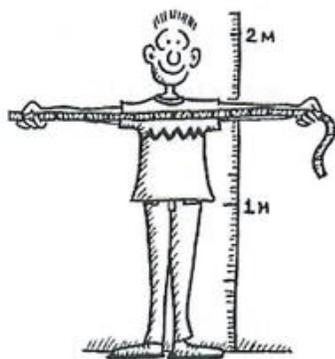


Birds of a Feather



Birds are amazing creatures! They have feathers, wings, beaks, and lay eggs. Even with these things in common, birds come in different shapes and sizes, from the tiny Anna's Hummingbird to the large California Condor. The chart below shows how our own wingspans may compare to those of several species of birds commonly found here in California.

Using a measuring tape (or a piece of string to then measure against a ruler), measure the distance from each student's fingertip on one hand to fingertip on the other hand when both arms are outstretched. Younger students may need assistance with this, but older students may break into pairs to work together. Use the following page to record your wingspan!



BIRD SPECIES	WINGSPAN LENGTH
California Condor	108 inches (9 feet!)
Brown Pelican	84 inches
Golden Eagle	75-90 inches
Turkey Vulture	67-70 inches
Osprey	59-70 inches
Western Gull	58 inches
Great Horned Owl	40-57 inches
Double Crested Cormorant	45-48 inches
Snowy Egret	41 inches
Red Shouldered Hawk	37-42 inches
Peregrine Falcon	36-44 inches
Western Screech Owl	22-24 inches
American Kestrel	20-24 inches
Acorn Woodpecker	14-17 inches
California Quail	12-14 inches
Anna's Hummingbird	4-5 inches

Discussion Questions:

- Why do some birds have larger wingspans than others?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having smaller or larger wings?
- What if the birds' bodies were much bigger or smaller than their wingspans?
- Why do you think the California Quail, Peregrine Falcon, and Brown Pelican not only have differently sized wings, but also very differently shaped wings?



Birds of a Feather

Birds are amazing creatures! They have feathers, beaks, and wings. Birds come in all different sizes, from the tiny Anna's Hummingbird to the large California Condor. Share with us what you know about bird wingspans!



Anna's Hummingbirds use their wings to fly forwards, backwards, up, down, or stay in one spot!



The California Condor has a massive 9 foot wingspan!



American Kestrels can have a wingspan of 20 to 24 inches long!



Great Horned Owls are medium sized owls, with 40-57 inch wingspans.



California Quails have a wingspan of 12-14 inches long- just slightly longer than a ruler!

How big is YOUR wingspan? _____

What bird has a wingspan closest to yours? _____

Can you name the largest flying bird in California? _____

Which bird has a small wingspan, but its tiny wings beat very fast? _____

How big is the wingspan of California's state bird- the California Quail? _____



ANSWERS

Birds of a Feather



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How big is YOUR wingspan? ***Answers will vary.** _____

What bird has a wingspan closest to yours? ***Answers will vary.** _____

Can you name the largest flying bird in California? **California Condor** _____

Which bird has a small wingspan, but its tiny wings beat very fast? **Anna's Hummingbird** _____

How big is the wingspan of California's state bird- the California Quail? **12-14 inches long** _____



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