Turkey Vulture

Turkey vultures survive off carrion—the decaying flesh of dead animals—and often get a bad rap for their "vulgar" ways. But these extraordinary scavenger birds have several classy strategies for living in the desert, and beyond. They don't perspire, so when it's very hot, they pee or poo on their legs to create evaporative cooling called urohydrosis. When would-be thieves approach their feeding grounds, vultures can give off a foul natural repellent in the form of projectile vomit! Despite these unsavory behaviors, turkey vultures play an important role in the ecosystem. Because they can digest what the rest of us can't—carcasses tainted with harmful bacteria and disease—they clean up the landscape and protect other animals (including us) from toxins and illness. Thank you, turkey vulture.