

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

August 1, 2003

(status through July 31, prepared Aug. 4)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION **223**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **138**

Los Angeles Zoo	37	(incl. 9 chicks)
San Diego WAP	37	(incl. 8 chicks)
WCBP Boise	50	(incl. 11 chicks)
Mentor birds in field pens	3	
Pre-release birds in field pens	11	
Southern California	0	
Central California	6	
Baja California	0	
Arizona	5	

WILD POPULATION **85**

California		43
Southern California-released birds	23	
In wild	22	(incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Central California-released birds	20	
In wild	19	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Baja California		5
In wild	3	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	
Arizona		37
In wild	35	(incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	

Changes in July:

So. Calif. – Death of SB# 267 (predation); captured bird SB# 202 transferred Jul. 30 from LAZ to field pen for further recuperation prior to re-release; newly released: SB# 268 and 277 on Jul. 16.

Central California – SB# 236 temporarily recaptured (behavioral reasons).

Arizona: Behavior of adult pair consistent with having a chick in the wild, probably since early May.

Los Angeles Zoo – Returned SB# 202 to field pen.

Eggs laid in 2003:

Los Angeles Zoo – 7 laid, 7 hatched, 6 chicks surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid, 2 infertile, 9 hatched, 9 chicks surviving

WCBP Boise – 23 laid, 5 infertile, 1 unkn, 4 non-viable, 11 hatched at WCBP, 11 surviving; 2 eggs transferred to LAZ also hatched and chicks are surviving

Wild, California – 1 laid, 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, 1 broken, 1 failed (cause unknown), 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving

Production for 2003 was 28 chicks in captivity and 2 chicks in the wild

California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

See below for detailed summary and explanatory notes

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CAPTIVE POPULATION

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Los Angeles Zoo	37 (incl. 9 chicks)
San Diego WAP	37 (incl. 8 chicks)
WCBP Boise	50 (incl. 11 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	0
Mentor birds in field pens	3 (SB# 63 in Cent. CA; # 64, Baja CA; #36, So. CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	11
Southern California	0
Central California	6 (SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287)
Baja California	0
Arizona	5 (SB# 273, 275, 276, 280, 282)

WILD POPULATION

85

California

43

Southern California-released birds	23
In wild	22 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 202)
Central California-released birds	20
In wild	19
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 236)

Baja California

5

In wild	3 (SB# 217, 220, 261)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2 (SB# 218, 259)

Arizona

37

In wild	35 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2 (SB# 250, 243)

Changes in July:

So. Calif. – Death of SB# 267 after 13 months in wild (predation); captured bird SB# 202 transferred Jul. 30 from LAZ to field pen for further recuperation prior to re-release; newly released: SB# 268 and 277 on Jul. 16.

Central California – SB# 236 temporarily recaptured (behavioral reasons), to be re-released Aug. 1.

Arizona: Behavior of adult pair consistent with having a chick in the wild, probably since early May.

Los Angeles Zoo – Returned SB# 202 to field pen.

Eggs laid in 2003:

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Wild, California – 1 laid, 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, 1 broken, 1 failed (cause unknown), 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving (based on adult behavior)

Production for 2003 was 28 chicks in captivity and 2 chicks in the wild

Explanatory notes:

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- WAP is Wild Animal Park (Zoological Society of San Diego); WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey (The Peregrine Fund)

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds in Arizona and several other states east of California, released by The Peregrine Fund.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.

Wild Population Statistics

1992-95: So. CA - 13 released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently by 1995

Since 1995:

150 condors released (So. CA – 52; Cent. CA – 32*; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 61) *excl. #134 relocated to AZ
53 released-bird deaths (0 in 1995; 2 in 1996; 6 in 1997; 5 in 1998; 7 in 1999; 16 in 2000; 5 in 2001; 7 in 2002; 5 so far in 2003)

14 returned to captivity permanently, indefinitely, or for extended treatment or rehabilitation

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: 2 in 2001; 3 in 2002; 1 in 2003

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: 1 in 2001; 2 in 2002; 3 in 2003

4 known nestling deaths in the wild

Jan. 1 totals: 13 in 1996; 25 in 1997, 40 in 1998; 44 in 1999, 52 in 2000, 53 in 2001, 59 in 2002, 80 in 2003

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