

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

June 1, 2005

(status through May 31, prepared June 3)

**TOTAL POPULATION** **274**

**CAPTIVE POPULATION** **158**

<b>Los Angeles Zoo</b>	<b>30 (incl. 7 chicks)</b>
<b>San Diego WAP</b>	<b>27 (incl. 5 chicks)</b>
<b>WCBP Boise</b>	<b>61 (incl. 18 chicks)</b>
<b>Oregon Zoo</b>	<b>16 (incl. 2 chicks)</b>
<b>Mentor birds in field pens</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pre-release birds in field pens</b>	<b>22</b>
Southern California	0
Central California	7
Baja California	7
Arizona	8

**WILD POPULATION** **116**

<b>California</b>		<b>56</b>
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
<b>Baja California</b>		<b>7</b>
Flying	6	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
<b>Arizona</b>		<b>53</b>
Flying, from releases	48	
Flying, wild-fledged	2	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	3	

### Changes in May:

Arizona – 3 birds temporarily retrapped; young CA wild bird re-released at Vermilion Cliffs

Central California – Two pre-release birds were transferred from LAZ to Pinnacles NM release pen

Hatchings – 13 in captivity, 1 in the wild (CA)

### Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 laid: 7 chicks

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 3 incubating, 5 chicks; 1 egg from Oregon Zoo died at hatching

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 2 incubating, 18 chicks

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid: 2 chicks

Wild, California – 3 pairs laid eggs: 2 chicks, 1 egg failed to hatch

Wild, Arizona – 3 pairs 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](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf)

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<b>WCBP Boise</b>	<b>61 (incl. 18 chicks)</b>
<b>Oregon Zoo</b>	<b>16 (incl. 2 chicks)</b>
<b>Mentor birds in field pens</b>	<b>2 (SB# 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)</b>
<b>Pre-release birds in field pens</b>	<b>22</b>
Southern California	0
Central California	7 (SB# 330, 332, 335, 336, 340, 345, 351)
Baja California	7 (SB# 315, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 325)
Arizona	8 (SB# 270, 287, 327, 329, 337, 343, 346, 353)

**WILD POPULATION** **116**

<b>California</b>	<b>56</b>
Southern California-released birds	
Flying	20
Central California-released birds	
Flying	32
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 265)
Nestlings in wild nests	2
Flying, wild-fledged	1
<b>Baja California</b>	<b>7</b>
Flying	6 (SB# 261, 259, 217, 220, 269, 284)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 218)
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>53</b>
Flying, from releases	48
Flying, wild-fledged	2
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	3 (SB# 302, 324, 314)

## Changes in May:

Arizona – SB# 302, 324, and 314 were temporarily retrapped (behavior); SB# 266 from Pinnacles, CA, was released at Vermilion Cliffs, AZ.

Central California – Two pre-release birds, SB# 332 and 351, were transferred from LAZ to Pinnacles NM release pen on May 8

Hatchings – 13 in captivity (LAZ, 2; SDWAP, 1; WCBP, 9; OZ, 1); 1 in the wild (CA)

## Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 laid: 1 egg died, 7 hatched and chicks are surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 2 infertile, 3 incubating, 1 late-term death of 1 fertile egg, 5 hatched and surviving; 1 egg received from Oregon Zoo: fertile, but died at hatching stage in early May

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 1 broken, 3 dead, 4 infertile, 2 incubating, 18 hatched and surviving

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile: 2 hatched and surviving, 1 egg transferred to SDWAP

Wild, California – 1<sup>st</sup> pair: 1 egg laid but died; replaced with a captive-laid egg, which hatched on April 22 or 23, and nestling is surviving; 2<sup>nd</sup> pair: 1 egg laid, hatched on May 19 or 20, and nestling is surviving; 3<sup>rd</sup> pair: 1 egg laid, nesting attempt apparently failed at egg stage, May 23-24.

Wild, Arizona – 1<sup>st</sup> pair: 1 egg laid, incubating; 2<sup>nd</sup> pair: 1 egg laid, incubating; 3<sup>rd</sup> pair: 1 laid, incubating

## Wild Population Statistics, June 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 May):

#### 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	9	82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14*</b>	<b>25*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>189*</b>

\*excludes two birds initially released in California in winter 2003-04, recaptured for behavioral reasons 9-10 months after release, and will 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

#### Wild Population Trend

##### Population Size on July 1

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

#### 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.