



# 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

### 2016 Annual Population Status

Total World Population      **446**

(2015 = 435)

Wild Population      **276**

(2015 = 268)

California      **166**

{ Southern CA      **80**

{ Central CA      **86**

Arizona /Utah      **76**

Baja, Mex.      **34**

Captive Population      **170**



## California Condor Recovery Program 2016 Annual Population Status

**Number of nests in the wild 20-22**

Arizona / Utah	5-7
California	14
{SoCal	6
{VWS	5
{PNP	3
Baja	1

**Total number of wild-fledged chicks 8**

Arizona /Utah	2
California	6
{SoCal	2
{VWS	2
{PNP	2
Baja	0

**Total number of birds newly released to the wild 21**

Arizona	4
California	17
{SoCal	8
{VWS	5
{PNP	4
Baja	0

## California Condor Recovery Program 2016 Annual Population Status

**2016 mortalities in the free-flying population** **15**

California	9
{ Southern CA - 7	
{ Central CA - 2	
Arizona/Utah	4
Baja, Mex.	2

**Cause of Death**

Pending final necropsy through 2016	5
Confirmed Lead toxicosis	2
Central CA	1
Southern CA	1
AZ/UT	0 *

\*Three 2016 deaths while undergoing treatment for lead and one in transit to be treatment for lead.

Electrocution	2
Gunshot (AZ/UT)	2 *
Disease/infection	1
Confirmed trauma predation	
Missing in wild/unrecovered	3
Undetermined	2

\*2014 deaths; cases closed in 2016

**Total confirmed lead mortalities to date since 1984** **72**

## California Condor Recovery Program 2016 Annual Population Status

Chick mortalities 5**Wild hatched chicks**

Confirmed lead toxicosis 0

Trauma/injury in nest 1

Unknown missing 1

Undetermined 2

Pending final necropsy 0

**Captive chicks**

Trauma parental aggression 1

Captive Breeding

Eggs produced in captivity 37

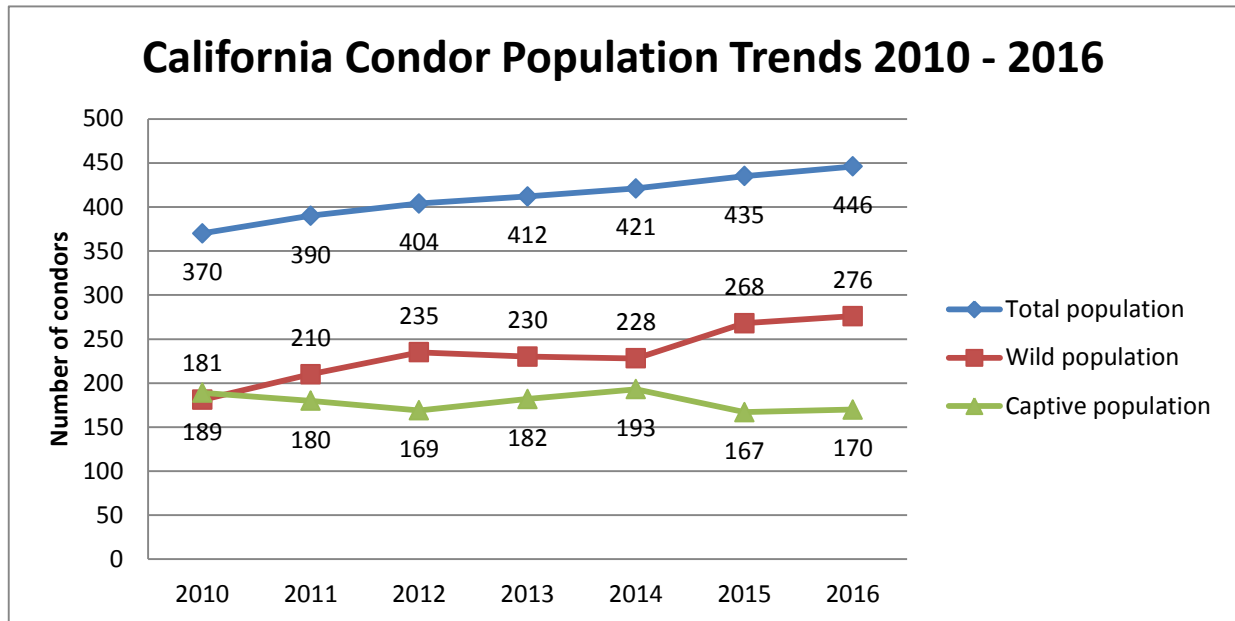
Fertile eggs produced in captivity 34

Fertile eggs transferred to wild nests 3

Fertile eggs hatched in captivity 31

Failed 3

## California Condor Recovery Program 2016 Annual Population Status



## Summary

The total world population of California condors increased by 2.5 percent in 2016 from 435 at the end of 2015, to 446 the end of 2016 (3.3 percent increase in 2015). The wild population (CA, AZ/UT and Baja, Mex.) increased by 3 percent in 2016 from 268 to 276 (17.5 percent increase in 2015).

In 2016, 8 wild-fledged birds represented 27.5 percent of the 29 birds added to the wild population, while 21 released captive-bred birds represented approximately 72 percent. In 2016 the number of wild fledged birds (n=8) was 43 percent lower than in 2015 (n=14)

The number of estimated nesting attempts in the wild was 20-22. Where accessible nests were known to have failed during the egg stage, an artificial egg was placed in the nest to ensure the pair did not abandon the nest. Prior to piping, a viable egg from the captive breeding program was then placed in the nest just prior to hatching.

Mortality in the wild free flying population was 25 percent higher in 2016 (n=15) than in 2015 (n=12). In 2015, mortality was 59 percent lower than in 2014 (n=29).

Exposure to lead, thin-shelled eggs, micro-trash and other threats continue to require substantial management efforts in the field, and in captivity. Lead poisoning from spent lead ammunition continues to be the greatest cause of mortality in the wild population, continuing to preclude recovery.