

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

December 1, 2003

(status through Nov. 31, prepared Dec. 4)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION		217
CAPTIVE POPULATION		133
Los Angeles Zoo	31	
San Diego WAP	30	
WCBP Boise	51	
Oregon Zoo	12	
Mentor birds in field pens	2	
Pre-release birds in field pens	7	
Central California	6	
Arizona	1	
WILD POPULATION		84
California		39
Southern California-released birds (wild)	20	
Central California-released birds (wild)	19	
Baja California (wild)		5
Arizona		40
In wild	38	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	

Changes in November:

Central CA – The body of a bird missing and presumed dead since Oct. 19 was recovered.

Southern CA – Two birds missing in the wild since late October are now presumed dead.

Arizona – First fledging of a wild condor since 1983; two birds newly released; seven birds re-released from field pens, one wild bird recaptured temporary (behavioral reasons).

Zoo transfers – Oregon Zoo, the fourth condor breeding facility, received first 12; four other captive birds were transferred among the other three facilities.

Production in 2003: 28 offspring in captivity and 1 fledgling 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

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(status through Nov. 30, prepared Dec. 4)

TOTAL POPULATION

217

CAPTIVE POPULATION

133

Los Angeles Zoo	31	
San Diego WAP	30	
WCBP Boise	51	
Oregon Zoo	12	
Mentor birds in field pens	2	(SB# 63 in Central CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	7	
Southern California	0	
Central California	6	(SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287)
Baja California	0	
Arizona	1	(SB# 282)

WILD POPULATION

84

California		39
Southern California-released birds	20	
In wild	20	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Central California-released birds	19	
In wild	19	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Baja California		5
In wild	5	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	0	
Arizona		40
In wild	38	(SB# 305 fledged)
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	(SB# 232, 276)

Changes in November:

Central CA – The body of SB# 256 was recovered. This bird had been missing since Oct. 19 and was described on the November 1 report as 'presumed dead'.

Southern CA – Two birds missing in the wild since late October are presumed dead (a 3½-year-old male, SB# 202, and a 1½-year-old female, SB# 268). Their disappearance coincided with a large wildfire.

Arizona – SB# 305 fledged in Grand Canyon National Park on Nov. 5, the first condor to fledge naturally in the wild since 1983; two birds (#273 and #280) newly released; SB# 250, 276, 126, 133, 134, 187, 203 re-released from field pens, but # 276 is being retained longer; #232 was recaptured and is being held temporary for behavioral reasons.

Zoo transfers – Oregon Zoo, the fourth condor breeding facility, received 12 birds to initiate its breeding program: 6 from the Los Angeles Zoo, 5 from San Diego WAP, and 1 from WCBP Boise; four other captive birds were transferred among LAZ, SDWAP, and WCBP for routine population management for productivity and genetic reasons.

Eggs laid in 2003:

Los Angeles Zoo – 7 laid, 7 hatched, 6 chicks survived

San Diego WAP – 11 laid, 2 infertile, 9 hatched, 9 chicks survived

WCBP Boise – 23 laid, 5 infertile, 1 unkn, 4 non-viable, 11 hatched at WCBP, 11 survived; 2 eggs transferred to LAZ also hatched and chicks survived.

Wild, California – 1 laid and hatched, but the chick died

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid: 1 broken, 1 failed (cause unknown), 1 fledged

Production in 2003: 28 offspring in captivity and 1 fledgling 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, Dec. 1, 2003

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 returned to captivity, relocated

1992-95: So. CA - 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

Since 1995:

154 California condors released (So. CA – 52; Cent. CA – 32*; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 65) *excl. #134 relocated to AZ

57 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; 9 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 deaths of nestlings in the wild in CA; 1 bird fledged in the wild in AZ

Jan. 1 totals: 13 in 1996; 25 in '97, 40 in '98; 44 in '99, 52 in 2000, 53 in '01, 59 in '02, 80 in '03

California Department of Fish and Game
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