

## Andean Condor

The Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*) is a species of South American bird in the New World vulture family Cathartidae and is the only member of the genus **Vultur**.

Andean Condor is the record holder of having the largest wing area of all birds, and is the second in terms of wing span (after Wandering Albatross). Even though the Andean Condor is not a very attractive bird, its flight has an unrepeatable fullness and elegance. These large birds live near the Western coast of South America.

The Andean Condor reaches a body length of 130 cm and a wingspan of up to 320 cm, while the total body mass is around 12 kilograms, also making it the heaviest predatory bird on Earth. A sitting bird would reach an average sized man's chest. What distinguishes Condors from vultures is that the female is usually smaller in size than the male, while for vultures it's the other way round. Mature bird's plumage is black, with a ruff of white hair around the neck and white feathers on the wings. Head and neck are bare and dark red to black, while the beak is rather short and round.