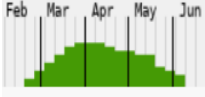
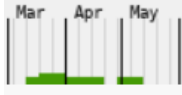


## Ontario's Vultures, Identification in Flight Comparison Table

- Vultures are carrion specialists. They lack strong raptor talons but do have a hooked bill and exhibit superior soaring capabilities.
- Vultures are highly gregarious and roost, soar and often eat together.
- Bird size, proportions, and field marks vary, and flight is dynamic. Therefore, descriptions are based on most typical characteristics and attitudes displayed. This chart is not definitive.
- Like true raptors, the female vulture is larger than the male (reverse sexual size dimorphism).
- Wingspan refers to the distance from wing-tip to wing-tip with wings fully outstretched.
- Length refers to distance from beak tip to tail tip.
- NPH Migration Timing graphs reflect daily averages from annual spring migration counts at Beamer Conservation Area from 1975 to 2019

Vulture	Size and Proportions	Field Marks	Flight Behaviour and Flight Shapes	Migration
<p><b>Turkey Vulture</b></p> <p><b>TV</b></p>	<p>-Large</p> <p>-Long, broad wings with deeply slotted outer primary feathers</p> <p>-Very small head</p> <p>-Short, wide tail (but longer than BV tail)</p> <p><b>-Wingspan Range:</b> 5'7" to 5'10"</p> <p><b>-Length Range:</b> 2'1" to 2'8"</p> <p><b>-Weight:</b> Approximately 4 lbs 7 oz</p>	<p>-Very dark brown, almost black body and underwing coverts with lighter flight feathers that can shine silvery-gray</p> <p>-Greyish tail</p> <p>-Naked red head and ivory bill</p> <p><b>Juvenile:</b></p> <p>-Similar except head and bill are gray</p>	<p><b>Flight and Wingbeats:</b></p> <p>-Amazing ability to soar and flaps infrequently</p> <p>-Seen mostly holding wings in a dihedral</p> <p>-Habitually rocks and teeters side to side in flight</p> <p>-Occasional deep wingbeats</p> <p>-At certain angles, the head seems to disappear</p> <p><b>In a Soar:</b></p> <p>-Head on, wings are in a pronounced dihedral</p> <p>-From below, broad wings with deeply slotted outer primaries, short tail and very small head</p> <p><b>In a Glide:</b></p> <p>-Head on, wings form a modified dihedral (flatten from the wrist)</p> <p>-From below, wrists are forward</p>	<p><b>-Common</b></p> <p>-Migrant</p> <p>-Migrates by itself and in various group sizes</p> <p><b>NPH Migration</b></p>  <p><b>Timing</b></p> <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2015-2019 is 6516/year</p>
<p><b>Black Vulture</b></p> <p><b>BV</b></p>	<p>-Medium</p> <p>-About two-thirds the size of a TV</p> <p>-Wings are shorter than a TV</p> <p>-Very short and wedge-shaped tail</p> <p>-Head is small but thicker neck than TV so overall appearance of rounder head than a TV</p> <p>-Head and tail equidistant from body</p> <p><b>-Wingspan Range:</b> 4'6" – 4'11"</p> <p><b>-Length Range:</b> 2" to 2'3"</p> <p><b>-Weight Range:</b> 3 lbs 8 oz – 4 lbs 13 oz</p>	<p>-Black underside except for wingtips</p> <p>-Wingtips have prominent grayish white to buffy white (not silver) patches</p> <p>-Dark tail</p> <p>-Naked dark grey head and bill</p> <p>-Overall looks darker than a TV</p>	<p><b>Flight and Wingbeats:</b></p> <p>-Amazing ability to soar</p> <p>-Does not exhibit tippy buoyancy of TV, is more stable</p> <p>-Flaps more than a TV</p> <p>-Flaps are quick and choppy, a hurried quality to them</p> <p>-At certain angles, the tail seems to disappear.</p> <p><b>In a Soar:</b></p> <p>-Head on, wings are flat or in a slight dihedral</p> <p><b>In a Glide:</b></p> <p>-Head on, wings are mostly flat or very slightly arched</p> <p>-From below, wrists are forward</p>	<p>-Rare</p> <p>-Vagrant</p> <p><b>NPH Migration</b></p>  <p><b>Timing</b></p> <p>NPH Annual Spring Migration Average from 2017-2019 is 5/year</p>