaf-out to take advantage of the sunlight.



Male Red-winged Blackbirds arrive ahead of the females to establish

territories. Listen for their loud "conk-a-reee" calls.

Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.