

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

July 1, 2005

(status through June 30, prepared July 6)

TOTAL POPULATION **279**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **158**

Los Angeles Zoo	26 (incl. 7 chicks)
San Diego WAP	27 (incl. 6 chicks)
WCBP Boise	63 (incl. 20 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	16 (incl. 2 chicks)
Mentor birds in field pens	2
Pre-release birds in field pens	24
Southern California	2
Central California	7
Baja California	7
Arizona	8

WILD POPULATION **121**

California		56
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	21	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	
Baja California		9
Flying, from releases	9	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		55
Flying, wild-fledged	2	
Flying, from releases	47	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	4	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	

Changes in June:

Arizona – SB# 282 was temporarily retrapped.

Southern California – AC-2, adult male from the original population, returned to the wild on June 22; two recaptured birds, held at LAZ for rehabilitation for 2-3 years, transferred to the pre-release pen at Hopper NWR for re-release

Baja California – Two pre-release birds transferred from LAZ to the Baja Calif. release pen

Hatchings – 2 in captivity; 1 confirmed and 1 probable in the wild (AZ)

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 eggs: 7 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 eggs: 6 nestlings in captivity, 1 egg transferred to a wild nest; 1 egg from Oregon Zoo died at hatching

WCBP Boise – 28 eggs: 20 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 3 eggs: 2 nestlings; 1 egg transferred to SDWAP

Wild, California – 3 eggs: 1 nestling from wild-laid egg, 1 nestling from a captive-laid egg

Wild, Arizona – 3 eggs: 1 nestling from wild egg, 1 nestling from foster egg laid in captivity

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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Los Angeles Zoo	26 (incl. 7 nestlings)
San Diego WAP	27 (incl. 6 nestlings)
WCBP Boise	63 (incl. 20 nestlings)
Oregon Zoo	16 (incl. 2 nestlings)
Mentor birds in field pens	2 (SB# 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	24
Southern California	2 (SB# 238, 245)
Central California	7 (SB# 330, 332, 335, 336, 340, 345, 351)
Baja California	7 (SB# 319, 321, 322, 323, 325, 338, 344)
Arizona	8 (SB# 270, 287, 327, 329, 337, 343, 346, 353)

WILD POPULATION **121**

California		57
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	21	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 265)	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	
Baja California		9
Flying, from releases	9	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		55
Flying, wild-fledged	2	
Flying, from releases	47	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	4 (SB# 282, 302, 324, 314)	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	

Changes in June:

Arizona – SB# 282 was temporarily retrapped

Southern California – For the third time, an adult from the original population was returned to the wild: AC-2 (SB# 6), male, removed from the wild in December 1986 for captive breeding, was released 18½ years later on June 22.

Two recaptured birds were transferred June 30 from LAZ to the pre-release pen at Hopper NWR for re-release: #238 was recaptured after 1 year in the wild in April 2003 to repair a serious hip injury; #245 was recaptured in July 2002 for behavioral reasons.

Baja California – Two pre-release birds (SB# 338 and 344) received from LAZ (June 8).

Hatchings – 3 in captivity (1 at SDWAP, 2 at WCBP); 1 confirmed and 1 probable in the wild (AZ)

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 laid: 1 egg died, 7 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 2 infertile, 2 late-term deaths fertile eggs, 6 nestlings in captivity, 1 egg transferred in April for fostering into a wild California nest; 1 Oregon Zoo egg died at hatching

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 1 broken, 3 dead, 4 infertile, 20 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile: 1 egg transferred to SDWAP, 2 nestlings

Wild, California – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch; 1 hatched successfully; 1 failed to hatch as was replaced with a foster captive-laid egg that hatched

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch (embryo death), 2 nestlings

Wild Population Statistics, July 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

1995 – (2005, through June):

California Condors Released

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	14	8	12	0	13	9	10	14	5	14	1	100*
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	2	10
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	9	82
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	14	25	11	192

*excludes three birds initially released in California in winter 2003-04, recaptured for behavioral reasons 9-10 months after release, and are being re-released into the Arizona population in 2005.

Released-bird Deaths

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	0	35
Baja CA								0	0	1	0	1
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	3	28
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	3	64

Of four wild-fledged birds, there has been one death (Arizona bird fledged in 2003, died March 2005)

Returned to Captivity Permanently or Indefinitely

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	11
Baja CA								0	0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	14

Wild Population Trend

Population Size on July 1

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CALIFORNIA											
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44	54
Wild nestlings								3	1	3	2
Wild-fledged birds											1
Total	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	39	42	47	57
BAJA CA											
Birds from releases									5	5	9
ARIZONA											
Birds from releases			13	15	20	20	26	32	36	43	51
Wild nestlings									1	2	2
Wild-fledged birds										1	2
Total			13	15	20	20	26	32	37	46	55
TOTAL	6	17	29	38	49	50	58	71	84	98	121

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

Wild-fledged birds, California: 1 in 2004

Wild-fledged birds, Arizona: 1 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; OZ is Oregon Zoo

"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.