

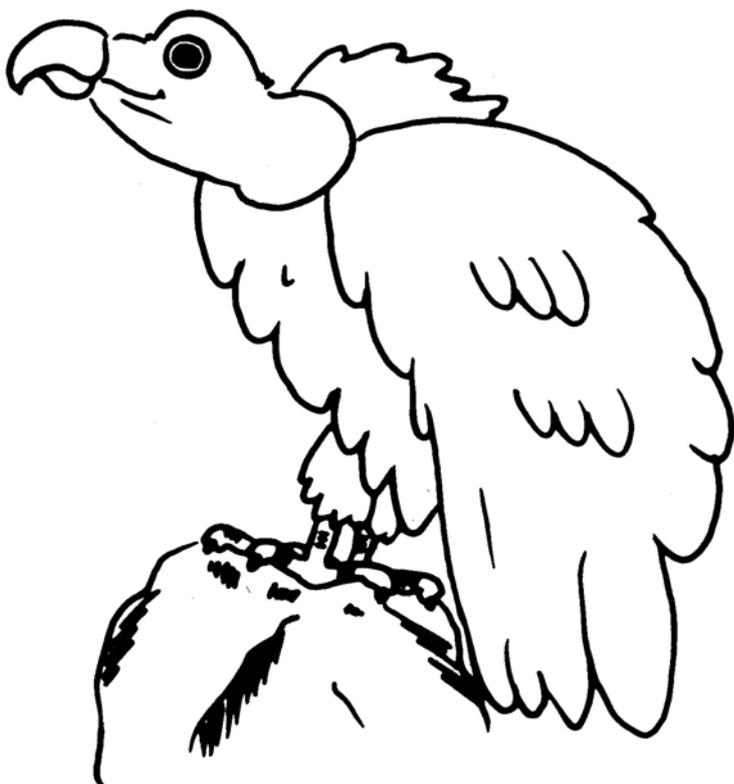


ULTURE ULTURE



Speak the Truth that is sweet ... about Vultures

Vultures are not vicious or destructive, although you might have been told that. Although they are classified with “Birds of Prey” which feed on other live animals, vultures eat only carrion, or dead animals. It is this quality which makes them so valuable to us. They are literally, “nature’s sanitation engineers”. Just imagine life without vultures! ... today we know vultures can disappear ... but we don’t know what we will do without them ... We need to wake up ! Here is the list of Indian Vultures and their descriptions.



Himalayan griffon vulture *Gyps himalayensis*

Size: 45-50 inches
Range: Himalaya - Central Asia

I grunt and hiss while I feed,
Scaring competition as is my need.
My size is huge and hence my greed
in filling my stomach, ...
a large task indeed !

My colour is pale with white below, and
black contrasting feathers the better to show
my bare buff head and shaggy ruff,
with pinkish feet like a powder puff.

Mountains are my favourite venue
as I track cattle to await them on the menu.
Cliffs are where I rest and nest but
breeding in mountains is what I do best.

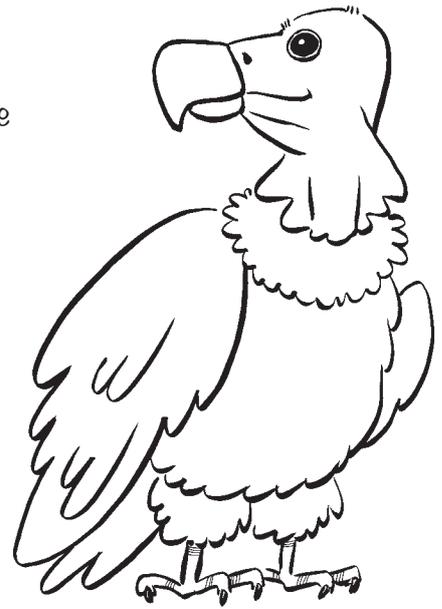
Red-headed vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*

Also known as: Pondicherry vulture, Indian black vulture and King vulture
Size: 29-31 inches Range: South - Central Asia

Because I prefer southern Indian culture I am sometimes called a Pondicherry vulture.

Despite my imposing size and dramatic colouration I am too shy to be a threat, -.. except in your imagination

When you consider my glossy, large, black frame
Topped off by my handsome, bright, red head
It seems to me the greatest shame
To waste my charms on the dead.



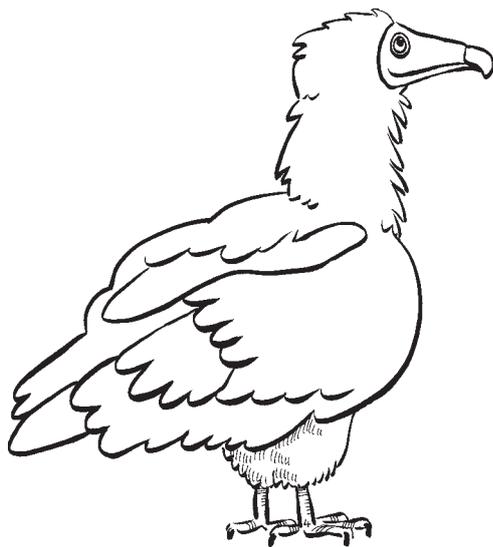
Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Also known as: Pharoë's chicken or White scavenger vulture
Size: 22-25 inches. Range: Europe, Africa, Asia, India (Northwest), and Canary Islands

Have you heard of the famous white vulture?
The smallest scavenger in Afro-Asian culture

My claim to fame is using a tool to break eggs,
throwing rocks on them as a rule.

However.... my nice colour and intellectual frequency
does not compensate for my putrid palate, which
transcends all standards of decency.



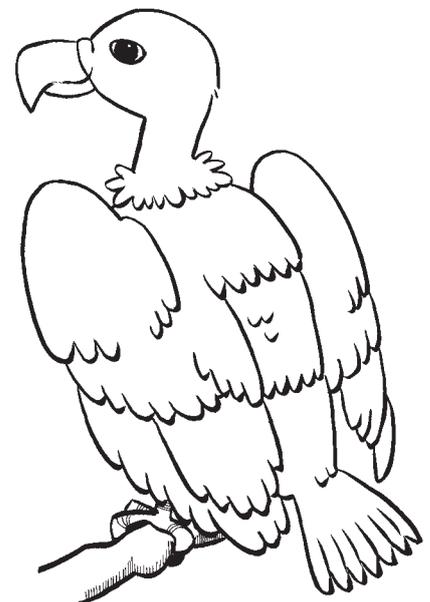
Indian white-backed vulture *Gyps bengalensis*

Also known as: Oriental white-backed vulture or White-rumped vulture
Size: 30 inches. Range: India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar

Alas, I am one very ugly bird
And for my social standing there is hardly a word

Dark grey on darker grey with a wispy white ruff
On my thin, scrubby neck, life is very tough.

They call me (wrongly) the Bengal Vulture
Because I was Scientifically named within that culture.





Bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*

Also known as: Lammergeier
Size: 39-42 inches. Range: Mountains of southern Europe,
Islands of Mediterranean and Asia minor.

I am a large Asian Lammergeyer
But please be assured you have nothing to fear.

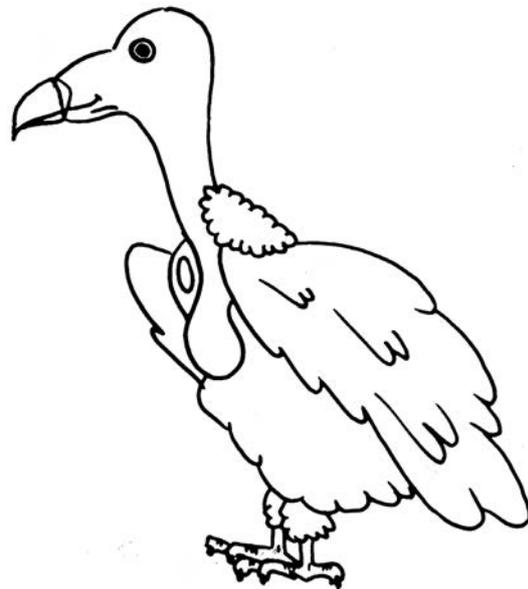
Aside from being shy and having few vices
I am also plagued by an identity crisis!
The zoologists, you see, who decide
on what is legal can't make their minds
if I'm a vulture or an eagle!

Indian long-billed vulture *Gyps indicus*

Also known as: Indian griffon
Size: 32-36 inches
Range: India and Pakistan

I am a large brown, yellow-billed raptor
Having more colour contrasts,
your attention to capture!
My wings are broad, head small,
Neck long, tail short, appearance tall!

I live on ledges of cliffs and buildings also
with my cousins and peers;
my voice is quieter than some vultures
in respect of your ears.



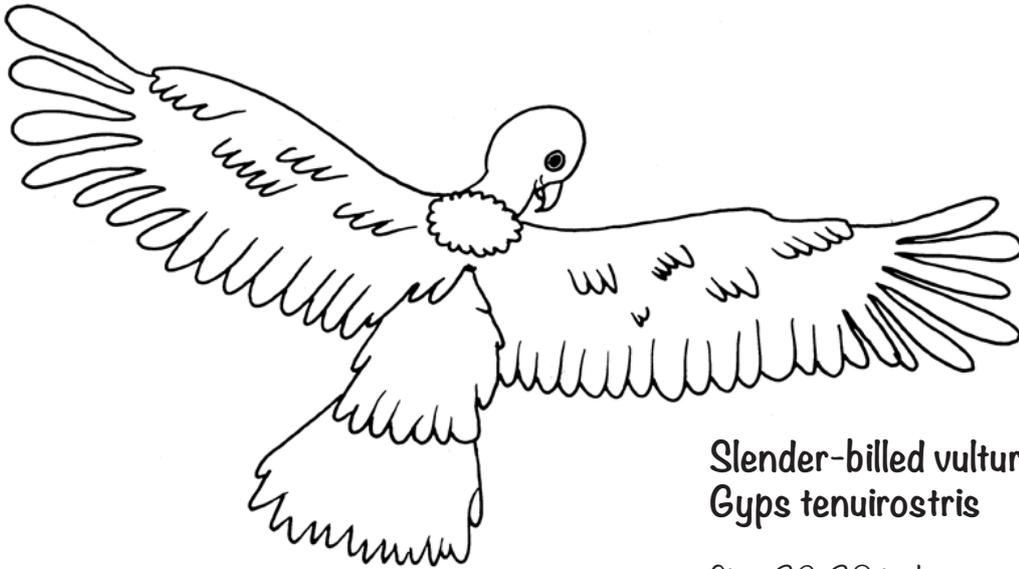
Eurasian griffon *Gyps fulvus*

Also known as: Eurasian griffon vulture or
Griffon vulture
Size: 37-48 inches.
Range: Africa, Asia
and Europe

I am a huge brown handsome bird
Particularly in flight from underneath
So many colours - nearly absurd

I frequent mountains, plains, semi desert
Soaring high in the air searching food,
usually with other birds.





Slender-billed vulture
Gyps tenuirostris

Size: 32-38 inches.

Range: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal.

Whatever to say about me ?

One look at my wingspan reveals my greatness -
I am wild and free.



Cinereous vulture
Aegypius monachus

Also known as: Black vulture or Eurasian black vulture
Size: 39-43 inches. Range: Asia and Europe

I am the largest bird of prey in the world
Thus my status is not less than an Earl !
I am covered in colours of brown & black
Which is great camouflage in point of fact.

Himalayan Griffon Vulture is not in any way my kin,
But our longish necks seem to come from the same bin !

You can see me alone or on a date
with another Old World Vulture... it is our fate.
If you see me in the sky just heed my cautious words:
"I am one of the world's heaviest flying birds!"