

**Cortni Moglovkin:** I am entering the field of zoology and became aware that even with the well accepted knowledge of avian intelligence, and the highly observed occurrence of repetitive aversive behaviors such as self-preening, feather plucking, and over all inactivity in zoo settings, there is very little information on programs to decrease such aversive behaviors (including the relative effectiveness of various alternatives) in avian species. Therefore I decided to research the relative effectiveness of two types of enrichment techniques on the American Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*; see below, left picture). My goals were, one, to test whether enrichment decreases repetitive aversive behaviors and inactivity levels in the American Turkey Vulture by stimulating other types of naturally evolved species specific behaviors, and two, to test whether the responses differ between the food based (an example of food enrichment is shown on the picture to the right) and novel object oriented enrichment techniques. After receiving a generous grant from the Evolutionary Biology department here at Case, I was able to start my research in July of 2004 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. I found that Turkey Vulture behavior positively modified in response to both novel object and food based enrichment techniques. Unexpectedly however, the findings also demonstrated that only food based enrichment had both positive effects, including markedly increased activity levels (a 60% increase from baseline levels) and a decrease in repetitive aversive behaviors by over 40%; novel object based enrichment in contrast decreased activity levels by 20% from the baseline levels and increased self-preening by 50%. The results of this study contrasts with *Psittacine* (Parrot) work where novel-object based enrichment has shown to be effective. I speculate that the reason for this contrast is due to the differences in evolved species specific behaviors. With this research I hoped to increase my own knowledge of varying enrichment techniques and demonstrate that while not all forms of enrichment are equally successful, by utilizing the known natural behavior of a species we can increase the probability that we are constructing proper forms of enrichment for the individual species.

