

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

January 1, 2004

(status through Dec. 31, prepared Jan. 8)

GENERAL SUMMARY

TOTAL POPULATION **215**

CAPTIVE POPULATION **131**

Los Angeles Zoo	26
San Diego WAP	22
WCBP Boise	41
Oregon Zoo	12
Mentor birds in field pens	3
Pre-release birds in field pens	27
Southern California	8
Central California	5
Baja California	3
Arizona	11

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 December:

Southern CA – Received 8 pre-release birds and a mentor bird (Pismo).

Central CA – One bird missing in the wild since October, is presumed dead; one bird released Dec. 20 at Pinnacles National Monument.

Arizona – Received 10 pre-released birds.

Baja CA – Received 4 pre-release birds, but one was later found dead in the release pen (predation).

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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TOTAL POPULATION

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CAPTIVE POPULATION

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Los Angeles Zoo	26	
San Diego WAP	22	
WCBP Boise	41	
Oregon Zoo	12	
Mentor birds in field pens	3	(SB# 36 in So. CA; # 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	27	
Southern California	8	(SB# 294, 298, 301, 303, 306 311, 317, 318)
Central California	5	(SB# 265, 266, 270, 278, 286)
Baja California	3	(SB# 269, 279, 284)
Arizona	11	(SB# 282, 291, 293, 296, 297, 299, 300, 302, 304, 314, 316)

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	
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2	(SB# 232, 276)

Changes in December:

Southern CA – Received from LAZ: 8 pre-release birds and a mentor bird (Pismo).

Central CA – SB# 179 (5½-yr-old male), missing in the wild since October, is presumed dead; its disappearance coincided with a large wildfire in southern California, where he was last detected.

The Dec. 20 release of birds at Pinnacles National Monument resulted in one bird flying (SB# 287); another released bird (SB# 278) was returned to the release pen after two days in the wild and will be held longer and released possibly in January along with four others.

Arizona – Received from Boise: 10 pre-released birds.

Baja CA – Received from LAZ: 4 pre-release birds on Dec. 4; on Dec. 23 one of these (SB# 225) was found dead in the release pen, predation suspected.

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, Jan. 1, 2004

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:

155 California condors released (So. CA – 52; Cent. CA – 33*; Baja CA – 5; AZ – 65) *excl. #134 relocated to AZ

58 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; 10 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

July 1 totals: 6 in 1995, 17 in '96, 29 in '97, 38 in '98, 49 in '99, 48 in '00, 57 in '01, 70 in '02, 83 in '03

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

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