(Top) Turkey vulture and salmon carcass. The scene shows a turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), a common scavenger of salmon carcasses in the California Central Valley. Even in human-dominated watersheds, wherever salmon runs still remain, carcasses continue to provide an important ecological component to these systems, including source nitrogen for riparian crops, such as wine grapes.
(This page) Salmon nutrients in human-dominated ecosystems. This composite displays a variety of vertebrate scavengers responsible for the transfer of salmon-derived nitrogen to riparian vegetation, including wine grapes in California’s Central Valley (center). Clockwise from upper left: opossum (Didelphis marsupialis), striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis), river otter (Lutra canadensis), Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo regalis), coyote (Canis latrans), Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura), mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), and gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus).

(Opposite lower) Gray fox and salmon carcass. The scene shows a gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), a scavenger of salmon carcasses in the California Central Valley.