

# THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

February 22-26, 2010



When will the Turkey Vultures come back this year? They always return in February!

Vultures roost on top of the Wilco Tower in downtown Midland, as well as in a neighborhood along Scharbauer Drive. This second roost was started because a local bird rehabilitation specialist Released them at here house in town not far to the west.

This population has caused damage to the landscapes of the neighborhood because of the droppings.

Vulture roosts become covered with droppings and

vomit, which is quite harmful to vegetation, to the point of killing trees and low-growing plants.

Vultures are very important however. They eat dead animals, which prevents flies from breeding and transporting harmful bacteria nearby. Dead animals stink, too, and when vultures quickly eat a dead animal, the smell does not last as long.

**Teacher and student challenge;** please report to the Sibley Nature Center when you first see vultures. Email us at [bwilliams@sibleynaturecenter.org](mailto:bwilliams@sibleynaturecenter.org) and please include the location where the vultures were seen. If possible, also send us a photograph of them...even photos of ones flying over town.