

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

This is the most widely distributed vulture in the New World with a wingspan of 5 to 6 feet. Commonly seen soaring overhead with its wings in a dihedral (angle between supporting surface (such as a wing) and a horizontal transverse line) pattern, it is also frequently seen cleaning up road kill along the highway.

The underwings are two-toned: silvery flight feathers with black wing-linings. The undertail is also light. Juveniles have gray heads while newly hatched birds have black heads. angle between an aircraft supporting surface (such as a wing) and a horizontal transverse line, When they are soaring, turkey vultures rock back and forth..It is difficult to see the color of the head, but the rocking, as well as the dihedral pattern, distinguishes the Turkey Vulture in flight from other large, soaring birds.

Perched, adult Turkey Vultures are unmistakable, with their featherless, red heads.



Photo By Richard Poorman