



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NOW LIVE: Watch wild endangered California condor chick live on ‘Condor Cam’**

FILLMORE, California – For the sixth year, people from around the globe can get up close and personal with an endangered California condor chick in real-time through [live streaming video](#) of a cliffside nest in a canyon near the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service) Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, California.

California condor chick #1075 hatched on April 10, 2021. Its parents are ten-year-old female condor #594 and 15-year-old male condor #374. This is the pair’s first nesting attempt together and they are using a nest cavity used in 2018 by #374 and his former mate. Female condor #594 previously paired with male condor #462 in 2018 and 2020, successfully fledging one chick each year. This year marks male condor #374’s sixth nesting attempt at raising a chick; he has successfully fledged four chicks in previous years.

Followers of the California Condor Cam watched a chick hatch live in the wild for the first time in history from another cliffside nest on Hopper Mountain NWR in 2016. Each year livestreaming video of California condor chicks gains worldwide attention – attracting hundreds of thousands of viewers from all over the world.

"The condor cams do an incredible job of lowering the barriers to experiencing the beauty and challenges of being a condor. Each of the adults has an incredible backstory that can stretch decades, and for viewers to witness the next generation of condors while watching from anywhere in the world is a testament to the continuing power of this successful conservation story," said **Charles Eldermire, Cornell Lab Bird Cams Project Leader**. "That's not just good for viewers—it's good for the condors, too."

The 2020 nesting season resulted in just one successfully fledged chick, condor #1048, from parents #594 and #462, though the future is looking bright for 2021 with 11 active nests in the Southern California flock.

"We are thankful for our many partners in this effort and optimistic about the future of the California Condor Recovery Program, despite last year’s disappointing nesting season. We’re excited to see this bounce back from last year," said **Arianna Punzalan, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist with the Service’s California Condor Recovery Program**.

The number of California condors dropped dramatically in the mid-20th century, leading the Service to designate the species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. By 1982 there were only 22 of the iconic birds left in the wild. Today, due to intensive, ongoing captive breeding and recovery efforts led by the Service in conjunction with multiple public and private partners, the California condor population has grown to just over 500 birds worldwide, with more than half of the population flying free.

"The condor program is a clear example of the strength of public-private partnerships in achieving conservation objectives," said **Dr. Estelle Sandhaus, the Santa Barbara Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Science**.

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“We’re so excited to be streaming again in 2021 with a new condor pair. What will the future hold for 594 and 374? Only time will tell, and through the support of our Condor Cam partners, we will learn together with viewers all around the world!”

In California, wild condors nest, roost or fly in the mountains of Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Kern, Tulare and Fresno counties, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The wild population continues to grow, and will someday include condors from a [newly designated](#) release site in the Pacific Northwest.

The number one killer of California condors is still lead poisoning, caused by condors feeding on carcasses containing lead bullet fragments. Peer-reviewed research shows that lead poisoning is a serious health problem for both wildlife and humans, and the Service is working with partner organizations and the hunting community as it transitions to the use of non-lead ammunition alternatives. Hunters continue their proud tradition of wildlife conservation by using these non-lead alternatives.

Another threat specific to condor chicks is “micro trash.” Micro trash refers to small, coin-sized trash items such as nuts, bolts, washers, copper wire, plastic, bottle caps, glass, and spent ammunition cartridges. Condor parents collect these items and feed them to their chick, which can cause serious problems with the chick’s development. While it is not completely understood why this occurs, many biologists believe that the condor parents mistake these items for pieces of bone and shell which provides a source of calcium if fed to the chick.

Conservation efforts toward the recovery of the California condor are achieved only through partnerships amongst federal and state agencies, together with private landowners and organizations. The Huttons Bowl Condor Cam is made possible through access provided by private landowners, and through the financial and technical support of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [Santa Barbara Zoo](#), [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), the [Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology](#), [Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund](#), and [Friends of California Condors Wild and Free](#).

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To watch the Condor Cam, visit: [www.allaboutbirds.org/condors](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/condors)

For answers to frequently asked questions about the nest cam, the parents and the chick, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/cno/es/CalCondor/CondorCam.html>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information about our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/cno> or connect with us via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#).

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab’s website at [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu)

The Santa Barbara Zoo is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to more than 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA cooperative programs for endangered species including Masai giraffe, California condor, radiated tortoise, island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. Visit [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org)

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) is both a natural history collection specializing in eggs and nests of birds from all over the world, and a research and education institution dedicated to studying and teaching about the conservation of the world’s bird species. The WFVZ has contributed information to

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