



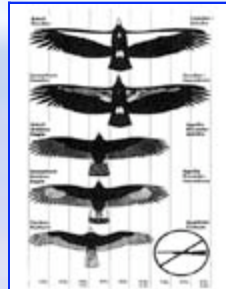
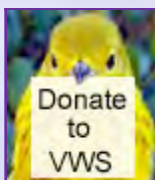
Ventana Wildlife Society CONDOR REINTRODUCTION NOTES FROM THE FIELD, 2005



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Comparison Chart

All California condors released by VWS are given identification tags placed on their wings so that field biologists can monitor their individual progress. The wing tags, also known as patagial tags, have different colors based on the date of their release: Blue - December 12, 1997; Yellow - January 30, 1999; Orange - March 4, 2000; White - April 5, 2001, Red - December 12, 2002, Black - December 19, 2003. Individual condors are identified by the first letter of the color (or first two letters, in the case of Orange-tags), followed by a number. For example, Y92 is a yellow-tag and Or99 is an orange-tag. The last two digits of the condor identification number appear on the wing tags.

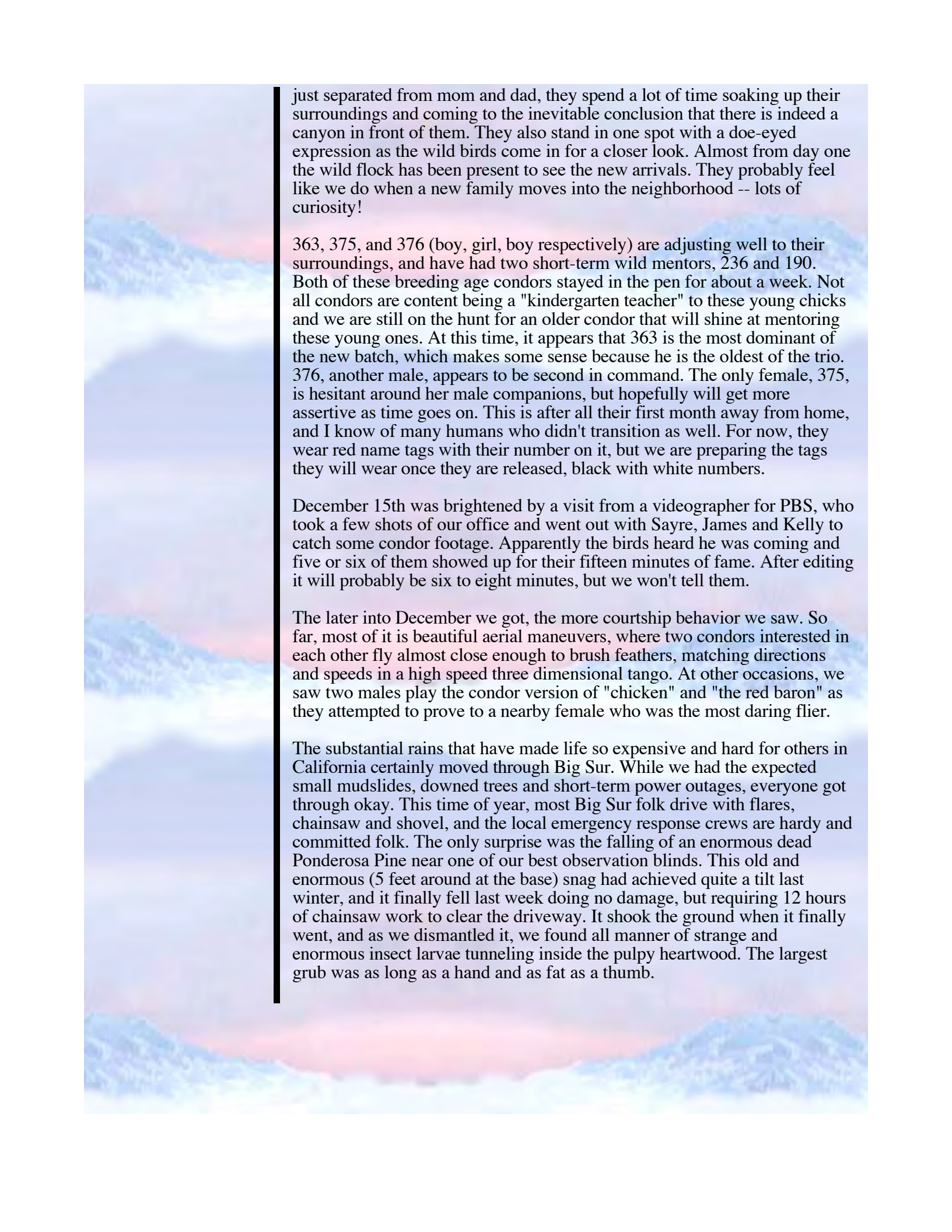


View [video clips](#) of California Condors released by Ventura Wildlife Society.

Notes from the Field, December 2005:

Big Sur Update

Dateline: December 1st, 2005. After months of preparations, three new condors arrived, and were placed in the wilderness flight pen where they will stay through the winter until they are released in central California sometime this spring. We can't say for sure when they will be released, as it will be dependent on the weather and how well the young ones develop physically and socially. They will be joined by two to three more birds from another zoo sometime in January. New arrivals are always a joy to watch,



just separated from mom and dad, they spend a lot of time soaking up their surroundings and coming to the inevitable conclusion that there is indeed a canyon in front of them. They also stand in one spot with a doe-eyed expression as the wild birds come in for a closer look. Almost from day one the wild flock has been present to see the new arrivals. They probably feel like we do when a new family moves into the neighborhood -- lots of curiosity!

363, 375, and 376 (boy, girl, boy respectively) are adjusting well to their surroundings, and have had two short-term wild mentors, 236 and 190. Both of these breeding age condors stayed in the pen for about a week. Not all condors are content being a "kindergarten teacher" to these young chicks and we are still on the hunt for an older condor that will shine at mentoring these young ones. At this time, it appears that 363 is the most dominant of the new batch, which makes some sense because he is the oldest of the trio. 376, another male, appears to be second in command. The only female, 375, is hesitant around her male companions, but hopefully will get more assertive as time goes on. This is after all their first month away from home, and I know of many humans who didn't transition as well. For now, they wear red name tags with their number on it, but we are preparing the tags they will wear once they are released, black with white numbers.

December 15th was brightened by a visit from a videographer for PBS, who took a few shots of our office and went out with Sayre, James and Kelly to catch some condor footage. Apparently the birds heard he was coming and five or six of them showed up for their fifteen minutes of fame. After editing it will probably be six to eight minutes, but we won't tell them.

The later into December we got, the more courtship behavior we saw. So far, most of it is beautiful aerial maneuvers, where two condors interested in each other fly almost close enough to brush feathers, matching directions and speeds in a high speed three dimensional tango. At other occasions, we saw two males play the condor version of "chicken" and "the red baron" as they attempted to prove to a nearby female who was the most daring flier.

The substantial rains that have made life so expensive and hard for others in California certainly moved through Big Sur. While we had the expected small mudslides, downed trees and short-term power outages, everyone got through okay. This time of year, most Big Sur folk drive with flares, chainsaw and shovel, and the local emergency response crews are hardy and committed folk. The only surprise was the falling of an enormous dead Ponderosa Pine near one of our best observation blinds. This old and enormous (5 feet around at the base) snag had achieved quite a tilt last winter, and it finally fell last week doing no damage, but requiring 12 hours of chainsaw work to clear the driveway. It shook the ground when it finally went, and as we dismantled it, we found all manner of strange and enormous insect larvae tunneling inside the pulpy heartwood. The largest grub was as long as a hand and as fat as a thumb.



Finally, 208, the condor who was found to have toxic levels of lead in late November, has almost finished undergoing medical treatment at Los Angeles Zoo. We are very thankful to them for her excellent care. We hope she can return to the wild soon, as the breeding season is starting. Her mate, 168, is showing no interest in other females, and spends much of his time alone in the breeding territory he shared with 208 last winter. We know she is lucky to be alive, and are comforting ourselves that condors naturally live over 50 years. She could easily have many decades in the wild with 168. We send all of our loyal readers a season's greeting!

-- Jessica Koning and Jim Howard, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update



December in Pinnacles National Monument is a wet, windy and chilly month (not exactly ideal condor flying conditions). However, December is an ideal month for the crew to do a bit of housekeeping, lead testing and transmitter replacing. All of these aforementioned tasks, among others, can be achieved during what we call a "trap-up." This month's update will illustrate what a trap-up entails and explain why they are an essential element of condor management.

A trap-up, of course, begins with a little bait. We place several rabbits inside our double-door trap (DDT) which is an extension of our captive facility. The crew then rotates shifts, spending several days in the Facility taking every opportunity to catch the "Pinnacles most wanted" condors (those needing new transmitters or lead testing).

Once we've trapped the desired birds we test our new transmitters one last time, prepare our blood and lead test kits, double-check all other supplies and prepare for an early morning.

On the day of the trap-up we try to arrive shortly after sunrise to give us maximum daylight and cooler morning temperatures. Three to four individuals then enter the flight pen armed with goggles, gloves and a net. They capture the first bird of opportunity, extract it from the net and carry it into the nearby processing room. Anesthetic is not used but rather a cool towel is applied to the bird's feet to prevent overheating and a damp towel is placed over the bird's eyes to keep it calm. Once the bird is in-hand in the processing room, blood is extracted for DNA archiving and lead-testing, old transmitters are removed and replaced with new state-of-the-art models, internal temperatures are monitored and head-to-toe health checks are performed on each captive condor. In all, this process takes the crew about

10-20 minutes per bird. Following the trap-up, the crew cleans-up, performs necessary repairs and maintenance to the facilities and ultimately departs around 13:00.

The above process has been carried out a few times this winter at Pinnacles. On the 29th of this month, we completed our final trap-up and can now say with confidence that all of our birds are in good health, have relatively low blood-lead levels and are outfitted with new VHF transmitters and/or state-of-the-art daily-downloading GPS transceivers. Trap-ups make for great Christmas presents for condors and crew alike.

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, November 2005:

Big Sur Update

The Indian summer took us by surprise. After a few weeks of dreadful wind and rain, with raindrops, rocks, and branches falling from the sky, we had accepted the fact that winter had arrived. We were wrong. Midway through November, a storm came through and blew the bad weather right out of Big Sur. The next week or so broke records, and delighted us with beautiful sunny day after beautiful sunny day. Our birds, who had also given up on summer, were able to stretch their wings again and get a little exercise after being holed up in trees, hiding from the storm.

Of course we took this opportunity to try to catch them, while they took the opportunity to mock us. We were to find out that much like humans, condors are smarter than they let on. The last six birds we need to capture consist of one breeding-aged adult with non-functioning transmitters, one adult with only a GPS locator, three birds that had just spent four months or so at Hopper, and our androgynous 190. Only one of these birds has come anywhere near the trap the whole time, and that was 190. To compound things, the birds that have been caught once this season are coming up with catch-proof strategies and are very wary of the trap. So we adapt. We're going to reintroduce them to a trapping method we haven't used in a long time, and hopefully the walk-in trap will outsmart them. If not, it's back to the drawing board. Our trap up season has been absurdly long, and we would really like to bring it to a close. I suppose we may have to try the Native American technique of hiding in a hole beneath the carcass and grabbing them from underneath! Probably not, though.



Our Big Creek collaboration with University of California began this month. We will be placing food on the reserve throughout the winter months. This site is a bit farther south than the typical Big Sur condor range, and we hope it will encourage the birds to explore more extensively through the Ventana Wilderness. Big Creek is located around some prime nesting habitat, and that is exactly the type of area where we

want the condors to spend their time. Due to the fact that eggs are usually laid within a mile of a consistent food source, this new feeding site has great potential!

Our condor tour expertise was challenged by the Watsonville Bird Festival, when three busloads of birders were taken down the coast to look for our birds. It was fun, and many people were able to see the birds. One tour in particular was treated to a demonstration of our "aversion therapy" for road-perching condors. Thankfully, one of our BSOL friends was helping out and everything worked out fine.

And finally, CONDORS IN THE NEWS: A recent [article from the Associated Press](#) spotlighted a study on sea lions as an excellent food source for condors. Bone and feather fragments of condor fossils from the late Pleistocene were tested for carbon and nitrogen composition, which resulted in indications toward a diet largely consisting of sea mammals. If this finding is correct, our birds are eating the sea lions at Sea Lion Cove out of instinct, and not just hunger. Further, it has been proposed that raising the condors within sight of seal and sea lion breeding grounds may imprint the marine mammal edibility on them, and help them find a reliable, lead-free, nutritious food source consistently. This is good news for the Big Sur site, because the seal and sea lion breeding grounds are on the coast, and the ones a decent distance from people range from Garrapata State Park to the California Sea Otter Game Refuge near San Simeon. Big Sur is on the north end of that range; perhaps a new site will provide for condors on the south end. Regardless, our work is cut out for us every time they find a seal at our local hotspot.



-- Jim Howard, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update

As winter approaches the days are getting colder and shorter, but instead of snuggling under the covers the condors have been keeping us on our toes. They have been actively moving throughout the high peaks allowing many visitors the chance to see some of their many flight spectacles throughout the day.



With hunting season drawing to a close we began lead testing the condors. It took us a couple of attempts to catch those crafty condors, and as we had hoped, most of the condors came back clean and were released right away. Some condors had elevated levels of lead, but it wasn't anything that a couple days of clean food couldn't fix and those birds are well and happy back in the wild.



Female condor 307 has given the crew plenty to worry about, having visited so many new places and having so many opportunities to feed on some potentially contaminated carcasses. Thankfully, her



levels were only slightly elevated and she is doing well. She is expected to be released in the next week after she gets a couple of good meals of clean food. 307 is also known, historically, for being one of the most adventurous birds and for exploring the farthest out of the park. This is still the case, so she has been fitted with a brand new GPS tag. Now instead of receiving downloads of her position every three days we will be receiving downloads every day, allowing us to finally be able to keep up with her.

351 and 313 have been spending a lot of time out of the park at nearby ranches, so they too are being equipped with new GPS units. With all the new GPS data we will gain a better understanding of the birds' activities when they are outside the park. This will also prevent them from sneaking past us in the maze of canyons that lie beyond the parks boundaries.

-- Keely Arnold, Pinnacles Field Intern

Notes from the Field, October 2005:

Big Sur Update

October was an exciting time for the Big Sur condors and the condor crew. Every year around this time we trap all of the free-flying condors and test them for lead exposure. The reason we trap now is that hunting season has just ended and this is the most likely time for a condor to become exposed to lead. On October 12 we trapped up a group of our free-flying birds and gave them the lead test. Unfortunately, three of our birds tested high for lead exposure and another tested very high. The birds that tested high, condors 194, 209, 251, were held for further observation and all were returned to the wild within days. The condor that tested very high, #167, was taken in for a series of treatments. To our relief condor 167 made a rapid recovery and was quickly returned to the wild.



One of the birds we tested, 219, was captured with an aluminum can stuck on his beak. The picture may look amusing at first, but 219's face was bleeding and the wound was probably very painful. Worst of all, he could not eat or drink, and if we had not captured him quickly, he would have died from lack of water. Putting trash in the wrong places can seem so unimportant, but it could have killed one of the few condors in the wild.

The previous month also found the condor crew preparing for the rainy winter weather that is headed our way. The biggest project we undertook was the replacement of the roof on our condor observation blind. Over a few days time we were able to completely disassemble the old shingle roof and



replace it with a new metal one. The new roof looks great, gives us more head room, and should keep us dry for many winters to come.

In other exciting condor news, we have recently observed the birds gathering along the rocky Big Sur coast to feed on sea lions. We witnessed the birds feeding on marine mammals several times this summer, and we are always pleased at their ability to take advantage of this natural food source. Having the birds along the coast also allows us to show the condors to travelers along Highway One and share with these people a little about the birds and the effort to restore them to the area.

-- James Hart, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update



Following the successful release of seven condors in September, Pinnacles National Monument's free-flying population has more than doubled! The new additions have been integrating exceptionally well. All of the new birds quickly found the temporary feeding site and roosted in trees. Now they are progressing faster than any of us anticipated. In just over a month since their initial release, all of the new condors have flown outside the park, visited the High peaks and a few have even found non-proffered food and water! In addition to the successes of the newly released birds, the first bird released at Pinnacles undertook a landmark flight this month.

In the past, female condor 307, the most dominant bird of the Pinnacles flock, has flown as far South as San Luis Obispo. There she would run into a thermal equivalent of a dead-end, in that the Gabilan Range is separated from the Coastal Range by just a few miles of central valley "dead air." However, this month, 307 bridged the gap, made it to the Coastal Range and flew around the area for a couple of days before returning to the park. This is a very exciting occurrence because it is now likely that the Pinnacles flock will mix with the other Coastal range release site's birds (Hopper and Big Sur) thereby creating one large integrated California flock!

It is truly a spectacular sight seeing 13 condors circling the volcanic rock formations and talus caves within the park. However, this sight has also brought about a bit of uneasiness for the crew. How would the new birds deal with the hikers and climbers in the High Peaks area? At first, the birds seemed a little unsure and on a few occasions they either let crew members get a little too close or were perching in unsafe areas. However, with a few quick lessons from the crew's squirt guns, they have avoided repeating such behaviors.

A nearby horse and cattle ranch has become quite the hotspot for the condors. There they have found water troughs, great flying conditions, nice perches and even the occasional deceased cow. 351 in particular has been frequenting the area and has kept us on our toes with occasional disappearing acts to the ranch. The crew would like to wholeheartedly thank

local landowners and ranchers for their support of the project and their much appreciated assistance in the species recovery.

It has been a wonderful experience seeing the old and new cohorts mentor and mimic correspondingly. It must be tough for captive bred and foster reared birds to know how to behave in the wild. However, thanks to the established and older Pinnacles cohort, the newly released birds have a jump on the game and are quickly learning from the pros.

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, September 2005:

Big Sur Update

September has been an emotional roller coaster for the crew this month -- we've laughed and we've cried, for many changes have taken place over the last month that we will share with you. Do you want the good news first or the bad news? I will begin with good news -- seven new free-flying condors! The Big Sur interns traveled to Pinnacles National Monument to assist with the release of their birds in the flight pen. The release was a success and a good time was had by all. Another fun event this month was the Big Sur intern river bash -- a day of fun in the sun and bonding between the condor crew and BSOL interns.

On a different, less happy note, we regret to inform you that the Big Sur Condor flock had a loss this month. On September 30th part of the crew, with the help of some of the USFWS interns, recovered the body of Big Sur Condor #164. He was found near a creek in southern California, and the biologists were led to believe he might have been attacked while drinking. The cause of his death will never be definitely known, which is very unfortunate. 164 had a special place in all of our hearts, especially because he was the most likely to breed this spring. He was an eight-year-old male, who dominated the entire Big Sur flock. His two girlfriends, 171 and 194, as well as the rest of the flock will miss him dearly.



As well as the ups and downs this month the crew must also continuously worry about one important event in September -- hunting season. September is the prime hunting month in the range of the condor, so the crew has been on pins and needles all month, hoping the birds won't discover poisoned carcasses. We began trapping up the birds toward the end of the month, to test their lead level. Thus far, we have tested seven of our wild flock and all were in the clear, which gave us a huge sigh of relief. We will continue trapping the condors until all 24 birds have been tested. This busy task will keep the crew in the backcountry most of the month and we will report back next month with the results.

-- Sayre Flannagan, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update



On the morning of September 17th, with nearly 300 people anxiously watching, condor 340 slowly walked into the double-door trap to socialize with his buddies 330 and 332. He appeared to hesitate for a moment at the threshold, seemingly knowing what was at stake. The instant his hind foot was planted BAM, the door behind the trio was slammed shut....

Moments later a new door, one that opens to the wilderness of Pinnacles, was opened and the three juvenile California condors had their first chance at freedom.

330, 332 and 340 were the first of seven condors released this month at Pinnacles National Monument. In two short weeks the total global population of free-flying condors has gone from 125 to 132!

Following a release, the crew's chief concerns are that the birds quickly find food and water and are able to get into safe roosting trees. After being out for only a few days, all the birds have done just that. As we had hoped, the older cohort has been 'mentoring' the young birds immeasurably. With examples to follow, it has been much easier for the juveniles to know how a wild condor should behave.



A great deal of time and energy has gone into getting these birds hatched, reared, mentored, prepared, equipped and released. The Pinnacles field crew would like to thank all involved parties for making this event a successful one. Every bit of support, whether it be emotional, physical, mental, financial or otherwise, plays a critical role in the recovery of this magnificent species and we thank you all for your involvement.

Learn [more about the release](#) and see a short video of the event.

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, August 2005:

Big Sur Update

This past month, the condor field observers have felt as though they were going back in time. On over a dozen occasions, we found the condors feeding on marine mammals along the Big Sur coast. Over four hundred

years ago, European explorers spotted condors feeding on a whale that washed up dead on a Monterey beach. This was the first published sighting of a California Condor. It gives us a wonderful feeling of balance to see our reintroduced flock continuing with the traditions of their ancestors.

However, we are a little concerned about so many marine mammals dying. According to the personnel at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, the marine mammals washing up dead in large numbers on our beaches are dying from poisons in algae. Some species of algae naturally produce toxins in low concentrations. When the coastal waters these algae live in contain lots of nutrients, the algae population soars, and the toxin levels soar with them. Gradually these toxins work their way up the food chain, and the result is the dead sea lions. Since condors have been feeding on this sort of food source for a long time we expect that there will be no ill effects on the condors.

We are pleased to announce a new opportunity for members of Ventana Wildlife Society. We will be offering free 2-hour condor tracking tours on Thursday and Sunday of every week. The tours start at 9:30 am, and can be arranged by calling 831-620-0702 or emailing JessicaKoning@VentanaWS.org. Participants should come prepared with layered clothing, a camera/binoculars, and water. This is a great opportunity to meet our biologists, learn about radio-telemetry, and follow the condors around on Highway 1 in Big Sur. The tour starts at our field office in Andrew Molera State Park, and will involve tour participants following our tracking truck in their own vehicle. Sorry, we cannot accommodate groups larger than eight. Please try to make your reservations at least a week in advance. We recommend spring, summer and fall as the best times for condor viewing. (Winter here is often foggy and rainy.)

We look forward to sharing some of our time watching these magnificent birds with the people who have made our work possible. We monitor the condors year round, so we have a great store of cool condor stories and once in a lifetime sightings to share. Please come and join us. If you are not currently a member, it is [quick and easy to join](#).

-- Jessica Koning, Big Sur Condor Crew

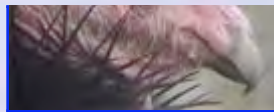
Pinnacles Update

One word is on the tip of everyone's tongue at Pinnacles: release. On September 17th, Pinnacles National Monument will be releasing up to three juvenile California condors. This event is open to the public and is the only one of its kind in California.

Needless to say, the Pinnacles condor crew has been working overtime to ensure a successful and memorable release event. The following is a brief glimpse at what occurs behind the scenes at the field sites in order to get a condor ready for his/her first flight into freedom.



Six months prior to release: After a year of labor-intensive chick rearing the juvenile condor is picked up from the captive breeding facility, placed



in a large kennel covered with fabric and is either driven or flown to Pinnacles National Monument. Upon arrival, the bird is released out of the kennel and into the captive flight pen. Here, the pre-release juveniles are held with an adult mentor condor named Ho'i. By interacting with Ho'i and the other juveniles, the condor not only finds his/her place in the hierarchy but also, in a sense, learns how to be a wild condor. During this holding period, the condor crew observes feeding behaviors, physical condition and interactions to ensure that each bird is adjusting and integrating well.

A few weeks prior to release: VHF transmitters, GPS transceivers and identification tags are assembled and hand-crafted to fit for each condor's wing. These enable the field crew to track and record condor movements once they are free-flying.

A couple of weeks prior to release: A trap-up event occurs in which the assembled devices are placed on the birds, blood is drawn, the condors are weighed, a detailed physical check is performed and other final preparations are made.

A week prior to release: Additional feeding sites are established near the release facility to better ensure that the newly released condors find food and water without having to fly far from their "natal" area.

A few days prior to release: The juveniles are given an abundance of food to ensure their bellies are full before their big day.

Release day: We hope you can join us to see these magnificent birds take their first flights into the California wilderness!

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, July 2005:

Big Sur Update

Summer is the time for traveling, and this summer is no different for the condor crew. Not only has our crew been out seeing the world and learning about wildlife, but our condors have also been venturing farther from home. We have some exciting stories to tell about our travels as well as the condors'.



Sayre just returned from Thailand, where she saw a variety of wildlife habitats. One to mention was Doi-Suthep, a magnificent temple atop a mountain near Chiang-Mai. This mountain is a common stop for over 300 migratory bird species! She also visited an elephant camp and was able to feed, ride and pet these docile creatures! James also recently traveled to Florida, which is home to the endangered Florida Panther and Manatee.

Next month, Jim will visit Hawaii, probably the endangered species capital of the U.S.



Beautiful sunny days also inspire the condors to do a bit of exploring, and several of our birds have flown almost 200 miles to the south this summer. There are currently five of our birds in southern California, and we expect others to make the trip this summer. 236 celebrated her first successful stay at the Ventura area condor release site; her only visit in 2004 lasted one day. We are happy to see the birds feel more comfortable exploring new sites and socializing with unfamiliar condors. Those birds remaining in Big Sur are doing great and have been foraging along the coast often. They recently located a dead sea lion on a rugged and quiet beach.

We would like to welcome our new volunteer, Blake Matheson, to the Big Sur Crew. He is studying environmental law, and is volunteering his spare time to learn how we manage condors in the field. He is a tremendous help and we appreciate all he is doing for the condor project.

Those hoping to squeeze in one more vacation before summer ends and school starts are welcome to visit us at our field office in Andrew Molera State Park in northern Big Sur. We can offer condor viewing tips, bird banding demonstrations, and suggestions on how to find that priceless combination of nature and solitude even during high season.

--Sayre Flannagan, *Big Sur Condor Crew*

Pinnacles Update

July was an exciting month for Pinnacles. Condor 265 was re-released from captivity and given his second chance at freedom during the first week of July. Like any animal placed in a new environment, 265 was initially very cautious and remained close to the flight pen (his home for the past year). After a few days the timorous condor began exploring the High Peaks and within a couple of weeks started venturing outside the park. Now, after one month, 265 has climbed the social hierarchy and become one of the most dominant free-flying condors at Pinnacles National Monument. This comes as little surprise to the Ventana staff as 265 is now the oldest and largest member of the free-flying flock at Pinnacles.

GPS transceivers have previously been placed on three of the seven free-flying condors. These devices have helped us pinpoint where the condors roost, feed, fly, etc. However, in the past we obtained data in three to four day intervals. However, 265 was recently outfitted with a state-of-the-art GPS transceiver that downloads in daily intervals. In short, this allows us to determine his previous night's roost and in the afternoon we can often determine his exact position and flight patterns of that morning. As it is becoming increasingly difficult to track these adventurous birds, daily downloading GPS transceivers will become a more and more integral component of cohort management. It is hoped that two more such devices will be deployed in the very near future. This month the GPS tags have shown that the condors are spending a fair amount of time in the High

Peaks, a popular hiking area at Pinnacles. For those of you who have dreamed of catching a glimpse of a free-flying condor, the High Peaks may be your best opportunity. However, please remember to keep a good distance (100 feet) and give the condors the respect a *wild* animal deserves.

The seven pre-release condors that are currently being held in our flight pen have now been scheduled for release on September 17, 2005. It is likely that a couple of birds will take their first flights of freedom that afternoon and we encourage all interested parties to come to Pinnacles National Monument to witness this truly unforgettable event.

-- Sara Stocco, BSOL intern

Notes from the Field, June 2005:

Big Sur Update



First, we say hello to our new condor biologist, James Hart, who joins us fresh from the Hopper Mountain release site. We would also like to welcome (back!) one of the people instrumental in starting the condor release project here in Big Sur, Joe Burnett. Joe will be returning to the Condor Coordinator position after exploring captive condor biology at the Oregon Zoo for the last two years. We feel very lucky to have the chance to work with him again.

Fire clearance is always a big concern during the summer, and with this year's enduring rainy season, the tall grass and other potential fuel plants have never stopped growing! Like many California residents, we are unexpectedly clearing the same sections over and over again. We focus on clearing flammable debris near and on roads and by structures. We also try to eliminate non-native plants and encourage the growth of fire-resistant native plant species. Keeping the backcountry safe for everyone is difficult but critical.

June 17 was a condor capture day. Through patience and some trickery, we managed to capture five of the targeted condors, all of which were in great health. Aided by volunteer Lindsay Spencely, the condor crew was able to replace the necessary radio transmitters, do health checks, and send the birds on their way in a very short amount of time. Despite the care and precautions taken by the crew, trap-ups are very stressful on condors; wild animals don't take kindly to being handled.



Condor 236 was seen picking through litter this month, specifically a fast food bag, and another Condor was observed with a beer can. Please help us to keep plastic, paper, and metal out of the condor's reach by making sure nothing falls out of your car at the pullouts along Highway 1. It is actually

dangerous for some species. Those interested in viewing condors in a more unspoiled setting should try Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, and to the west of the Big Sur Valley.

July should be an exciting month. With warmer weather come more thermals for the birds to ride, so they will be out and about the Big Sur area. With this knowledge, please be respectful of the birds, and treat them as the endangered species they are. Please do not approach them, try to feed them or otherwise mistreat the animals. Endangered species are allotted a buffer zone of 150 feet to protect them from humans. While the condors may not know about this, we want all humans to know. Thank you for your cooperation!

If you are traveling through Big Sur south on Highway 1, keep an eye out for Ventana Wildlife Society biologists. We'd be happy to chat and answer any questions you have. We are easiest to identify by the large magnetic "Condor Crew" panels on the driver's side of our cars, or by the Yagi antennas we wave around as we search for the condors.

--Jim Howard and Jessica Koning, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update

All is quiet on the Pinnacles front as the lazy days of summer seem to have set in for our six free-flying condors. The condors have developed an extremely predictable daily routine.



As follows, a summer day in the life of a Pinnacles condor:

- **09:00-10:00** - Stumble out of one of the two nearby roosting trees after sleeping in for a few extra hours. Catch a thermal and make a few effortless circles around the release facility and feeding sites to make sure everything is as it was left yesterday.
- **10:00-12:00** - Hop around the Facility and socialize with the pre-release juvenile birds. Try to steal a few pieces of rabbit through the facility fencing. Make a hammock out of the facility mesh and catch a quick nap in the summer breeze.
- **12:00-13:00** - Catch an afternoon thermal along the ridge and go show the Turkey Vultures at the feeding site who is still the boss. After scattering the vultures, recline on top of the carcass and take another quick nap.
- **13:00-17:00** - Wake up from the snooze and make a meal of what was previously a pillow. After cramming in nearly two pounds of food, take an exploratory evening flight to the Southeast along the Gabilan Range.
- **17:00-17:30** - The big decision of the day, head back and roost at home or go a bit farther Southeast and roost out-of-town.
- **17:30-20:00** - See the others flying around home and decide to head back and join them. Upon returning, notice that there is still a bit of food left at the feeding site and decide to catch a late snack and show

the crows who is still boss. Determine it is best to stay at the feeding site till the brink of darkness to keep the vultures and crows away.

- **20:00-20:30** - Head over to the Facility for some more socializing with the captive birds. Circle the old favorite roosting tree in search of the best available spot.
- **20:30-21:00** - Wiggle in between the other five condors on the same branch and conclude a long and tiring day.

Despite the condors taking a bit of a vacation this month, the field crew here at Pinnacles has been quite busy. With nine condors in the captive facility, feeding frequencies and observational requirements have increased substantially.

Furthermore, we are preparing a newly modified GPS transceiver for condor 265 and preparing for his upcoming release. In short, the condors are relaxing and napping in the sun while the field crew ensures that all their needs are met. Everything truly is "for the birds" here at Pinnacles.



-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, May 2005:

Big Sur Update

May 2005 was a time for change in Big Sur. Nice weather and an influx of tourism in the area will continue to keep the crew on its toes, as the condors spend more time exploring. The crew is managing the behavioral changes in the condors in addition to the changes in our staff this month. We said goodbye to Braden Burkholder, a wonderful field biologist and great friend, who headed home to Montana earlier this month. He plans to continue field research and begin applying for graduate schools. He will be missed, but will be remembered for the great new condor observation point he discovered, named Braden's Bay Tree. The condors send him their appreciation and we all wish him great things in the future. On a related note, the Big Sur crew has welcomed Jim Howard into their ranks as the newest addition to the team. Jim comes from Washington State, and is excited for the opportunity to live in this beautiful part of the country and be a steward for these endangered birds.



Further, we are all excited at the much anticipated return of 168. Complications with this bird's radio tags resulted in them losing power, and we were unsure of his whereabouts for some time. Much to our excitement, 168 was spotted in a tree on May 25th, and is doing just fine. This visual was quite a relief, for when a radio tag malfunctions, seeing the bird is paramount. As you can imagine, seeing every bird every day is very difficult. Condors can fly large distances daily, as fast as 50 miles an hour. They prefer the trees lining grasslands and cliffs in the

hilly back country of areas like Big Sur. To attempt to see each condor on a daily basis in these ecosystems would require more hiking than the day is long. That is why we rely on radio telemetry to locate our condors each day. Radio telemetry tags are very important in wildlife biology because they allow a biologist to know that an animal is moving, and therefore alive, without having to get close. All this can be deduced without the constant need for visual confirmation. To make a long story short, 168 is back, and we will be fitting him with brand new radio tags next month!

Once again it is important to remind everyone that condors are wild animals. They have sharp beaks and immensely strong necks to help them dig through their food, and can harbor many exotic forms of bacteria in their mouths. Condors are generally passive creatures, but could be dangerous if provoked. If you are fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of this amazing and rare bird, please remember to keep your distance and use a zoom lens. If you happen to see any of the condors congregating near the road or close to people, kindly call us at 831-620-0702, and do not approach them. Thank you for you helping to save this magnificent species!



--Jim Howard and Sayre Flannagan, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update



With regular sunshine, constant blue skies, and the arrival of two new condors, 332 and 351, May has been an uplifting and eventful month here at Pinnacles. 332 and 351 were transported from the LA zoo on May 8th and were released into our flight pen the following morning. With a total of nine captive-held condors here at Pinnacles, our flight pen is becoming quite the full house. Our crew is now making close to twice as many food placements into the captive facility as well as observing the captive flock on a more frequent basis. It is encouraging to see that 332 and 351 are doing exceptionally well, both physically and socially, since their arrival. 332 and 351 have been readily partaking in friendly "condor wrestling" activities as well as bathing and "hanging out" in and next to the pool with several other captive condors.

In order to make room for the new company and prepare for the dry season, the Pinnacles crew was busy revamping the flight pen earlier this month. Most notably, three scales on the flight pen were installed; two were set up inside for captive use and one was mounted on the outside of our double door trap for wild condor use. Additional drinking water amenities were also added for both the captive and free-flying condors.

Condor 265 was originally released with the first cohort in December 20, 2003, but was recaptured on April 6, 2004 due to unfavorable behavioral patterns he was developing. 265 was very curious and fascinated by human presence and in three instances was observed getting too up close and personal with ascending rock climbers here at Pinnacles. Additionally, he was observed perching on low-lying rocks within close proximity to hikers

on two separate occasions. Since his recapture, we've noticed a 180-degree difference in his behavior towards humans. When staff members enter the flight pen to perform health checks, 265 now exhibits "normal" condor behavior and is promptly flushed by human presence. We are very hopeful that 265 will demonstrate appropriate wild condor behaviors upon his eventual re-release into the monument sometime this summer.

With summer just around the corner and the number of sunny days increasing, flying conditions have been optimal this month. The wild condors are continuing to venture outside the monument and extend their southeast flying range. 306 and 307, two of our condors that are equipped with GPS transceivers, embarked upon a multi-day expedition to the southeast and were mapped all the way to the edge of King's County. Both 306 and 307 returned to the park on May 19th, and immediately flew to the feeding site where they were greeted upon arrival by the four other wild condors. During these hot summer months it is certainly enjoyable to be able to watch these magnificent birds explore new areas while thriving in their element.

-- *Laura Weisel, Pinnacles BSOL Intern*

Notes from the Field, April 2005:

Big Sur Update

Spring is here, and the condors are taking full advantage of the beautiful weather and good flight conditions. Tracking has been more challenging this month, for we are finding the birds all over the Big Sur coast. We are excited about this increased movement, especially since the condors have been foraging over a greater area than before. GPS data has shown that the birds have been venturing out to less familiar territory in search of washed up marine mammals, up and down the Big Sur coastline.



One interesting GPS hit found that 286, a bird released at Pinnacles then re-released in Big Sur, had flown east near King City! This is an uncommon flight pattern for a Big Sur condor. Was the bird trying to find its way home to Pinnacles? We may never know, but it is interesting to think the bird possibly recognized a landmark in the area. Yes, keeping track of 24 condors in Big Sur this month has proven to be difficult at times, but we willingly accept this task in return for the birds' wonderfully wild behaviors. This is progress!

A field meeting was held this month at the Los Angeles Zoo to discuss field management techniques amongst the release sites and zoos. All who attended were given updates on each site, and suggestions for making each site more successful. The final day of the conference, Mike Clark from the LA Zoo demonstrated appropriate condor handling, providing ideas for a safer approach to previously used methods. The meeting proved to be a very informative and useful gathering, allowing those involved to share their

ideas that will benefit the recovery program.



The gorgeous spring days have also kicked off the tourist season, and many more visitors are now present in Big Sur. We will continue to be along Highway One to observe the condors and educate those who are interested. We will also attempt to ensure that the condors remain at a safe distance from people, for this is a recurring problem during the spring and summer months. We are happy to point out condors if we see them, but we also like to remind everyone that staying away from the birds and not feeding them is very important. This is the only way to keep them a wild animal, thus the only way to encourage their survival. We hope that the 2005 tourist season is a safe one for the birds, and we look forward to the sunny weather in the months to come!

The crew said goodbye to our wonderful crew leader, Clint Scheuerman, at the end of this month. He will be spending the next month in Ireland, and then continue on to a new field job for the summer. We wish Clint the best of luck in the future, and he will be greatly missed by the crew and the condors.

--Sayre Flannagan, *Big Sur Condor Crew*

Pinnacles Update

With the passing of time the six free-flying Pinnacles condors continue to expand their ranges, behaviors and experiences. 312, one of the last condors to leave the park for any extended period of time, recently undertook a four-day journey to the Southwest. She explored nearby ranches and hunting preserves and was frequently observed flying amongst large groups of Turkey Vultures. She safely returned on the 24th of April and apparently had worked up quite an appetite, as she has since been uncharacteristically dominant and active at the feeding sites.

As our youngest cohort continues to explore new areas one of our earliest released and recently translocated birds, 286, has been revisiting some of his past territories. 286 was reported flying just west of King City by the Ventana crew at Big Sur, placing him within 15 miles of Pinnacles, his previous home.

A by-product of the birds spending more time outside the park has been an increased occurrence of wild foraging. Recently many of our condors discovered a pig carcass dump site used by the local campground feral pig eradicator. The safety of this food source is questionable and thus we are currently looking for an alternative pig carcass disposal site. Thankfully, all of the birds have recently become accustomed to our permanent feeding site "Hilltop" and as of late the condors have not revisited the pig carcass dump site. Unforeseen behaviors, such as the aforementioned one, seem to inevitably arise with these birds and this is merely one example of the seemingly constant matching of wits between these crafty condors and our clever field crew.

Another example of a condor's curiosity leading to a potentially threatening situation has recently been exhibited by 306. The High Peaks of Pinnacles National Monument offer a wonderful opportunity for many people to catch a glimpse of the rare California condors. However, at times, the interactions between humans and condors on these trails can get a little too close for comfort. Such an instance occurred on the 16th of April during which park visitors were able to get within 30 feet of 306 as she perched on a rock outcropping near a popular trail. In effort to discourage such future behaviors and to decrease the likelihood of her becoming habituated with humans in close proximity, she was hazed away from the area. It should be noted that although the majesty of these birds is positively alluring, we encourage observers to admire from afar in order to ensure that future generations will also be fortunate enough to observe truly wild condors.

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, March 2005:

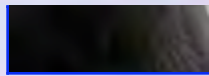
Big Sur Update

The biologists of the Big Sur condor crew have had a busy month on the coast. There were many transfers, trap-ups, and hours observing the wild flock feeding, socializing, and soaring. The ever-changing weather also kept us on our toes. The one major storm system of the month dropped over 6.5" of rain in less than 36 hours, causing a small but messy landslide on our access road into the backcountry. Aside from that one storm, the condors and crew enjoyed many sunny days in March, with a maximum high temperature of 87°F for the month.

The crew conducted two trap-ups this month at our backcountry release site. The first trap up on March 4 had two purposes: to replace the radio transmitters of the six white tag condors (the youngest cohort) and to prepare a mentor condor, Pismo, for a transfer to Oregon. Condors 294, 298, 301, 303, 311, and 318 all received redesigned wing tags and eagerly left the release site after over a month in the flight pen. It should be noted that 318 has made a complete recovery and he is once again enjoying the Big Sur skies. The white tags appear to be making great progress after their reintroduction into the wild. They have been riding thermals to great heights, exploring new areas, and have all found a feeding site over five miles north of the release site. The young condors have also been roosting in Big Sur Valley with the older birds on a regular basis.



After the trap-up, Pismo took a flight of her own aboard a 737 as she was transferred to the Portland Zoo's breeding facility. She will be an adult mentor condor for chicks hatching this spring. We would like to give a special thanks to Joe Burnett for joining us from Portland and accompanying Pismo to her new home. We also thank



Jen Mannas and Curt Mykut of the Pinnacles crew for their assistance at the March 4 trap-up.

The second trap-up on March 15 involved an older group of birds: 231, 242, 278, and 286. The black tags 278 and 286 are recent additions to the Big Sur flock from the Pinnacles National Monument release site. We replaced their radio transmitters and gave each one of these condors a brand new solar powered GPS tag. All of these birds were subsequently released on March 25 and the black tags have adapted well to their new surroundings. 278 and 286 stayed within a half mile of the release site for the first couple of days, but they are now cautiously exploring a greater extent of the beautiful Big Sur landscape with the other condors.

On a low note, it seems unlikely that our 2 or 3 condor pairs will lay eggs this year. Condors rarely lay eggs any later than the last week in March, unless they are laying a replacement egg. This is a disappointing reality for the Big Sur condor crew, as we had witnessed and recorded over 20 instances of breeding behavior, which is without a doubt a very small fraction of the actual number of courtship displays and matings. We had high hopes for this year, but rest assured that next winter, the Big Sur flock will be a year older and will likely lay eggs.

Finally, the Big Sur condor crew would like to thank Monica Iglecia for volunteering with us for the last 3 months. She has been a wonderful addition to the crew and a great help throughout this winter season. Monica is a senior at UC - Santa Cruz and will be completing her degree this spring. As part of her degree, she will be working on a GIS project of condor movements based on data collected from GPS tags. Monica will return to the crew as an intern for a few months this summer, so the condors have not yet seen the last of her.



--Braden Burkholder, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update

Spring is in full swing here at Pinnacles: the flowers are blooming, the sun is shining and the condors are soaring. With every season there comes change and this spring has been no exception. Rachel Richardson, the Ventana field supervisor whom Pinnacles has known and loved for so long, has moved on to raptor fieldwork in Minnesota. She will always be near to our hearts and forever missed by condors and co-workers alike.

March has also been a changing of the guard, of sorts, with the Pinnacles condor cohorts. 286, the condor that was recently serving as a free-flying mentor for the younger birds, was trapped up on the 4th and sent to Big Sur on the 9th where he will rejoin 278. This marks the last of the transfers related to power pole issues. 265 is now the last remaining condor of the first cohort. It is hoped that if he is re-released after the park's busy season he will not regress to his previous problem of approaching hikers and climbers and will develop better wild behaviors.



As the first cohort departs us the third cohort continues to grow. 340, an active and assertive juvenile male from the Oregon Zoo, became the park's newest addition this month. 340 has quickly established himself as a dominant member of the captive flock and has the makings of a very adventurous free-flying condor. We thank all parties that had a hand in making the arrival and eventual release of this bird possible.

307, currently our most exploratory free-flying condor, continues to be just that. This month alone she has flown as far East as Fresno County, confronted an adult Bald Eagle and foraged on a non-contaminated carcass outside the park. Likewise, the rest of the free-flying cohort has been broadening their horizons. This month, all the birds have flown outside the park and frequented the High Peaks while most have also fed at the new feeding site and roosted outside the park.

In short, March has seen the pre-release cohort expanding and the free-flying cohort branching out, all very exciting signs of the project's continued success. Spring has certainly given us many things to smile about.

-- Court VanTassell, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, February 2005:

Big Sur Update

The cold, hard kiss of February's downpours and sweeping storms are waking the life out of the sleepy Big Sur country. There are brilliant fresh strokes of green, winter's bright early bloomers, and a smell slowly drifting its way up through the crisp currents. Love is in the air and the Big Sur condors have found it. February brought with it the first complete courtship displays of the year, potentially resulting in the first wild egg laid in Big Sur in over a century. Throughout the month many breeding displays have been witnessed, most notably between three birds - 164 (a 7 year old male), 194 (a 6 year old female), and 171 (a 7 year old female). Two other birds that have been spending a great deal of time together and showing breeding behaviors are 167 and 190. These two are nearly inseparable, feeding, sleeping and flying together.



The flight pen here in Big Sur has been a hub of activity in February as condors 278, 318, and Pismo were brought here from the Pinnacles flight pen on February 2nd. 318, who had been recuperating in the Pinnacles flight pen since December from a wing injury he incurred late last year, is showing great improvement. The three birds have not been alone in the flight pen, as the second white tag cohort of birds have been in

the flight pen as well this month, waiting to be fitted with new tags. And to our delight, 231, the one bird of the Big Sur flock who does not have any functioning radio tags, and who has slickly evaded our attempts at trapping her, was caught in late February. We plan to release all but one of these birds back into the wild in early March. Pismo, our mentor condor, will travel to the Portland Zoo condor program, where she will assist the captive breeding program recently established there.

Around the middle of month, some of the birds found and fed on a sea lion carcass, and we were able to document the feeding on camera. This evidence of the condors seeking out their own food source is very exciting progress in the recovery program. We continue to provide a supplemental food source to the birds, but the fact that they are exhibiting foraging behavior will help them survive independently in the future.



If you are interested in viewing California condors on the Big Sur coast, many of the birds have been flying through Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park on a regular basis this month.

--Sayre Flannagan and Clint Scheuerman, Big Sur Condor Crew

Pinnacles Update



February turned out to be a busy month at Pinnacles National Monument. 278 and 318 were transferred to the release site in Big Sur, four juvenile condors from Hopper Mountain were transferred to the Pinnacles flight pen, and 266, 270, and 287 were transferred to the release site in Arizona. The second cohort finally became bold enough to land at the new feeding site and several attempts were made to feed on the carcasses. The birds were noticeably making broader movements this month with a few even roosting on the west side of the High Peaks for the first time. The weather stayed the same as the hills welcomed more rain and wildflowers continued to bloom across the park. This is a lovely time of the year in Pinnacles and the month of March will surely be filled with endless days of sunshine!

There were quite a few condor transfers that took place throughout February. 278 from the first cohort and 318 from the Big Sur cohort were both relocated to the flight pen in Big Sur and will remain there for a short time until released. 278 was one of the birds that had been documented perching on power poles in September of 2004 and the decision was made to re-release him in Big Sur as soon as he is outfitted with a GPS transceiver. 318 was being held in the Pinnacles flight pen to allow time for the slight damage to his wing and tail to completely heal before he could be released again. He is doing wonderfully and both his wing and tail have healed beautifully since his return to Big Sur.

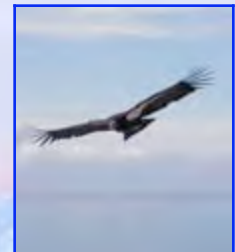
Crew members had the privilege of picking up four young condors that came from the southern California release site to begin developing a third cohort here at Pinnacles. 330, 335, 336, and 345 are interacting nicely with the older birds in the flight pen and are having no problem competing well at the carcasses. 266, 270, and 287 were transferred to the release site in Arizona and will soon be immersed into a larger population of free-flying condors. The decision to relocate these birds was not an easy one, but once they have all adapted to their new surroundings they will soon be soaring over new country and will continue to thrive as wild California condors.

-- Rachel Richardson, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

Notes from the Field, January 2005:

Big Sur Update

The Big Sur condors met the New Year with bright and curious eyes as they swooped down upon a backcountry feeding site to investigate the mammoth-sized meal awaiting them. On January 4, a day that was most likely a first for all of the Big Sur birds, an elk carcass was placed at one of VWS's established feeding sites. The deceased bull elk was donated to VWS by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after it was fatally wounded by another male elk during a common breeding season fight for dominance at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in Los Banos. Not only did USFWS donate the elk to the VWS condor project, but they delivered it straight to our Big Sur office and drove it up to the feeding site for us. The condors met their cervid feast with timid wonder, but came to realize that the antlered giant was in fact food. We wish to impart a very gracious 'thank you' to our new friends in Los Banos for their help -- Tim, Jack, and Frank -- for whom without, the Big Sur flock might not have tasted such wild fare.



As reported in [December 2004](#), thanks in part to new GPS tags on a few of the birds, Orange Tag 199 was documented roosting well north of our usual tracking range, in the Soberanes Canyon area around Garrapata State Park. Well, into January Mr. Adventure (199) returned to the Soberanes area, only this time he brought a buddy. Both 199 and 204 (also an Orange Tag) were not picked up within our tracking range on New Year's Day, which prompted us to drive up to Soberanes Canyon to check for the two birds. From January 2nd to the 4th, both birds were hanging out there before returning to the Big Sur area. So, you residents of the Carmel area keep your eyes aimed toward the sky on those breezy, sunny days -- the condors are starting to venture your way.

A condor field crew meeting was held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History around the middle of the month. Condor biologists from different release sites met to share ideas and brainstorm a more congruent

game plan among the five release sites -- Big Sur, Pinnacles, Ventura, the Grand Canyon, and Baja. We discussed new methods for attaching ID tags to wings and are currently holding the W2 cohort (294, 298, 301, 303, 311) in our flight pen so that we can fit them with the new wing tag model. In a short time, we will have them back out soaring the coastal skies with their new, more condor-friendly, tags. On that note, 318, another member of the W2 cohort, who has been recuperating from a slight wing injury at the Pinnacles flight pen, has been showing healthy signs of improvement and will hopefully be released back in Big Sur in no time at all.

Remember that if you happen to be in the Big Sur area and come across a VWS biologist tracking along the highway, we are more than happy to chat about condors, and hopefully even help you spot one. Just please remember that condors are wild animals, from a population that is slowly, but surely, rising from the brink of extinction. To see these monolithic birds soaring above such a landscape as Big Sur can truly make you feel that you have evaded the grip of self, if only for a moment. But, please remember to experience such moments from a distance, for the betterment of all wildlife.

--Clint Scheuerman, Big Sur Condor Crew Leader


Pinnacles Update

The rain continued to fall over Pinnacles National Monument at the beginning of January, adding color and new life to the beautiful landscape. The rolling hills have turned a verdant green and wildflowers are starting to bloom all over the park. Vibrant patches of Indian Paintbrush and Shooting Stars are currently burgeoning along the Condor Gulch trail. The months of February and March are going to be fabulous for observing the first blooms of the year, a few butterflies here and there, and California condors soaring over the majestic High Peaks.



306, a young female, was the first condor from the second cohort to discover the rocky peaks this month! She had been observed making her longest flight prior to her High Peaks visit, but surprised us all when she soared for almost four hours before landing on the west side of the peaks. She roosted near Machete Ridge, a rock-climbing route, and made it back to the flight pen the next afternoon. Since then, 306 has considerably improved in her flight skills and can often be seen flying beyond Grassy Canyon and throughout the High Peaks area.

In [December 2004](#) I mentioned that we were going to be trying out a second of one of our more permanent feeding sites in hopes that the birds would make significantly broader movements in Grassy Canyon. As a team, we decided to re-release 286 from our flight pen to help lead the second cohort to this feeding site as well as the High Peaks. 286 had served as a terrific mentor to the young juveniles shortly after their release, and we felt that he was the best candidate to excel in that leadership position once again. He



was released towards the end of the month, and within one day, 306 had made her way to the High Peaks and all birds were flying over the new feeding site clearly identifying the food. There have not been any observations made of the birds feeding at the new site yet, but we are anticipating that they will eventually have the gumption to land there. Simultaneously, we are using a second feeding site to ensure that all birds are being fed and that there is available food in their familiar territory.

-- Rachel Richardson, Pinnacles Field Supervisor

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