

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

October 1, 2003

(status through September 30, prepared Oct. 1)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION **220**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **137**

Los Angeles Zoo	38
San Diego WAP	36
WCBP Boise	50
Mentor birds in field pens	2
Pre-release birds in field pens	11
Southern California	0
Central California	6
Baja California	0
Arizona	5

WILD POPULATION **83**

California		42
Southern California-released birds	22	
In wild	22	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds	20	
In wild	20	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Baja California		5
In wild	5	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		36
In wild	34 (incl. 1 wild chick)	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	

Changes in August:

So. California – Re-release of SB# 202; wild chick rescued Sep. 9, died at LA Zoo Sep. 24 (ingested objects, perforated GI tract, respiratory disease)

Arizona – 3½-year-old bird, SB # 198, found dead in Utah Sep. 20 (cause to be determined)

LA Zoo – mentor bird transferred from field pen at Hopper Refuge in So. Calif. to LA Zoo

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 1 chick in the wild were produced from 41 captive-laid and 4 wild-laid eggs

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

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

October 1, 2003

(status through September 30, prepared Oct. 1)

TOTAL POPULATION

220

CAPTIVE POPULATION

137

Los Angeles Zoo	38	(incl. 9 chicks)
San Diego WAP	36	(incl. 8 chicks)
WCBP Boise	50	(incl. 11 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	0	
Mentor birds in field pens	2	(SB# 63 in Cent. CA; # 64, Baja 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

83

California		42
Southern California-released birds	22	
In wild	22	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds	20	
In wild	20	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Baja California		5
In wild	5	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		36
In wild	34	(incl. 1 wild chick, SB #305)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	(SB# 250, 243)

Changes in August:

So. California – Re-release of SB# 202; wild chick SB# 308 rescued Sep. 9, died at LA Zoo Sep. 24 (ingested objects, perforated GI tract, respiratory disease)

Arizona – 3½-year-old bird, SB # 198, found dead in Utah Sep. 20 (cause not yet determined)

LA Zoo – mentor bird SB# 36 transferred from field pen at Hopper Refuge in So. Calif. to LA Zoo

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, hatched but chick died

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

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 1 chick in the wild were produced from 41 captive-laid and 4 wild-laid eggs

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
54 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; 6 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

5 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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