

# Turkey Vulture



Status: Common migrant; in south, common summer resident and uncommon winter resident; rarer in northern Illinois in all seasons.

Distribution: Roosts in wooded areas, but hunts over open countryside throughout range.

Field Marks: Adults have red, naked head and black feathers over the rest of the body; viewed from underneath, wings appear two-toned gray and black; juveniles have dark heads.

Voice: Young may hiss to scare off would-be predators if disturbed in nest.

Behavioral Clues: Likes to soar on thermals, and can stay aloft for hours with little flapping of wings; in early morning will perch with wings extended to capture sunlight; attracted to road kills and other carrion on which they feed.

Nest: On ground in hollow log, or in hollow trees, rock crevices, or even abandoned buildings; adults will regurgitate on any visitor disturbing nest or young.

# TURKEY VULTURE



Migrating from  
Carbondale, Illinois  
to LaCrosse,  
Wisconsin

