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When you think of a bird, the first thing that you may picture is a bird flapping its wings because most birds fly. Think again. Unlike most other birds, condors can go a few MILES without flapping their wings. Condors are the national symbol of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru. They are also featured on many stamps, coins, and banknotes. You used to be able to see condors along the entire coast of South America from Venezuela to the southern tip of Patagonia. Nowadays andean condors are found in northern venezuela, Colombia, Perú, Argentina, Chile, and they spend most of their time in high mountains, lowland deserts, and open grasslands.

Condors are one of the biggest flying creatures. They stand 4 feet tall and their wingspan can get as long as 10 feet long but they only weigh as much as 17 to 30 ...pounds. Andean condors are mostly black with a fluffy white collar and white patches around their wings. They have bald greyish reddish heads. Males have a fleshy lump at the front of their heads called a caruncle. Their long beaks and claws allow them to cut their meal. Condors change color to show their emotions. Just like humans, condors can get fleshy.

Condors take good care of their babies. When the condors are young their parents bring food for them and they keep their eggs warm for 54 to 58 days. On the other hand when the condors are two the parents let them be on their own. But that's considered older than a 2 year old human. They only live until the age of 50 to 80. They have babies every 2 years usually in February or early March. Because they can only lay 2 eggs at a time, it's hard to

increase the condor population. Unlike many other birds, condors don't build nests. Instead, they lay eggs on ledges of steep cliffs. Before a condor can even lay eggs they need a mate. Males parade with their chests inflated to get the female's attention. If she likes him, they'll have babies and stay friends forever. Chicks are hunted by foxes and some other birds while adults don't have any predators. The parents hide the babies behind or in boulders or holes. That way, it's hard for predators to reach them. They eat carrion or dead decaying flesh. Occasionally, condors eat other animals eggs. Condors are one of the biggest birds of prey but when they are a grown up, they don't have many predators.

You may not see it, but it will surely see you. Condors have fantastic eyesight. It helps them see at night to seek their food. After a meal they scrape their heads along the ground to remove any food scraps. They also have long beaks that act like paper cutters to cut their meals. Condors also use their long beaks to cover their babies. Condors have their babies among big rocks or in caves or holes where other animals/ predators can't reach them. Eventually, their parents don't have to protect them any more. They have hollow bones to let them fly! That could help get away from some predators. Condors also only have to flap their wings occasionally. Once they get high enough, their wingspan is so big that they can just glide among the air currents.

Condors future is vulnerable. They can only lay 2 eggs at a time every other year so that makes it very very unlikely for their population to grow. Also farmers hunt condors because they mistakenly think that condors kill their livestock. Pesticide poisoning through the food chain has also hurt the condor population because

they eat the food that has pesticides on it. On the plus side, some zoo's take away condors eggs for a little bit and that helps condor population to grow.