

## Vulture that caused Kissimmee power outage dies

*By Jessica Inman, Orlando Sentinel, 10 January 2016, Orlando, Florida*

### Spokesman for Kissimmee utility company said vulture caused Sunday outage

A vulture crashed into a Kissimmee power line on Sunday morning, leaving many residents without power until its carcass was removed, a Kissimmee Utility Authority spokesman said.

"These scavenging birds of prey, with wingspans of five feet or more, can easily get caught up in our infrastructure where they often perch and scan their territory for food," spokesman Chris Gent wrote in a release.

Sunday's crash meant more than 1,000 of the utility company's 69,000 clients were without power, between 9:42 a.m. and 10:34 a.m., Gent said. The collision occurred at near Buenaventura Lakes, the release states.

"We see this periodically," Gent told the Orlando Sentinel. Though he said that storms and wildlife are the top two causes of power outages, it's not as common for a vulture to trigger such an incident.

"This is the first time that I can recall that we've had a vulture," he said. "Almost all the time that we're reporting it, it's a squirrel or [Cuban] tree frogs."

The non-native tree frogs can span around 12 inches, Gent said. Most of the time Kissimmee Utility Authority loses power because of an animal, the culprit is a squirrel.

"In terms of wildlife, that's our number one cause of outages," he said.

They've had birds with long wingspans, snakes, "typically things that are big enough that they can come in contact with two different portions of the electric system," Gent said.

