

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

April 1, 2005

(status through March 31, prepared April 4)

TOTAL POPULATION		244
CAPTIVE POPULATION		130
Los Angeles Zoo	27	
San Diego WAP	26	
WCBP Boise	44	
Oregon Zoo	14	
Mentor birds in field pens	2	
Pre-release birds in field pens	17	
Southern California	0	
Central California	5	
Baja California	3	
Arizona	9	
WILD POPULATION		114
California	54	
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California	7	
Flying	0	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7	
Arizona	53	
Flying, from releases	51	
Flying, wild-fledged	2	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in March:

Arizona – 5 juveniles released at Vermilion Cliffs; death of SB# 305 (wild fledged in 2003)

Central California – 7 temporarily held birds re-released; juvenile transferred from Oregon Zoo to Pinnacles release site

Captive birds – transfer of one bird from Boise to Oregon Zoo; Hopper facility mentor bird transferred to Oregon Zoo

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 5 laid, 5 fertile: 3 incubating, 2 hatched and chicks are surviving

San Diego WAP – 9 laid: 1 infertile, 7 fertile, 1 unknown; late-term death of 1 fertile egg, 7 incubating

WCBP Boise – 26 laid: 1 broken, 3 infertile, 17 fertile, 4 unknown; 21 incubating, 1 hatched and is surviving

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile and incubating

Wild, California – at least 1 laid, incubating

Wild, Arizona – at least 1 laid, incubating

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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April 1, 2005

(status through March 31, prepared April 4)

TOTAL POPULATION		244
CAPTIVE POPULATION		130
Los Angeles Zoo	27 (incl. 2 chicks)	
San Diego WAP	26 (0 chicks)	
WCBP Boise	44 (incl. 1 chick)	
Oregon Zoo	14 (0 chicks)	
Mentor birds in field pens	2 (SB# 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)	
Pre-release birds in field pens	17	
Southern California	0	
Central California	5 (SB# 330, 335, 336, 340, 345)	
Baja California	3 (SB# 315, 319, 320)	
Arizona	9 (SB# 266, 270, 287, 327, 329, 337, 343, 346, 353)	
WILD POPULATION		114
California		54
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 265)	
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California		7
Flying	0	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	7	
Arizona		53
Flying, from releases	51	
Flying, wild-fledged	2	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	

Changes in March:

Arizona – 5 juveniles released at Vermilion Cliffs NM Mar. 1 (SB# 324, 331, 347, 349, 352); death of SB# 305 (wild fledged in 2003), carcass recovered Mar. 31
Central California – 7 temporarily held birds re-released (SB# 278, 294, 298, 301, 303, 311, 318); juvenile SB# 340 transferred on Mar. 2 from Oregon Zoo to Pinnacles NM release site
Captive birds – transfer of one bird SB# 348 from Boise to Oregon Zoo on Mar. 20; former Hopper facility mentor bird, Pismo (SB #36), transferred from Big Sur facility to Oregon Zoo on Mar. 5

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 5 laid: 3 incubating, 2 hatched
San Diego WAP – 9 laid: 1 infertile, late-term death of 1fertile egg, 7 incubating
WCBP Boise – 26 laid: 1 broken, 3 infertile, 21 incubating, 1 hatched
Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile and incubating
Wild, California – at least 1 laid, incubating
Wild, Arizona – at least 1 laid, incubating

Wild Population Statistics, April 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 March):

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*	0	99*
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	0	8
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	8	81
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	14*	26*	0	188*

*excludes three birds initially released in California in winter 2003-04, recaptured for behavioral reasons 9-10 months after release, and now held for release into the Arizona population in early 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	2	27
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	2	63

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

Returned to Captivity Permanently, Indefinitely, or for Extended Treatment or Rehabilitation

	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
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

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)

Condor Population History, cont.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Wild</u>	<u>Captive</u>	<u>Total</u>
2002	<p>Three chicks hatched in southern California, hatch dates were May 11, April 11 and April 28. Two eggs were laid in Arizona, one was broken and the other infertile. All died just short of fledging and one of the breeding males disappeared. A newly released condor was returned to captivity for behavior/immaturity reasons. In central California a juvenile disappeared. In Arizona, one was found scavenged by a coyote, one was returned to captivity for behavior/immaturity reasons, one was shot, and another bird died from lead poisoning.</p>		
	80	118	198
2003	<p>Fourteen birds released-7 birds released in Arizona, near the Grand Canyon (3-March/2-October/2-November)-2 birds released in Baja, Mexico (May)-4 birds released in So California (June/July)-2 birds released in Central California (December)Two chicks hatched in the wild. One bird shot (AC-8), four month old wild chick died, one just released juvenile killed by a coyote, and three birds presumed dead from fires in southern California and one bird electrocuted from a power line collision; one juvenile found dead (possibly malnutrition); and one dead from lead poisoning in central California. One found dead of unknown causes in Arizona and another dead in Baja due to predation.</p>		
	84	131	215
2004	<p>Twenty-six birds released-4 birds released in Central California (January), 8 birds released in Arizona (March) 6 birds released Big Sur (September) 5 more birds released at the Pinnacles National Monument site. 3 birds released in Baja making over 100 condors in the wild. Five chicks hatched; 2 in Arizona (all fledged), 3 in So California (one died, second fell from the nest & broke its wing, third fledged). Arizona bird #176 missing and presumed dead.</p>		
	114	132	246
2005	<p>Eight birds released - 8 birds released in Arizona (Feb-March), and 4 birds transferred to Baja for release in the Fall. Four eggs laid in the wild, two each in So California and in Arizona. First chick to fledge in the wild (2003) found dead in late March, cause of death yet undetermined. One bird missing in Baja presumed dead.</p>		
	113	140	244

KEY: Totals listed represent end of calendar year counts and projected numbers in April 1, 2005

In the Wild as of April 1, 2005		In Captivity as of April 1, 2005		Egg totals 2005	Chick totals 2005
Arizona	53	World Center Birds of Prey	44	26	1 hatched, 21 incubating
Central California	32	Los Angeles Zoo	27	5	2 hatched, 3 incubating
Southern California	21	San Diego Wild Animal Park	26	9	7 incubating
Baja, Mexico (7 recaptured)	0	Oregon Zoo	14	3	3 incubating
<i>Field pens/awaiting release</i>	25	<i>Mentor birds in field pens</i>	2	Arizona 2	2 incubating
Total	131	Total	113	California 2	2 incubating

Total Population as of 1 April 2005 =244

Wild population statistics since 1995:

188 condors released, 106 alive in the wild, 63 deaths, 14 returned to captivity indefinitely or permanently

Egg-laying pairs in wild, California: 1 in 2001; 3 in 2002; 1 in 2003; 3 in 2004, 2 in 2005

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

Revised April 6, 2005

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.