

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION
February 1, 2005
(status through January 31, prepared February 7)

TOTAL POPULATION **243**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **132**

Los Angeles Zoo	25	
San Diego WAP	26	
WCBP Boise	44	
Oregon Zoo	13	
Mentor birds in field pens	3	
Pre-release birds in field pens	21	
Southern California	4	
Central California	0	
Baja California	3	
Arizona	14	

WILD POPULATION **111**

California		57
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	25	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	11	
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California		8
Flying	8	
Arizona		46
Flying, released	43	
Flying, wild-fledged	3	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in January:

Arizona – two lead-poisoning deaths

Central California – 6 wilds birds temporarily retrapped; SB# 286 re-released

Baja California – pre-release bird SB #319 was returned to the Baja release pen

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 2eggs laid Jan. 28

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

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CAPTIVE POPULATION

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Los Angeles Zoo	25	
San Diego WAP	26	
WCBP Boise	44	
Oregon Zoo	13	
Mentor birds in field pens	3	(SB# 36 in So. CA, # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	21	
Southern California	4	(SB# 330, 335, 336, 345)
Central California	0	
Baja California	3	(SB# 315, 319, 320)
Arizona	14	(SB # 297, 302, 314, 324, 327, 329, 331, 337, 343, 346, 347, 349, 352, 353)

WILD POPULATION

111

California		57
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	25	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	11	(SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 287, 294, 298, 301, 303, 311, 318)
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California		8
Flying	8	
Arizona		46
Flying, released	43	
Flying, wild-fledged	3	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in January:

Arizona – two lead-poisoning deaths: SB# 235 found dead Jan. 2, #249 found dead Jan. 23

Central California – 6 wilds birds (SB# 294, 298, 301, 303, 311, 318) temporarily retrapped Jan. 26; SB# 286 released Jan. 29

Baja California – pre-release bird SB #319 was returned to to the Baja release pen following 3 months of lead-poisoning treatment and observation at SDWAP, after it was accidentally poisoned inside the Baja release-site aviary; status of one wild bird is uncertain

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 2eggs laid Jan. 28

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Wild Population Statistics, January 1, 2005

Releases:

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 recaptured and released in South America

1992-95: So. CA – 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

Since 1995:

183 California condors released:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
California	14	8	12	0	13	9	10	14	6	16	102
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	8
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	73
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	15	27	183

60 released-bird deaths:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	35
Baja CA								0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	25
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	2	60

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

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	11
Baja CA								0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
TOTAL	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	14

Wild Population Trend Population Size on July 1

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
CALIFORNIA										
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44
Wild nestlings								3	1	3
Total	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	39	42	47
ARIZONA										
Birds from releases			13	16	21	20	26	32	36	43
Wild nestlings									1	2
Wild-fledged birds										1
Total			13	16	21	20	26	32	37	46
BAJA CA										
Birds from releases									5	5
TOTAL	6	17	29	39	50	50	58	71	84	98

Wild Production, 2001- 2004

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004

Of **18** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **10** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 4 fledged, 1 in rehab, 5 died), and **7** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unknown)

Explanatory Notes

Numbers reported in the monthly status report should be treated as tentative data. These are based on the best information available each month from cooperators in the field and facilities. If a reporting error is discovered after posting online, no correction will be disseminated, unless the error is substantive. Occasionally, a missing bird will continue to be reported live each month until field personnel are satisfied that there is little likelihood it is still alive. For such individuals, the date last detected normally is presumed to be the date of death. Questions about these data should be directed to Ron Jurek, CDFG, 916-654-4267.

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
- LAZ is Los Angeles Zoo; 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, Mexico, 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 released by The Peregrine Fund in Arizona and several other states east of Calif.

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