

California Condor

The California condor is a type of vulture, which means it eats the meat of dead animals. The condor lives in the U.S. states of California, Utah and Arizona. There are also condors in the Mexican state of Baja California. It is the largest land bird in North America.

The population of condors dropped very low in the 20th century. In 1987 there were just 22 birds left living in the wild. As a way to help the condor survive, the California Condor Recovery Plan captured all the wild birds and placed them in zoos. There the condors were protected and could have baby chicks. When the chicks were grown, they would be returned to the wild. The program was successful and today there are almost 400 California condors. Over 180 of these live in the wild.



A mother condor lies on a baby chick. She wears a tag so scientists can follow her.



About the California Condor

- The condor has a wingspan, or length of the wings from tip to tip, of over 9 feet.
- Condors can fly fast, sometimes up to 55 miles per hour.
- Condors may live up to 60 years.

Tell a Story

Imagine you are this condor, flying in the sky. Write a story about where you are going and what you see as you fly.


