



# California Condors

- California condors are the largest flying birds in North America. Adults have 8½- to nine-foot wingspans, weigh 15 to 20 pounds, and may fly more than 120 miles in a single day.
- These giant soaring birds eat up to 3.5 pounds per day of fresh mammal meat. They find carcasses by honing in on other carrion eaters such as eagles and ravens. They routinely drive away all other birds except sharp-taloned golden eagles.
- California condors nest on mountain ledges or in caves, laying one egg every other year. Parents take turns sitting on the egg and feeding the chick, which depends on its parents for food until it is about one year old.
- Thousands of years ago, California condors ranged from British Columbia to Baja California and as far east as Florida. By the early 1900s, they were found only in California, Oregon, Arizona and Mexico. Threats to the critically endangered birds include collisions with power lines and lead poisoning from animal carcasses contaminated by bullets.
- In 1982, with only 23 California condors left in the world, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its conservation partners captured the surviving birds and began a captive breeding program. Captive-raised birds have been released in California and Arizona. Today there are nearly 400 California condors, most of which live in the wild. In 2011, for the first time in decades, a condor pair hatched and raised a chick in the wild.

