

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

August 1, 2006

(status through July 31, prepared August 2, 2006)

Overview Page

Refer to the subsequent pages for details and trends

TOTAL POPULATION

289

CAPTIVE POPULATION

151

Los Angeles Zoo	29 (includes 7 chicks from 2006)
San Diego WAP	29 (includes 8 chicks from 2006)
WCBP Boise	53 (includes 6 chicks from 2006)
Oregon Zoo	20 (includes 2 chicks from 2006)
Mentor birds in field pens	5(#79,226 SoCal) (64 Baja) (Ventana 155) (OR 36)
Pre-release birds in field pens	5 (CA) 10(AZ)

WILD POPULATION

138

California		61
Wild-fledged	1	
Wild, Southern California-released birds	18	
Wild, Central California-released birds	41 (2 recent deaths)	
Big Sur-28		
Pinnacles-13		
Nestlings in wild nests	1	
Baja California		19
Wild, from releases	13 (1 recent death to lead poisoning)	
Being held in pre-release flight pen	6	
Arizona		58
Wild-fledged	4	
Wild, from releases	54	
Nestlings in wild nests	0	

Production in the Wild

Southern California- Four pairs produced eggs, two nests failed, one nestling died, one pair feeding nestling.

Central California- No verified breeding . 3 possible pairs

Arizona –Three pairs, all failed at egg stage.

Baja-No nesting attempts

Production in 2006:

San Diego Wild Animal Park: 11 eggs laid, 6 hatched successfully, 5 died during incubation

Los Angeles Zoo: 8 eggs laid, one died before hatching; 7 hatched plus one chick from a fertile egg brought in from the wild. One fertile egg transferred to a wild nest.

World Center for Birds of Prey: Fourteen eggs laid, all hatched, 2 to San Diego W. A. P.

Oregon Zoo: 3 eggs laid, all hatched. One chick died, unkn.

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(status through July 31 2006, prepared August 2)

TOTAL POPULATION

289

CAPTIVE POPULATION

Los Angeles Zoo	29
San Diego WAP	29
WCBP Boise	53
Oregon Zoo	20
Mentor birds in field pens	5
Pre-release birds in field pens	21
Southern California	5
Central California	0
Baja California	6
Arizona	10

WILD POPULATION

California		61
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	18	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	41	
Nestlings in wild nests	1	
Baja California		13
Flying, from releases	13	
Arizona		58
Flying, wild-fledged	4	
Flying, from releases	54	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Nestlings in wild nests	0	

Wild Population Statistics, December 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 November):

California Condors Released

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	2006	Total
California	14	8	12	0	13	9	10	14	5	14	8	6	107
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	6	1	15
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	14		87
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	14	25	28		208

Released-bird Deaths

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	2006	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	2	3	39
Baja CA								0	0	1	0	2	3
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	4		29

TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	6		67
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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	2006	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	12
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	1		15

Wild Population Trend (Population size on July 1 each year)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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	
CA 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	
AZ 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- 2006

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004; **3** in 2005; **4** in 2006 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004; **3** in 2005; **3** in 2006

Wild-fledged birds, California: 1 in 2004

Wild-fledged birds, Arizona: 1 in 2003, 2 in 2004, 2 in 2005, 0 in 2006

Of **31** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **16** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 6 fledged, 2 in rehab, 8 died), and **14** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unknown)

Production in 2006: Eggs: 36 captive-laid and 8 wild-laid; **Nestlings:** 23 surviving young birds were produced in captivity; 2 nestlings were produced from wild eggs, 1 surviving nestling in wild produced from captive-laid egg.

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

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 5 eggs died or infertile; 2 eggs transferred from WCBP, 8 surviving nestlings

WCBP Boise – 14 laid: 12 eggs hatch at WCBP, 2 eggs to SDWAP hatch, 10 nestlings produced, 6 surviving nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile: 1 fostered chick dies, 2 surviving nestlings

Wild, California – 4 laid: 2 failed at hatching, 2 nestlings produced (1 from LA Zoo as pipping egg), 1 surviving nestling

Wild, Arizona – 4 laid: 1 broken, 1 abandoned when male taken into captivity for lead poisoning, 2 infertile

2006

Deaths:

WCBP Boise – Adult condor #80 died of West Nile Virus July 9, 4 chicks died of West Nile Virus July

Wild, California – , Southern CA condor #277 disappeared in January, Southern CA nestling (#396) died of an unknown cause

~June 16, Central CA #363 died of malnourishment July 14, Central CA #376 died of a powerline collision June 30

Wild, Baja - #259 died of lead poisoning in early June

Transfers:

Los Angeles Zoo – Condor #357 from Big Sur taken to LAZ July 11 to recover from an infection and malnutrition

Baja – Condors #359 and #361 transferred June 12 from SDWAP, condors #328, #370, and #374 transferred to Baja July 14 from LAZ

Releases:

Central CA – Condors #356, #357, #363, #375, #376, #377 released at Big Sur in early June

Baja – Condor #344 released at Baja CA January 14

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 summaries should be directed to RJurek @ dfg.ca.gov.

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

"Released" refers to birds raised in captivity and introduced to the wild; to previously released birds that were translocated to a second population (date of release to the second population becomes the release date for tracking purposes); and to birds captured prior to 1988 that were returned to the wild after 1995.

"Re-released" refers to previously released birds that were re-captured temporarily and held in field pens, or that were re-captured for long-time care or observation in breeding facilities, and that were later returned to their original wild population .

"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 that range in Arizona and other states east of Calif.

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