

There are two ways we see flight in nature.

One is by things that glide, float along with the air holding them up.

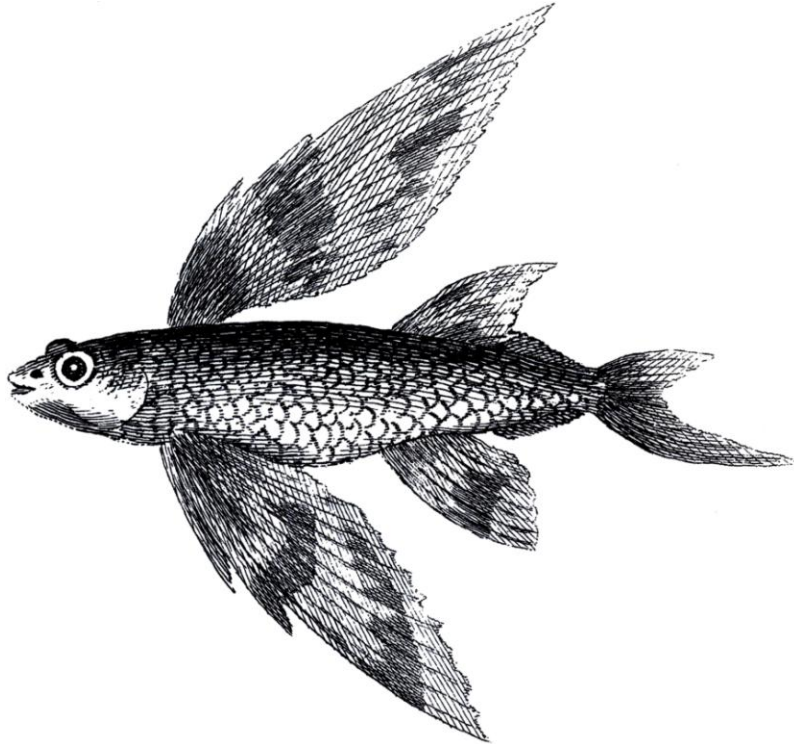
Seeds, like those of a dandelion, can glide, float through the air.



A flying squirrel spreads out to glide when it jumps.



A flying fish propels itself out of the water and spreads its wing-like fins to glide above the water a considerable distance.



The other kind of flight we see in nature is true flight, muscle powered flight. Of course most birds can fly (but not all). Some are also known for their gliding abilities such as the eagle which can go hours without flapping its wings.

Besides birds there are also insects and mammals that can fly. Compare these flying animal bodies with an airplane. Make observations. Both were made for flying.

