



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Raptors

Raptors are identified as Birds of Prey that capture their food using their feet. They have three distinguishing features:

large talons (or claws) used for hunting
very keen eye sight to target prey
sharp hooked beak for the tearing up of prey once caught



Andean Condor

Habitat

Andean condors prefer open grasslands and alpine areas up to 5,000m (16,000ft) in elevation and in rocky mountain areas where they can spot carrion from the air. They are found in the Andes Mountains of South America.

Diet

Condors are scavengers or carrion feeders. They have been known to take live prey, such as newborn animals. The species is not designed to hunt as their talons are blunt, not sharp like other raptors.

Breeding

Condors mate for life, becoming mature around 6-8 years of age. This species does not build a nest, instead laying their egg on bare ground in a cave or on a ledge. They have one chick every other year, the young unable to fly until they are around 6 months of age. The juveniles will rely on their parents for at least two more years.

Australia Zoo Andean Condor
profiles

Chief

Chief was born at Taronga Zoo in November 2006 and raised by his parents who still reside there with his three other siblings. Chief can be seen daily in the 12pm Wildlife Warriors show in the Crocoseum, where he wows the crowd with his 3 metre wingspan as he glides over the water. In his demonstration, real-looking carcass props are used for him to gather treats from, which he loves. Chief is a very playful boy who loves attention from his keepers and his favourite toys are cardboard boxes and anything he can pull on. Condors are long-living with a lifespan of up to 50 years, so we look forward to being mesmerised by this new world vulture for many more decades.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Raptors are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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