

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

May 1, 2005

(status through April 30, corrected June 3)

TOTAL POPULATION **260**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **146**

Los Angeles Zoo	30 (incl. 5 chicks)
San Diego WAP	26 (incl. 4 chicks)
WCBP Boise	52 (incl. 9 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	15 (incl. 1 chick)
Mentor birds in field pens	2
Pre-release birds in field pens	21
Southern California	0
Central California	5
Baja California	7
Arizona	9

WILD POPULATION **114**

California		55
Southern California-released birds		
Flying	20	
Central California-released birds		
Flying	32	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Nestlings in wild nests	1	
Flying, wild-fledged	1	
Baja California		7
Flying	6	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1	
Arizona		52
Flying, from releases	50	
Flying, wild-fledged	2	

Changes in April:

Arizona – death of a recently released juvenile male (SB# 347)

Southern California – a captive-laid egg was placed into a wild nest to replace a dead egg; the foster egg hatched

Baja California – six birds re-released; four pre-release birds received from SDWAP

Captive birds – one incubating egg transferred from Oregon Zoo to SDWAP

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 laid: 2 incubating, 5 hatched and are surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 4 incubating, 4 hatched; egg received from Oregon Zoo: incubating

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 13 incubating, 9 hatched and are surviving

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile, 1 incubating, 1 hatched and surviving, and one transferred to SDWAP

Wild, California – 2 or 3 eggs laid: 1 incubating; 1 egg died and replaced with a captive-laid egg, which hatched and nestling is surviving; 1 apparently incubating (3 pairs)

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, incubating (3 pairs)

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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Los Angeles Zoo	30 (incl. 5 chicks)
San Diego WAP	26 (incl. 4 chicks)
WCBP Boise	52 (incl. 9 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	15 (incl. 1 chick)
Mentor birds in field pens	2 (SB# 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	21
Southern California	0
Central California	5 (SB# 330, 335, 336, 340, 345)
Baja California	7 (SB# 315, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, and 325)
Arizona	9 (SB# 266, 270, 287, 327, 329, 337, 343, 346, 353)

WILD POPULATION

114

California	55
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	1
Flying, wild-fledged	1
Baja California	7
Flying	6 (SB# 261, 259, 217, 220, 269, and 284)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 218)
Arizona	52
Flying, from releases	50
Flying, wild-fledged	2
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0

Changes in April:

Arizona – recently released juvenile male (SB# 347) was captured in low condition 5 weeks after release and died enroute to Phoenix Zoo

Southern California – an already pipped egg from SDWAP was placed into the wild nest of SB# 21 and SB# 192 on April 21 to replace their dead egg, which was removed by the field crew; the replacement egg hatched on April 23 or 24

Baja California – six temporarily held birds re-released in early April; four pre-release birds from SDWAP (SB# 321, 322, 323, 325) transferred to field pen on April 8

Captive birds – transfer of one incubating egg from Oregon Zoo to SDWAP on April 26

Eggs laid in 2005:

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 laid: 1 egg died, 2 incubating, 5 hatched and surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 2 infertile, 4 incubating, 1 late-term death of 1 fertile egg, 4 hatched and surviving; 1 egg received from Oregon Zoo: fertile and incubating

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 1 broken, 2 dead, 3 infertile, 13 incubating, 9 hatched and surviving

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile, 1 incubating, 1 hatched and surviving, and one transferred to SDWAP

Wild, California – 1st pair: 1 egg laid but died; replaced with a captive-laid egg, which hatched and nestling is surviving; 2nd pair: 1 egg laid, incubating since late March (nest found); 3rd pair apparently incubating since early April, but nest not yet located

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

Wild Population Statistics, May 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 April):

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*	25*	8	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	3	28
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	3	64

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
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	15	20	20	26	32	36	43
Wild nestlings									1	2
Wild-fledged birds										1
Total			13	15	20	20	26	32	37	46
BAJA CA										
Birds from releases									5	5
TOTAL	6	17	29	38	49	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)

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.