

**CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION**  
**June 1, 2003** (status through May 31, prepared June 4)  
**GENERAL SUMMARY**

**TOTAL POPULATION** **221**

**CAPTIVE POPULATION** **139**

<b>Los Angeles Zoo</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>San Diego WAP</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>WCBP Boise</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Mentor birds in field pens</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pre-release birds in field pens</b>	<b>15</b>
Southern California	4
Central California	6
Baja California	0
Arizona	5

**WILD POPULATION** **82**

<b>California</b>	<b>41</b>
Southern California-released birds in wild	20 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Central California-released birds	21
In wild	13
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	8
<b>Baja California</b>	<b>5</b>
In wild	3
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	2
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>36</b>
In wild	35
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	1

**Changes in May:**

Southern California – wild egg hatched (early May); 1 bird returned to the wild after treatment at LAZ  
 Central California – 1 death; temporarily recaptured 8 birds for West Nile Virus inoculation, holding one for chelation treatment for lead poisoning  
 Baja California – 2 birds released and 1 bird re-released to wild (May 13)  
 Los Angeles Zoo – 1 bird transferred back to So. CA wild population after treatment for leg injury (one retained for hip surgery)

**Eggs laid in 2003:**

Los Angeles Zoo – 7 laid, 7 hatched, 6 chicks surviving  
 San Diego WAP – 11 laid, 1 incubating, 8 hatched, 8 chicks surviving  
 WCBP Boise – 23 laid, 2 incubating, 11 hatched, 11 chicks surviving  
 Wild, California – 1 laid, 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving  
 Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, 1 broken, 1 failed, 1 unknown (possibly hatched)

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)

**See below for detailed summary and explanatory notes**

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

June 1, 2003 (status through May 30, prepared June 4)

### TOTAL POPULATION

221

### CAPTIVE POPULATION

139

Los Angeles Zoo	34 (incl. 6 chicks)
San Diego WAP	37 (incl. 8 chicks)
WCBP Boise	50 (incl. 11 chicks)
Oregon Zoo	0
Mentor birds in field pens	3 (SB# 63-Cent. CA; # 64-Baja CA; #36-So. CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	15
Southern California	4 (SB# 267, 268, 277, 289)
Central California	6 (SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286, 287)
Baja California	0
Arizona	5 (SB# 273, 275, 276, 280, 282)

### WILD POPULATION

82

#### California

41

Southern California-released birds	20
In wild	20 (incl. 1 wild chick)
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	0
Central California-released birds	21
In wild	13
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	8 (incl. SB# 199)

#### Baja California

5

In wild	3 (SB# 217, 220, 261)
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	2 (SB# 218, 259)

#### Arizona

36

In wild	35
Recaptured, temporarily holding in field pen	1 (SB# 250)

### Changes in May:

So. Calif. – wild egg hatched (early May); SB# 202 returned (28 May) to the wild after treatment at LAZ

Central California – Death of SB# 260 (May 20); temporarily recaptured 8 birds for West Nile Virus inoculation, holding SB# 199 for chelation treatment for lead poisoning

Baja California – SB# 217 and 220 released and SB# 261 re-released (May 13)

Los Angeles Zoo – SB# 202 transferred back to So. CA wild population after treatment for leg injury (wild bird SB# 238 retained for hip surgery)

### Eggs laid in 2003:

Los Angeles Zoo – 7 laid, 0 infertile, 7 fertile, 7 hatched, 6 chicks surviving

San Diego WAP – 11 laid, 2 infertile, 9 fertile, 1 incubating, 8 hatched, 8 chicks surviving

WCBP Boise – 23 laid, 5 infertile, 1 unkn., 17 fertile, 4 non-viable, 2 incubating, 11 hatched, 11 surviving

Wild, California – 1 laid, 1 hatched, 1 chick surviving

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid, 1 broken, 1 failed (cause unknown), 1 unknown (possibly hatched)

### Wild population statistics:

**1992-95:** So. CA - 13 released (1992-93): 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently)

#### Since 1995:

146 condors released (So. CA – 48; Cent. CA – 32\*; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 61) \*excl. #134 relocated to AZ

51 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; 3 so far in 2003); 4 known nestling deaths

14 returned to captivity indefinitely or permanently

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

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Calif.: 2 in 2001; 3 in 2002; 1 in 2003; Arizona: 1 in 2001; 2 in 2002; 3 in 2003

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.

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)