



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
HOPPER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX
CALIFORNIA CONDOR RECOVERY PROGRAM
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California Condor Recovery Program

2017 Annual Population Status

Total World Population **463**

(2015 = 435, 2016=446)

Wild Population **290**

(2015 = 268, 2016=276))

California **170**

(2016=166)

{ Southern CA 80 (2016=80)

{ Central CA 90 (2016=86)

Arizona /Utah **82** (2016=76)

Baja, Mex. **38** (2016=34)

Captive Population **173**

(Includes 2017 produced chicks)



California Condor Recovery Program 2017 Annual Population Status

Number of 2017 wild nesting attempts **27**

Arizona / Utah	4
California	16
SoCal	6
VWS	6
PNP	4
Baja	7

Number of wild-fledged chicks **10**

Arizona /Utah	3
California	6
SoCal	2
VWS	2
PNP	2
Baja	1 (confirmed)

Number of chicks released to the wild **21**

Arizona	6
California	12
SoCal	6
VWS	4
PNP	2
Baja	3

California Condor Recovery Program 2017 Annual Population Status

Captive Breeding

Breeding adults		96
Chicks produced		39
Chicks being reared in captivity		35
	WCBP	15
	OR Zoo	7
	SD Zoo	6
	LA Zoo	6
	Chap Zoo	1

Captive egg production

Total eggs produced in captivity	49
Fertile eggs produced in captivity	39
Fertile eggs transferred to wild nests	0
Eggs hatched in captivity	39
Infertile / Failed	10

2017 Mortalities in the free-flying population **17**

California	13
Southern CA	5
Central CA	8
Arizona/Utah	3
Baja	1

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2017 cause of death

Lead toxicosis		5
Central CA	2	
Southern CA	3	
AZ/UT	0 (confirmed)	
Pending final necropsy		5
AZ	2	
CA	2	
Baja	1	
Drowning		2
Anti-coagulant poisoning		1
Egg bound female		1
Gunshot		0
Disease/infection		0
Confirmed trauma predation		0
Undetermined		0
Electrocution (2016 deaths confirmed COD in 2017)*		2*
Missing in wild/unrecovered (1 - AZ, 1-SoCal, 1 - CenCal)		3
<u>Total mortalities in the wild population since 1992</u>		<u>290</u>
Confirmed lead mortalities in the wild since 1992		76
Powerline/electrocution		16
Drowning		6
Predation		29

California Condor Recovery Program 2017 Annual Population Status

Shooting	7
Trauma	12
Undetermined (scavenging or advanced decomposition)	49
Unknown - missing in the wild	74

2017 Wild hatched chick mortalities

Confirmed lead toxicosis	0
Trauma/injury in nest	0
Unknown missing	0
Undetermined	0
Trash impaction	0
Pending final necropsy	1 (AZ)

Captive Mortalities

Adult mortality	1
Pre- release juvenile	1
Captive chicks	4

Summary

The total world population of California condors increased by 6.4 percent in 2017 from 435 at the end of 2016, to 463 the end of 2017 (2.5 percent increase in 2016). The wild population (CA, AZ/UT and Baja, Mex.) increased by 5 percent in 2017 from 276 to 290 accounting for 22 percent of the total wild population.

In 2017, 10 wild-fledged condors represent 32 percent of the 31 birds added to the wild population. The number of estimated nesting attempts in the wild was 27 (2016 N=20-22). The 21 captive-bred condors released to the wild represent approximately 68 percent of wild population growth in 2017.

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Mortality in the wild free flying population was similar in 2017 (n=17) as in 2016 (n=15). Seven more condors in the wild population died than were fledged from wild nests.

Lead poisoning from spent lead ammunition continues to be the greatest cause of mortality in the wild population, representing approximately 50 percent of known causes of deaths (n=159) since 1992, and continues to preclude recovery.



