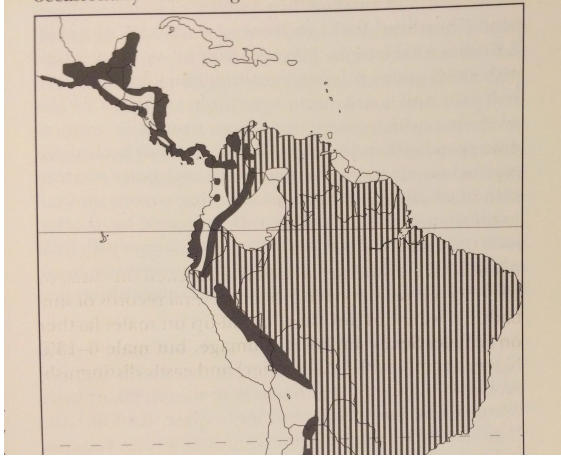


King Vulture

Sarcoramphus papa



Range: Yucatan to northern Argentina. Rare in eastern S.A

Size: :71-81cm(40-64 in)

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Weight : :2.7-4.5kg (5.94-9.9 lbs)

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Wing: 170-200 cm

Habitat: forest and Savannah

Incubation: 50 - 58 days

Eggs: 1-2 usually 1

Fledge: 10-12 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36-48 months

Nest: High in trees

Social: Solitary feed in groups up to 10

Breeding: monogamous

Movement : generally sedentary

Food: carrion may kill young livestock

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies : Monotypic

Longevity: captive: 30yrs

Wild: unknown



Order: Accipitriformes Family: Cathartidae

The king vulture is a striking bird with a colorful bald head and fleshy caruncle over a stout bill. Larger than other scavengers, with the exception of the Andean condor, it usually dominates feeding sites.

Like other vultures the king vulture can be observed sunning itself in a spread wing position. This is called a horaltic pose. The stance is believed to serve multiple functions: drying the wings, warming the body, and baking off bacteria

Nests are found most often high in trees. A hollow in the tree is the usual sight for the nest although abandoned nests from other birds may be used. Pairs mate for life and both parents incubate the egg and care for the chick