



Vultures



Black vultures and turkey vultures are a common sight in our community. Whether or not you welcome these neighbors, learning more about their behavior may promote understanding and provide management tools for those who wish to keep their distance.

Vultures are migratory birds and individuals don't ever permanently reside in a single area for very long. Many people think that exterminating vultures is a permanent solution for ridding an area of vultures, but since they are migratory the birds who have been scared off will merely move along their migratory route while new vultures will arrive. Vultures frequent our region in part because of the highways and cliffs that make for great soaring. They are opportunistic animals and are often drawn to an area with an abundance of food including roadkill and trash made available by open dumpsters, trash and burn piles.

If you wish to discourage the presence of vultures make sure no food or trash is available outdoors; this includes closing dumpsters, trash cans, removing outdoor dumping piles, not leaving food outdoors for dogs and cats, and removal of roadkill.

Fun facts about vultures

- ✎ Vultures are monogamous and pairs are believed to mate for life, migrating together year round.
- ✎ Vultures are scavengers and eat what is already dead. They rarely hunt and kill live prey.
- ✎ Different species of vultures will roost together in the same tree at night.
- ✎ Worldwide 22 species of vultures exist, 16 of them are threatened or endangered.
- ✎ Vultures play an important role in public health as they work to decontaminate the environment by removing dead animals and waste.
- ✎ A group of vultures is called a committee, while together in flight they are called a kettle.



To learn more about vultures and other native species of the WV eastern panhandle, please visit www.PotomacValleyAudubon.org

