

RETURN FLIGHT OF THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR

»» DESTINATION »»
PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKIES

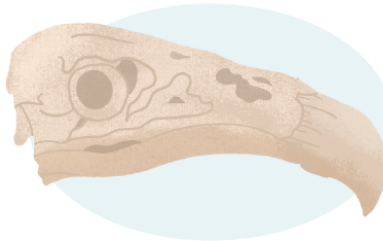
Though misleading in name, the **California condor** (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is an ancient native species of Oregon, present even during the Great Ice Age, alongside woolly mammoths! Condors are some of the biggest birds in the world, with a 9.5 ft wingspan.



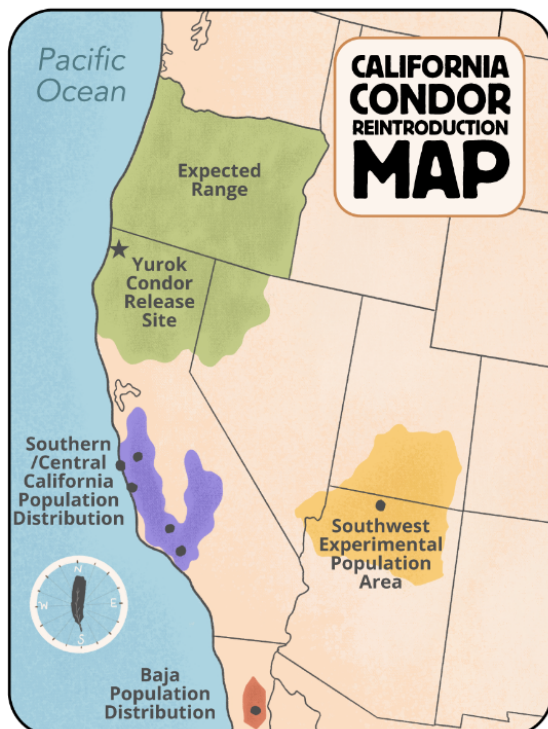
Due to their size and powerful bills, **condors are important ecosystem stewards**, bringing carcasses back into the food chain for smaller animals.

When European colonizers arrived in the Pacific Northwest in the 19th century, they shot, poisoned, and captured condors, simultaneously destroying their habitat. In the early 1900s, toxic pollutants like DDT, lead fragments in carcasses, and poison bait compounded existing threats.

By 1982, there were only 22 California condors left in the entire world!



In 2022, the Yurok Tribe, in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service, released four California condors to Northern California, returning the sacred bird back to its ancestral territory. The Nez Perce Tribe is also in the early stages of a reintroduction effort on the Oregon/Idaho border.



Condors can fly up to 150 miles in a single day! They are expected to make their way to Oregon after reintroduction.

CONDOR'S CULTURAL CONNECTION



Since time immemorial, the Yurok and Nez Perce Tribes have had a close spiritual and cultural connection to condors. At the beginning of time, condors (Prey-go-neesh) gave the Yurok the song that they sing during world renewal ceremonies and carried their prayers to the heavens. For the Nez Perce (Niimiipuu), condors (Qu'nes) are part of creation stories and embedded in language and place names.

Learn more about California condors in Oregon at www.oregonwild.org/californiacondor



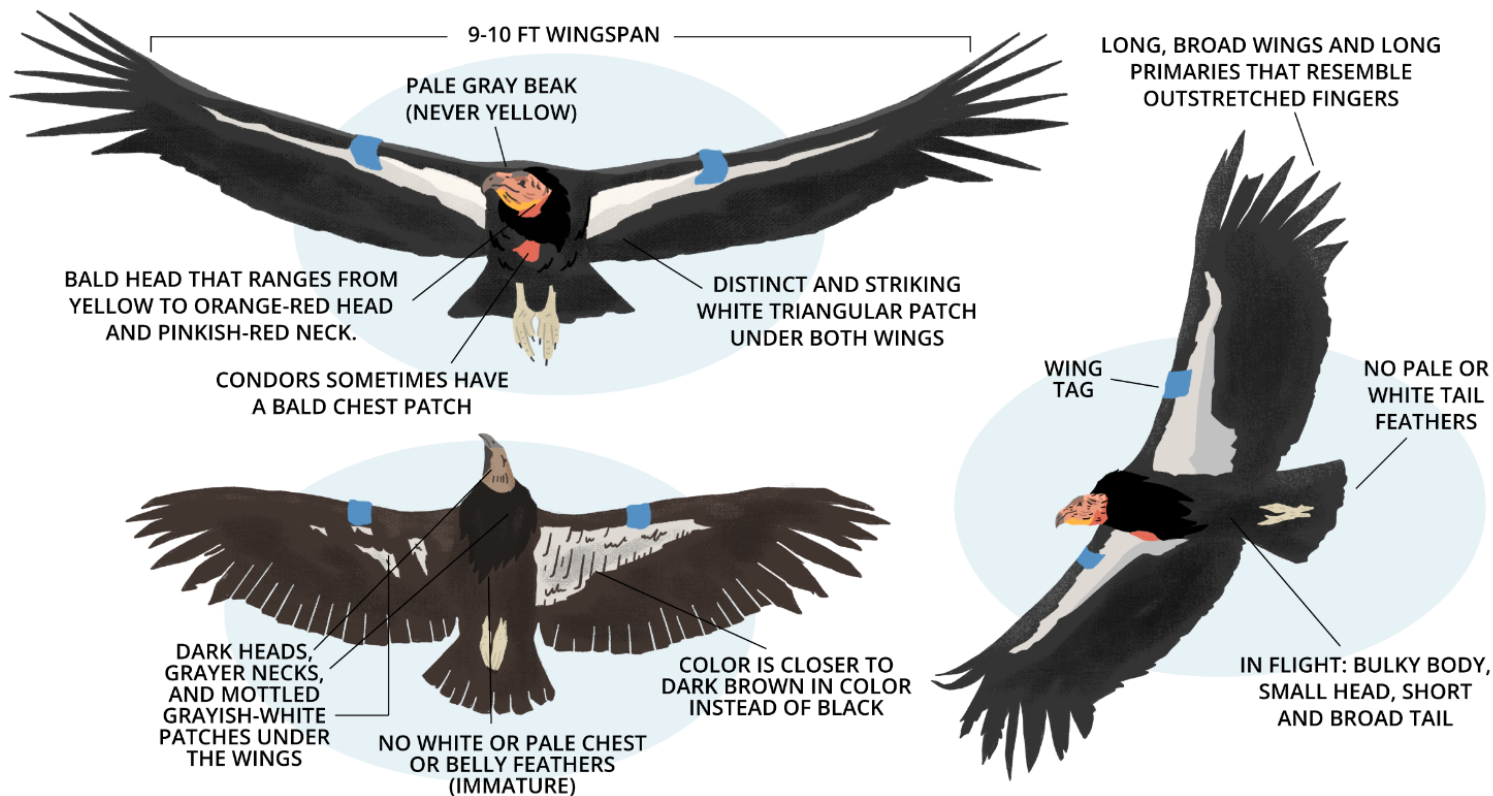


CONDOR IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



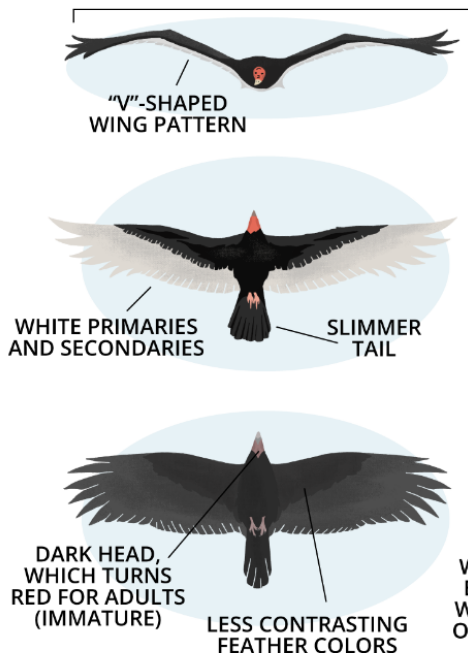
As soaring birds that reach heights of up to 15,000 feet, it is likely that California condors will be spotted flying at a distance, making identification tricky. Adult and juvenile condors look very different from one another, but can easily be mistaken for turkey vultures, bald eagles, or

golden eagles from afar. Adult and immature condors tend to hold their wings flat and soar without any rocking back and forth, occasionally flapping their wings. They have a solid, heavy appearance in the air and don't get buffeted by the wind.



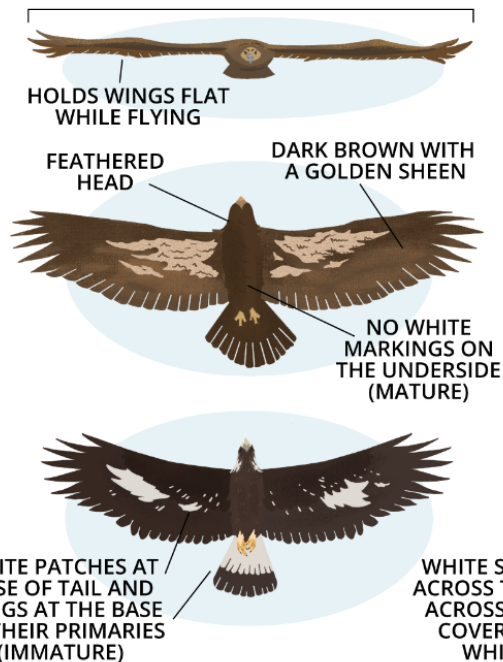
Turkey Vulture

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.7-6.0 FT)



Golden Eagle

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.9-7.7 FT)



Bald Eagle

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.9-7.5 FT)

