

NERI Report #08-01

Olympic Vulture Study Report
Salt Creek County Park
September 23-30, 2008

I wasn't able to be at the park the usual amount of time, but between myself and other observers, there was a count for eight days during the usual high point of the migration. Numbers are as follows:

23 September: 215 turkey vultures
24 September: 100 turkey vultures
25 September: no birds reported
26 September: heavy fog all day
27 September: 32 turkey vultures
28 September: 286 turkey vultures
29 September: no birds reported
30 September: 400 turkey vultures

Total turkey vultures: 1,033

Not a bad season, with all things considered. It was very slow for other raptors with only the local bald eagles, and one migrant peregrine and redtail to count. Seabirds and other species usually there in numbers were barely represented.

The sign put up by the park department attracts a lot of attention and we had many more visitors than usual asking about the vultures and their migration. The support of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society has been helpful all along.