

California Condors

The **California Condor** (*Gymnogyps californianus*) was on the brink of extinction due to egg collecting, indiscriminate shooting, and poisoning. Successful captive breeding and release programs have since dramatically increased the condor population.

1982: Only 22 California Condors in the world.

1997: VWS began releasing condors into Big Sur.

1999: Big Sur condors observed feeding on marine mammal carcasses for the first time in over 100 years.

2007: Big Sur condors successfully breeding in the wild for the first time in over 100 years.



Main Threats to Condors

To achieve the goal of a self-sustaining population, we continue to manage condor threats. Two main threats that affect condors in the wild:

- **LEAD POISONING** Lead poisoning from ingested ammunition is the leading cause of death in condors.
- **MICRO-TRASH** Condors foraging for food and feed on micro trash along the highway, then feed it to their chicks, presumably in search of bone fragments which their chicks need during development.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (831) 620-0702. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting (831) 455-9514.

How You Can Help Condors

Big Sur condors feed along the coastline and sometimes bring micro-trash to the nest which can be fatal to their chicks, if ingested.

- Use non-lead ammunition, if you hunt.
- Empty car trash often, when you open your door, micro-trash can easily blow out without you noticing.
- DON'T litter! Ask others not to litter.
- Teach youth the importance of picking up trash.
- Become a VWS member or volunteer.

VWS Discovery Center

Located at Andrew Molera State Park in Big Sur, open 10:00AM-4:00PM from Memorial Day through Labor Day; Saturdays/Sundays/holidays.

FEATURING CALIFORNIA CONDOR EXHIBIT
Bringing Home the Condors



Ventana Wildlife Society

19045 Portola Dr, Ste F1, Salinas CA 93908
831-455-9514, Fax 831-455-2846



VWS ONLINE:

www.ventanaws.org
www.mycondor.org
www.condorspotter.com
[facebook/theodorecondor](https://www.facebook.com/theodorecondor)

Thank You!



California
State Parks



Big Sur Natural
History Association

ALLCONDORPHOTOGRAPHSINTHISBROCHUREBYTIMHUNTINGTON

California Condors in Big Sur



Ventana Wildlife Society

www.ventanaws.org

A non-profit organization dedicated to conserving native wildlife and their habitats through science, education and collaboration

California Condors in Big Sur



9.5 FEET

ALL CONDORS ARE TAGGED

Look up individual birds via tag color and number at www.condorspotter.com:

67	68	71	90	94	99	4	8	9	19	22
31	36	42	51	06	10	12	13	17	30	32
35	40	45	51	11	75	14	25	34	43	47
0	1	5	11	18	31	38	44	48	51	60
63	70	77	81	1	38	50	59	64	66	67
69	74	83	88	89	97	98	3	15	63	65

LARGE WHITE TRIANGLE IN MIDDLE OF WING

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OVER 83* FREE-FLYING CONDORS IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Additional California Condor information can be found at www.ventanaws.org and www.mycondor.org

*AS OF FALL 2017



- Hwy 1 pullouts are the best places to look for condors starting sometime late morning.

- The condors often cruise up and down the coastline taking advantage of the coastal breezes and perhaps searching for marine mammal carcasses to feed on.

OTHER BIRDS COMMONLY SEEN IN BIG SUR:

