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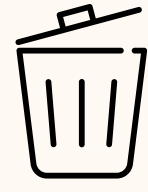
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BLACK VULTURE

Coragyps atratus

Range & Habitat

A common sight throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, Black Vultures can be found soaring, roosting and feeding often along with Turkey Vultures. Inhabiting open areas, Black Vultures favor roads, river corridors, and fragmented landscapes associated with human-disturbed areas including farmlands and occasionally garbage dumps.



Nesting Behavior

Black Vultures are emblematic of enduring partnerships, remaining monogamously bonded for life and demonstrating a strong sense of family throughout the year. Nest sites will often be reused if proven safe in the past.

Both parents play a crucial role, from incubation to feeding post-hatching, fostering an enduring bond with their young. The female will usually lay 2 eggs in late February into March, and incubate eggs for 38-39 days. Hatching occurs in mid-April, and the young will receive regurgitated food that shifts from liquid to solid as they grow, signifying the vultures' attentive parenting. The young will take to the sky, leaving the nest in late June into July.



Large, heavy-bodied, carrion-eating, black bird, with short tail and broad plank-like wings tipped with white.

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To learn more visit www.hawkmountain.org/visit/raptors-at-hawk-mountain





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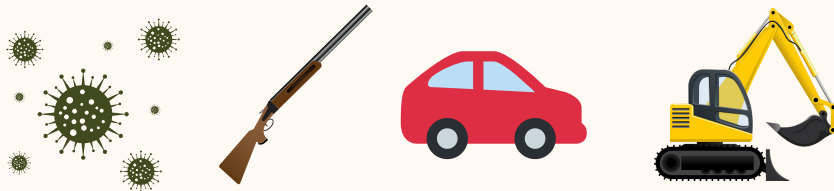
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What Does a Black Vulture Nest Look Like?

Black Vultures do not build nests instead, they lay their eggs in rocky crevices, caves, tree cavities, hollow logs, and on the floors of abandoned buildings. If selecting a nest site near you, the adult will perch nearby as early as 4-6 weeks before egg-laying, presumably to tell if the site is free from disturbance.

Status & Threats

In Pennsylvania, the Black Vulture is considered “Secure and Increasing”. However, populations of scavenging raptors are disproportionately threatened due to risks from disease, persecution, vehicle collisions, disturbances from human interactions and road construction, and habitat loss.



Conservation & Management

To effectively protect Black Vultures, prioritize habitat preservation and safe nesting sites. Educate the public about their ecological importance to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts. Promote the use of non-lead ammunition to prevent poisoning. When you see vultures in the road, slow down and stop to help reduce the risk of collision.



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