

## CALIFORNIA CONDOR SURVEY, 1972

The eighth annual California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) survey was conducted on October 11 and 12, 1972. Twenty observation stations were manned by 50 observers. Survey methods and evaluation procedures were essentially the same as those for past surveys (Carrier, et al. 1972), except that deer carcasses were placed at three locations on the Tejon Ranch, Kern County and one location on the edge of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, Ventura County in an effort to congregate condors. Counting started at noon each day and ran until dark. Daily survey results were transmitted to survey headquarters in Bakersfield, California. Observation stations on the Tejon Ranch, Kern County, were equipped with radios, so movement of birds congregated in the area could be closely monitored.

Weather on October 11 was partly overcast in the Tehachapi Mountain area, with high scattered clouds in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary area. Hi Mountain Lookout, San Luis Obispo County, was completely weathered in with some rain. Winds from the south to southeast were variable from 2 to 30 mph with gusts to 50 mph. Day temperatures were moderate, varying from 55 F at Tollgate Lookout, Tulare County, to 70 F at Green Cabins near the south boundary of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, Ventura County. Weather on October 12 was partly overcast, temperatures varied from 40 F on Mt. Pinos, Ventura County, to 65 F at Green Cabins. Winds increased slightly. Hi Mountain Lookout continued to be weathered in.

Survey evaluations indicate a minimum of 36 individual condors were seen on October 11: two immature, 29 adults and five unclassified. On October 12 a minimum of 21 individual condors were seen: four immatures and 17 adults. Condors continued their behavior pattern to congregate in southeastern Kern and northeastern Ventura counties during the October survey. Recruitment of young birds to the population has apparently remained low. Of condors classified by age on October 11 and 12 only four immatures were reported. Other raptors reported during the survey are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1—Raptors Observed During the Annual Condor Survey, October 11-12, 1972

Species	Numbers	
	10/11/72	10/12/72
Turkey vulture ( <i>Cathartes aura</i> )	345	31
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	58	60
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	--	1
Sharp-shinned hawk ( <i>Accipiter striatus</i> )	13	10
Cooper's hawk ( <i>A. cooperi</i> )	14	7
Red-tailed hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )	68	62
Swainson's hawk ( <i>B. swainsoni</i> )	2	--
Ferruginous hawk ( <i>B. regalis</i> )	2	1
Sparrow hawk ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )	11	14
Prairie falcon ( <i>F. mexicanus</i> )	--	3
Peregrine falcon ( <i>F. peregrinus</i> )	1	--
Marsh hawk ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )	4	3
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	--	1
Unidentified raptors	24	19
	542	212

## REFERENCES

- Carrier, W. Dean, Robert D. Mallette, Sanford Wilbur and John C. Borneman. 1972. California condor survey, 1971. *Calif. Fish Game* 58(4) : 327-328.
- Robert D. Mallette, California Department of Fish and Game; Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; W. Dean Carrier, U.S. Forest Service; and John C. Borneman, National Audubon Society. Accepted May 1973. A contribution from Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-54-R "Special Wildlife Investigations." Prepared with approval of the Condor Technical Committee.

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