

# black vulture

## *Coragyps atratus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Aves  
Order: Cathartiformes  
Family: Cathartidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

The black vulture averages 23 to 27 inches in length. It has a short tail. Except for white patches in the wing tips which can be seen as it flies, this bird is entirely black, including its bare head and legs.

### BEHAVIORS

The black vulture is an uncommon, permanent resident in extreme southern Illinois. It is occasionally seen as a vagrant elsewhere in the state. Nesting occurs in April and May. No nest is built. The female lays two eggs in a shallow cave or tree cavity. The gray-green to dull-white eggs have brown marks. Both the male and female take turns incubating during the 28- to 39-day incubation period. This bird lives in swampy woodlands and bluffs. It feeds by scavenging for dead organisms.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none