

# ANDEAN CONDORS

- The Andean condor is one of nature's great recyclers – they eat leftovers!
- Andean condors are carnivores, but they only eat meat that is already dead. This type of meat is called carrion.
- The bare skin on their head allows condors and vultures to plunge their heads into decaying carcasses without getting their feathers dirty. When mealtime is over, they simply rub their bald heads on the ground to clean them.

## Characteristics

- With a wingspan of up to 10 feet, Andean condors are one of the largest flying birds in the world.
- The adult male weighs 24-33 pounds and the female weighs 17 -24 pounds.
- The male, named Rhodan, has a comb or caruncle on top of his head, a large neck wattle, and yellow eyes.
- The female, named Lianni, does not have a comb or wattle and has red eyes.

## Native habitat and diet

- Andean condors are found in the Andes Mountain range in South America.
- In the wild, Andean condors eat carrion, mainly from large and medium-sized mammals.

## Flying free!

- Andean condors are a vulnerable species in South America. The National Aviary participates in a captive breeding and release program for Andean condors. Two of Rhodan and Lianni's chicks, Kendall and Kachina, have been released in the wild in Colombia.

***DID YOU KNOW? Andean condors are an important symbol in many South American countries – similar to the status of the bald eagle in North America.***



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