



## WHO'S YOUR Bird Buddy? Based on Your Wingspan?

Let's get ready for some raptor fun! Stand with your arms stretched wide and have someone measure your arm span, from fingertip to fingertip. Then, measure their arm span. A person's arm span is about the same length as their height, give or take some inches. Just like humans, birds have different wingspans.

Is your mom or dad more of an Osprey or a Turkey Vulture? Would you be surprised to find out that your little brother is a Swainson's Hawk or your baby sister is a Short-eared Owl? Maybe your best friend is a California Condor! Measure your whole family for extra fun.



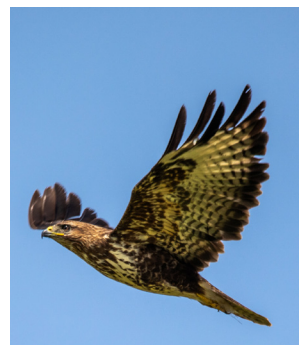
### Peregrine Falcon

2'3"-3'9" wingspan

A lot of preschoolers would have the same arm span as a Peregrine Falcon.

A Peregrine Falcon dives at over 200 miles-per-hour (mph) and is the fastest bird in the animal kingdom.

- They mate for life and make their nests on cliff ledges or tall structures.
- They can be spotted in the wild on cliffs, in large cities living on window ledges and in the open country.
- They eat other birds, bats, and they love stealing fish and rodents from other raptors.



### Swainson's Hawk

4'-4'6" wingspan

A lot of kids in elementary schools would match a Swainson's Hawk's wingspan.

- A Swainson's Hawk migrates farther than any other raptor. They start their migration in the northern plains of the U.S. and fly as far south as Argentina. They cover 7,000 miles in eight weeks.
- These birds frequently form groups called kettles. There can be tens of thousands in a kettle at a time.
- They live in the northern plains, east of the continental divide, in semi-arid areas.
- They eat rodents, small birds, and insects.



## Short-eared Owl

3'-4' wingspan

Kids in kindergarten have arm spans about the same length as a Short-eared Owl's wingspan.

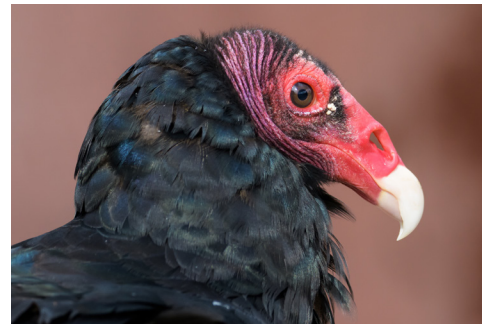
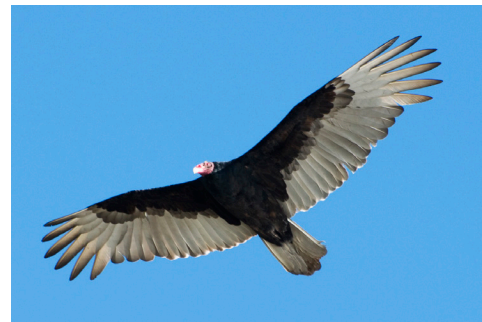
- The oldest sibling sometimes eats its younger siblings!
- The male often can be heard hooting in flight and sometimes it sounds just like a barking dog.
- They live in marshes, tundra, farms, and prairie fields.
- They eat small mammals like voles, moles, shrew, squirrels, rats, rabbits and muskrats as well as flying animals like bats and other small birds.

## Osprey

5'-5'8" wingspan

Most of us humans fall into this wingspan category, with the average female standing at 5'2".

- Ospreys are also commonly known as Sea Hawks or Fish Hawks.
- They plunge feet first into the water to catch their prey from as high as 100 feet in the air and can close their nostrils.
- They live nearly everywhere water is except Antarctica. This includes marshes, rivers, lakes and ponds — anywhere a fish might be.
- They mostly eat fish, but when necessary, will eat small mammals or reptiles.



## Turkey Vulture

5'6"-7' wingspan

Most adult men have an arm span matching that of the Turkey Vulture.

- Turkey Vultures are also known as buzzards. They can smell a dead animal from about a mile away.
- They lack a vocal organ and can only make grunts or low hisses.
- They reside in wide-open spaces like farmland and deserts, but they can be seen in woodlands that border their favorite open country.
- They eat some plants but survive mostly by eating carrion (already dead) medium-to-large mammals; however, they prefer eating recently deceased mammals over decaying carcasses.



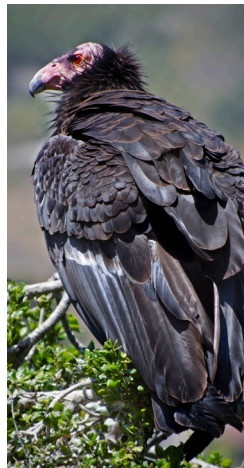


## Bald Eagle

7'-8' wingspan

These eagles have such a large wingspan, only the NBA's tallest players can match them.

- The Bald Eagle's head and tail only turn white after they are four or five years old.
- If you ever see two Bald Eagles clasp talons while doing aerial cartwheels heading straight towards the ground, don't worry. This is often a mating ritual and they mate for life.
- Eagles live in open country with room to roam, usually around bodies of fresh water in North America.
- They eat waterfowl, other birds of prey and small mammals like prairie dogs and raccoons.



## California Condor

9'4"-10' wingspan

The man who holds the Guinness World record for being the tallest man alive stood 8'3", but a California Condor would beat his reach any day of the week and twice on Sunday. This bird holds the record for being the largest flying bird in North America.

- This bird engages in self grooming, preening, and sunning.
- The female only lays one egg every two years.
- They live in deserts or scrubby chaparral to forested mountain regions in California, Utah and Arizona.
- They only eat large carrion, like deer and cattle or sea lions and whales.



Now that you know who your wingspan buddy is, let us introduce you to Idaho Power's Education and Outreach team and show you how our wingspans measure up with our bird friends.



Last spring Idaho Power's Education and Outreach Energy Advisors went to The World Center for Birds of Prey to meet some of the local raptors with our friend Curtis. Here are our team bird buddy groups: On the tall end, Russ's wingspan of 5'11" puts him in our Turkey Vulture group. Our Osprey group is well represented by Andie's 5'5" wingspan, Angela's 5'3" wingspan, and Danielle and Patricia's (not pictured) wingspans, both 5'4".

Idaho Power's education and outreach energy advisors offer presentations about our avian protection efforts. We are invested in ensuring that Idaho's Birds of Prey populations are looked out for. To schedule a presentation with our Education and Outreach team please visit our website at [idahopower.com/community-recreation/community/presentations-tours-other-resources/](https://idahopower.com/community-recreation/community/presentations-tours-other-resources/) or email us at [learn@idahopower.com](mailto:learn@idahopower.com).

## Wingspan Comparisons - in Feet

