

Not Perfect

No bird's wing can do it all perfectly. A bird's wing may be well-adapted for one kind of flight but only moderate or not good at all in another. Since one kind of wing can't do it all, many birds are generalists in their wing anatomy, while others specialize.

Ducks and falcons have medium length pointed wings that make them especially good for speed but require rapid wingbeats to maintain level flight

Hawks and eagles have broad, long, slotted wings that make them good at soaring but these birds quickly tire in level, flapping flight

Songbirds and pheasants are more generalists with elliptical wings that are moderately good in most kinds of flight but not especially good in any one

Hummingbirds are real specialists with wings that are extremely good for hovering but they can't glide at all and must constantly flap their wings to stay in the air

