

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

September 1, 2003

(status through August 31, prepared Sep. 4)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION **222**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **137**

Los Angeles Zoo	37
San Diego WAP	36
WCBP Boise	50
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	20
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0
Baja California	5
In wild	5
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0
Arizona	37
In wild	35 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2

Changes in August:

Central California – SB# 236 re-released Aug. 1

Arizona - Visual confirmation of the wild chick on Aug. 16; 2 birds ingested lead, and were successfully treated by chelation and released.

San Diego WAP – Death of a 4-yr-old bird of severe pulmonary edema (released in 2000 but was returned to captivity several days later for behavioral reasons).

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 2 chicks 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

September 1, 2003

(status through August 31, prepared Sep. 4)

TOTAL POPULATION

222

CAPTIVE POPULATION

137

Los Angeles Zoo	37 (incl. 9 chicks)
San Diego WAP	36 (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	20
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0
Baja California	5
In wild	5
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0
Arizona	37
In wild	35 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2 (SB# 250, 243)

Changes in August:

Central California – SB# 236 re-released Aug. 1.

Arizona: Visual confirmation of the wild chick on Aug. 16; SB# 203 and 235 were trapped after feeding on a coyote carcass; they had lead fragments in their digestive systems, were successfully treated and chelated at the Phoenix Zoo, and were released.

San Diego WAP – Death of SB# 200, a 4-yr-old female, of severe pulmonary edema (she was released Mar. 4, 2000 in Central CA but was removed from the wild several days later for behavioral reasons).

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 (based on adult behavior)

Production in 2003:

28 chicks in captivity and 2 chicks 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
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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