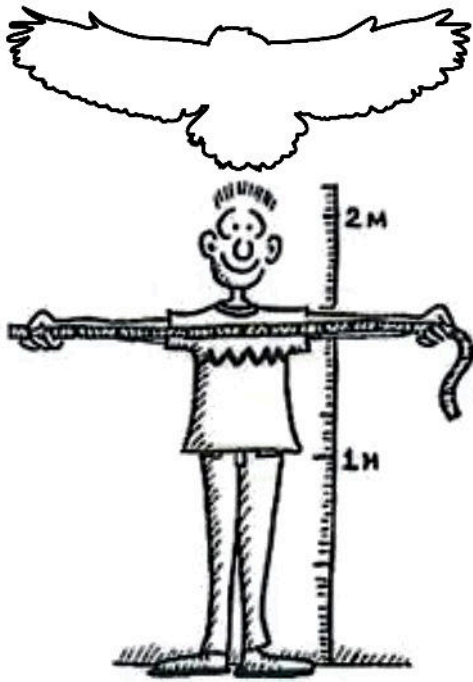


Birds of a Feather

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



With the help of a partner, use measuring tape or a string to measure the distance from your fingertip on one hand to your fingertip on your other hand with both arms outstretched.



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



What is the length of YOUR wingspan? _____

What bird has a wingspan closest to yours? _____

Can you name the largest flying bird in California? _____

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having small or large wings? _____



Why do you think birds not only have different sized wings, but also very different shaped wings?

