

# CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

Sep. 1, 2005

(status through Aug. 31, prepared Sep. 8)

## Overview Page

Refer to the subsequent pages for details and trends

**TOTAL POPULATION** **276**

**CAPTIVE POPULATION** **151**

Los Angeles Zoo	27
San Diego WAP	26
WCBP Boise	60
Oregon Zoo	16
Mentor birds in field pens	2
Pre-release birds in field pens	20

**WILD POPULATION** **125**

<b>California</b>		<b>55</b>
Wild-fledged	1	
Southern California-released birds	21	
Central California-released birds	33	
Nestlings in wild nests	0	
<b>Baja California</b>		<b>13</b>
Wild, from releases	13	
<b>Arizona</b>		<b>57</b>
Wild-fledged	2	
Wild, from releases	53	
Nestlings in wild nests	2	

### Changes in August:

Arizona – 1 bird re-released, 2 birds newly released (translocated from CA)

Southern California – 2 wild nestlings rescued, 1 died, 1 in rehabilitation at LAZ.

LAZ – 1 rescued wild nestling was treated and is being raised in captivity

### Production in 2005:

**Eggs:** 50 captive-laid and 6 wild-laid; **Nestlings:** 37 surviving nestlings

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)

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

September 1, 2005

(status through Aug. 31, prepared Sep. 8)

### TOTAL POPULATION

276

### CAPTIVE POPULATION

151

Los Angeles Zoo	27 (incl. 7 nestlings and 1 rescued wild nestling)
San Diego WAP	26 (incl. 5 nestlings)
WCBP Boise	60 (incl. 20 nestlings)
Oregon Zoo	16 (incl. 2 nestlings)
Mentor birds in field pens	2 (SB# 63 in Centr. CA; # 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	20
Southern California	2 (SB# 238, 245)
Central California	7 (SB# 330, 332, 335, 336, 340, 345, 351)
Baja California	3 (SB# 319, 338, 344)
Arizona	8 (SB# 327, 329, 334, 337, 343, 346, 353, 354)

### WILD POPULATION

125

#### California

55

Flying, wild-fledged	1
Southern California-released birds	
Flying	19
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2 (SB# 238 and 245)
Central California-released birds	
Flying	33
Nestlings in wild nests	0

#### Baja California

13

Flying, from releases	12
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 323)

#### Arizona

57

Flying, wild-fledged	2
Flying, from releases	48
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	5 (SB# 162, 232, 282, 302, 324)
Nestlings in wild nests	2

### Changes in August:

Arizona – SB# 314 was re-released after temporary recapture. Two young birds (SB# 270 and 287) were newly released into the Arizona population on Aug. 19. These two and one other young California bird (# 266) were originally released at Pinnacles National Monument, CA, but had to be recaptured for behavioral reasons and were translocated in February 2005 to Arizona holding pens for release at Vermilion Cliffs. SB# 266 was released in AZ in May 2005.

Southern California – both wild chicks had to be rescued from nests: SB# 370 was removed and transported to LAZ on Aug. 18 for emergency treatment for microtrash ingestion; SB# 386 died on Aug. 25 soon after removal from the nest and was taken to SDWAP for necropsy (microtrash ingested).

LAZ – wild chick (SB# 370) was successfully treated, is being puppet-raised, and is expected to be released to the wild with other captive-raised birds later (this bird is from an egg laid in captivity and hatched by wild parents).

**Correction to last month's report:** the death of a 3-week-old captive-hatched chick at SDWAP on Jul. 10 was inadvertently omitted in the Aug. 1, 2005 report.

**Production in 2005** – refer to the final page

### Wild Population Statistics, September 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 August ):**

#### 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	1	<b>100*</b>
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	6	<b>14</b>
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	11	<b>84</b>
<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>18</b>	<b>198</b>

\*excludes three birds initially released in California in winter 2003-04 that were recaptured for behavioral reasons 9-10 months after release for translocation to Arizona. These are now included as birds released in Arizona 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	<b>35</b>
Baja CA								0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	3	<b>28</b>
<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	<b>11</b>
Baja CA								0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<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	2005
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>											
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44	54
Wild nestlings								3	1	3	2
Wild-fledged birds											1
<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>57</b>
<b>BAJA CA</b>											
Birds from releases									5	5	9
<b>ARIZONA</b>											
Birds from releases			13	15	20	20	26	32	36	43	51
Wild nestlings									1	2	2
Wild-fledged birds										1	2
<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>55</b>
<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>	<b>121</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)

**Production in 2005: Eggs:** 50 captive-laid and 6 wild-laid; **Nestlings:** 34 surviving nestlings were produced in captivity; 2 surviving nestlings were produced from wild eggs, and 1 rescued nestling that hatched in a wild nest from a captive-laid egg is now being puppet-raised in captivity.

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 eggs laid: 1 egg died, 7 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 2 infertile, 2 late-term deaths of fertile eggs, 1 chick death, 5 nestlings, 1 egg transferred in April for fostering into a wild California nest; 1 Oregon Zoo egg died at hatching

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 1 broken, 3 dead, 4 infertile, 20 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile: 1 egg transferred to SDWAP, 2 nestlings

Wild, California – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch; 1 hatched successfully but died after emergency rescue (trash ingestion); 1 failed to hatch and was replaced with a foster captive-laid egg that hatched but as an older nestling had to be emergency rescued (trash ingestion), treated, and reared in captivity.

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch (embryo death), 2 nestlings

#### 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 summaries should be directed to RJurek @ dfg.ca.gov.

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

"Released" refers to birds raised in captivity and introduced to the wild; to previously released birds that were translocated to a second population (date of release to the second population becomes the release date for tracking purposes); and to birds captured prior to 1988 that were returned to the wild after 1995.

"Re-released" refers to previously released birds that were re-captured temporarily and held in field pens, or that were re-captured for long-time care or observation in breeding facilities, and that were later returned to their original wild population .

"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 that range in Arizona and other states east of Calif.

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)