



## Vulture Tagging & Tracking Project



During your visit to south Florida, you are likely to encounter numerous vultures that have migrated to the area for the winter. Vultures are important players in the drama of life that unfolds in our natural areas. Numbers of this protected species are on the rise in south Florida. In some areas where they congregate, however, they have been known to become aggressive, cause property damage, and present a hazard to aircraft. **YOU** can be part of the solution during your visit to the park!

### Protecting Your Vehicle During Your Visit

In recent years, vultures have taken to tearing up vinyl and rubber components of automobiles, campers, and boats in Everglades National Park—especially at Royal Palm. Whenever possible, try to park in full sun and avoid parking near groups of vultures.

Covering exposed rubber with a wet sheet or towel can also help prevent damage while you're away. And if vultures begin to congregate in numbers, use loud noises to scare them away or notify a ranger for assistance.



Tarps and bungee cords are available free of charge at Royal Palm for visitor use. Take the time to secure your vehicle before walking a trail—it can help prevent damage from vultures.

### Report Your Vulture Observations



In December of 2012, Everglades National Park began a project to monitor the movements of tagged vultures. Conducted in partnership with the USDA National Wildlife Research Center, the findings of this research effort will help shed light on the behavior and activity of vultures moving across south Florida.

Many hundreds of vultures have been tagged throughout the southeastern United States, and over one hundred have been recently tagged in Everglades National Park. Each bird has been marked with a tag in its **RIGHT** wing bearing a unique ID (see below). The tags may be visible from below while the birds soar.



Both Black Vultures (top) and Turkey Vultures (above) have been tagged in the park and should be reported if seen.

Vultures have been marked with a variety of colored tags bearing various combinations of letters and numbers. Observations of these birds should be reported to aid in the monitoring effort.

### HOW TO REPORT SIGHTINGS

Please make note of the location of the sighting, tag number and color, and species, as well as any information on the behavior of the animal. Photographs are also welcome.

Submit observations either by completing the back of this form and turning it in to park personnel, or by email to [john.s.humphrey@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:john.s.humphrey@aphis.usda.gov). Reports can also be filed by phone at 352-375-2229.

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## Observation Report

Observation Date

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Observation Time

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Location

(GPS coordinates preferred,  
but addresses and  
landmarks are also useful)

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Species Seen, if known

(Black, Turkey)

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Tag Color and/or  
Number

(number is usually  
a 3-digit code)

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Behavioral Observations

(alive/dead, flying, etc.)

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**Please submit this completed form to a  
member of the park team.**

**Thank you for your assistance in this  
important research project!**

Name of Reporter

(optional)

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Contact Phone/Email

(optional)

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