

Turkey vulture holds its wings in a 'V' as it banks. Note small, red, featherless head.



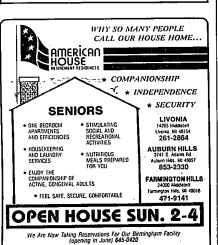


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Vulture rides the wind

CHOOL is about to end, and vacations are about to begin. As families travel to their destinations, passengers and divers can pass their time looking for widdlife along the countryside. When driving during the early morning hours, travelers may observe and count red-winged black-birds in the cattallis next to the road. Passengers might even look for red-tailed hawks that may be sitting on telephone poles, dead timbs of trees, or soaring over open fields.

trees, or soaring over open fields.

IF YOU SEE a large bird soaring over an open field in Michigan it may not be a red-tailed hawk, though. It may be a turkey vulture.

Though they are called "buzzards" by some people, crnithologists call them vultures. They are a common bird in Michigan, but are often mistaken for hawks. Turkey vultures are about 25 inches long, have a wingspan of six feet, and are black except for a red featherless head.

In the sky, they are masters of the air currents and seldom flap their wings. When seen from the ground, their heads look so small that they





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nature **Timothy** Nowicki

Most birds have a very poor sense of smell.

As a bird turns and banks, not how its wings are held in a slight "v" shape. Hawks hold their wings outstretched flat.

Most banks in our area are not black like the turkey vulture, though they may be about the same size. If you consider all these characteristics, next time you see a large bird lite, next time you see a large bird lying overhead, you should be able

hawk.

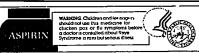
TURKEY VULTURES are the only voltures found in Michigan. They need to hollow logs, rock crevition, and the season of the

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