

--- CALIFORNIA CONDOR UPDATE ---
June 19, 1997

Bryce Canyon National Park, Resource Management

A biologist working with the California Condors came to Bryce Canyon N.P. late afternoon on June 18, after two days of sightings at the park. On June 18, five condors were sighted at Rainbow Point, four with tag #s: 33, 36, 28, and 19. The Peregrine Fund biologist confirms that the fifth condor has tag #16. The following information was provided regarding the condors released in the northern Arizona Vermilion Cliffs area.

6 condors released in December 1996.

1 died in January after altercation with Golden Eagle.

1 died several weeks ago after flying into power lines.

There are 4 condors remaining from original release. Condors with tag numbers 33 and 36, seen at Rainbow Point, are approximately 1 year old and are from the original release.

9 more condors recently released.

4 released 2nd week of May.

5 released approx. 1.5 weeks later.

Condors with tag numbers 19, 28, and 16, also seen soaring at Rainbow Point, are approximately 2 years old and are from this more recent release.

Currently, there are a total of 13 remaining condors from the releases in Ariz., 5 of which flew to Bryce Canyon N.P., the farthest point north of the release site reported yet. There are approx. 15 more in the area north of L.A. from releases in Calif.

Protocol

After discussion with the Peregrine Fund biologist, the following is advised in the event that the condors arrive at an overlook or visitor area.

Obtain tag #s and behavior information, if possible. If a condor is approaching people, or is in close proximity to people, or is otherwise presenting a safety hazard, the condor(s) should be "chased off." The "chasing off" should only be done by someone in uniform from Resource Management or Law Enforcement divisions if possible, and preferably with someone from Interpretation present to explain to visitors why this action is being taken. The Peregrine Fund biologist emphasizes that it is extremely critical that the condors not become habituated to people in order to survive on their own in the wild.

Please provide Resource Management with report of tag #s and incident, which will be forwarded to Peregrine Fund biologists.

Information and regular updates regarding the California Condors can be obtained through the Internet: <http://www.peregrinefund.org>.

FROM PEFA BREEDING FIELD NOTES
BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

6/18/97 ~ 1200 RAINBOW POINT / BLACK BIRCH

WEATHER: Sunny, light breezes, 70's.

OBS. POINT: Rainbow Point Overlook

FOCUS OF OBSERVATION: California Condor activity @ Black Birch/Rainbow Pt. in clear view from Peregrine eyrie. (see visitor observation record of 6/17/97 - copy follows). Eyrie ENE of CaCo perch ~.5 mile

OTHER BIRDS: CoRa, ViGr Sw, Wht Sw, MoCh

*1200 Responding to call of CaCo @ Rainbow Pt., this obs & LE personnel arrived @ overlook. At northern-most overlook 'landing', crowd of ~20-30 visitors up to railing. 2 CaCo, tag #'s 33 & 36, perched on rocky soil landing, other side of railing. ~5 ft. from visitors. 3rd CaCo #28 perched on spire ~10m N. of #33 & #36. Photos documentation by NPS, crowd moved back from immediate vicinity, and perched CaCo's 'shooed' away from visitor overlook by NPS personnel. CaCo's remaining in 'bowl' soaring. *1240 CaCo #36 landed on different spire ~30 m from overlook. Flew off w/in 1 minute.

As CaCo's soared in bowl, at least one CaCo flying w/in 100 ms of Pefa eyrie. Difficult to hear if Pefa call, no audible. →

- CoRa call heard, then 2 CoRa in flight in area, no direct altercation w/ CaCo. CoRa out of view.

*1243 adult Pefa seen swooping CaCo. When 2nd CaCo to altercation, 1st CaCo veered back @ Pefa. Quickly 3rd CaCo in immediate area. Pefa drops out of view & 3rd CaCo seen soaring in 1 birch field, then dispersing. *by 1300, 5 CaCo seen airborne, other #s not seen. Then 1 CaCo landed on "knob" of fin of Pefa eyrie. (20m lower & 30m out from knob) Eyrie on outer face, CaCo on inner - most knob above. Possible "kek kek" alarm given, difficult to hear through visitor/NPS voice @ overlook. Pefa not seen again.

*1315 Pefa "approach" call heard. No Pefa seen.

*1330 CaCo still perched on knob.

IMPRESSIONS: Pefa's of Black Birch/Rainbow Pt area demonstrated territorial defense in altercations w/ CaCo's noted on 6/17/97 (notes follow) & 6/18/97.

PLAN: Return to eyrie area if CaCo's sighted there again for intensive monitoring of site. Return as scheduled during fledging period if no further CaCo sightings in area.

*1330 left obs. area. TOTAL: ~1.5 hours

(*) On next visit 7/9/97; further observation revealed that eyrie not located as identified above, likely located on that same fin, but out of view.

6/18/97 0900-1000
Rainbow Pt, Brice

CACO : 4 individuals
patagial #'s 19, (28), (33), (36)

0900-1000

- #19 roosting 0.5 mi E of point on small ridge
- another nearby on base of hoodoo
- all 4 birds in air ~ 1000 eventually drifted over the N observation point at Rainbow - close above observers
- #1's 28, 36 & 33 landed on rocks right near lookout (over)

< 25m from lookout
#s 33 & 36 together
#28 ~ 15m N of them

- birds seemed unafraid of human activity - many people, loud kids, etc.

- 2 NDRA "checked out" #28 "growled" at the bird and left.

- 1100 we left - birds still there

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OBSERVATION

CALIFORNIA CONDOR
 Location RAINBOW PT, BRYCE (Entire NE of point and due NE of point)
 Date (Month, Day, Year) 6 17 97 Time (a.m., p.m.) 430 - 550pm Weather PTLY CLDY
 Description, Behavior, Number, Sketch, Map, Etc. (Use reverse if necessary.)
 (over) 5

patagial tags read: 36, 19, 43(?)

(conversation w/ Richard Bryant(?) describing this after I began to write)
 BE ACCURATE - DO NOT GUESS

Park: BRYCE Observed by: SUSAN FOGLEMAN

Soaring @ eye level and up to 5000' + above
 At one point (~ 5:15?) 2 birds were E of point, below eye level and maybe 1/2 mi. out when a Peregrine came up from below. Interacted w/ both condors, dive bombing & finally drove one of them very low. It tipped deeply from side to side & then seemed to just drop behind a ridge w/ the PF in pursuit, close to its back. We never saw it again, but the other birds were in the area the whole time & finally passed close enough to read the patagial #'s described

OBSERVATION

CALIFORNIA CONDOR (page 2)

Location Rainbow Pt,

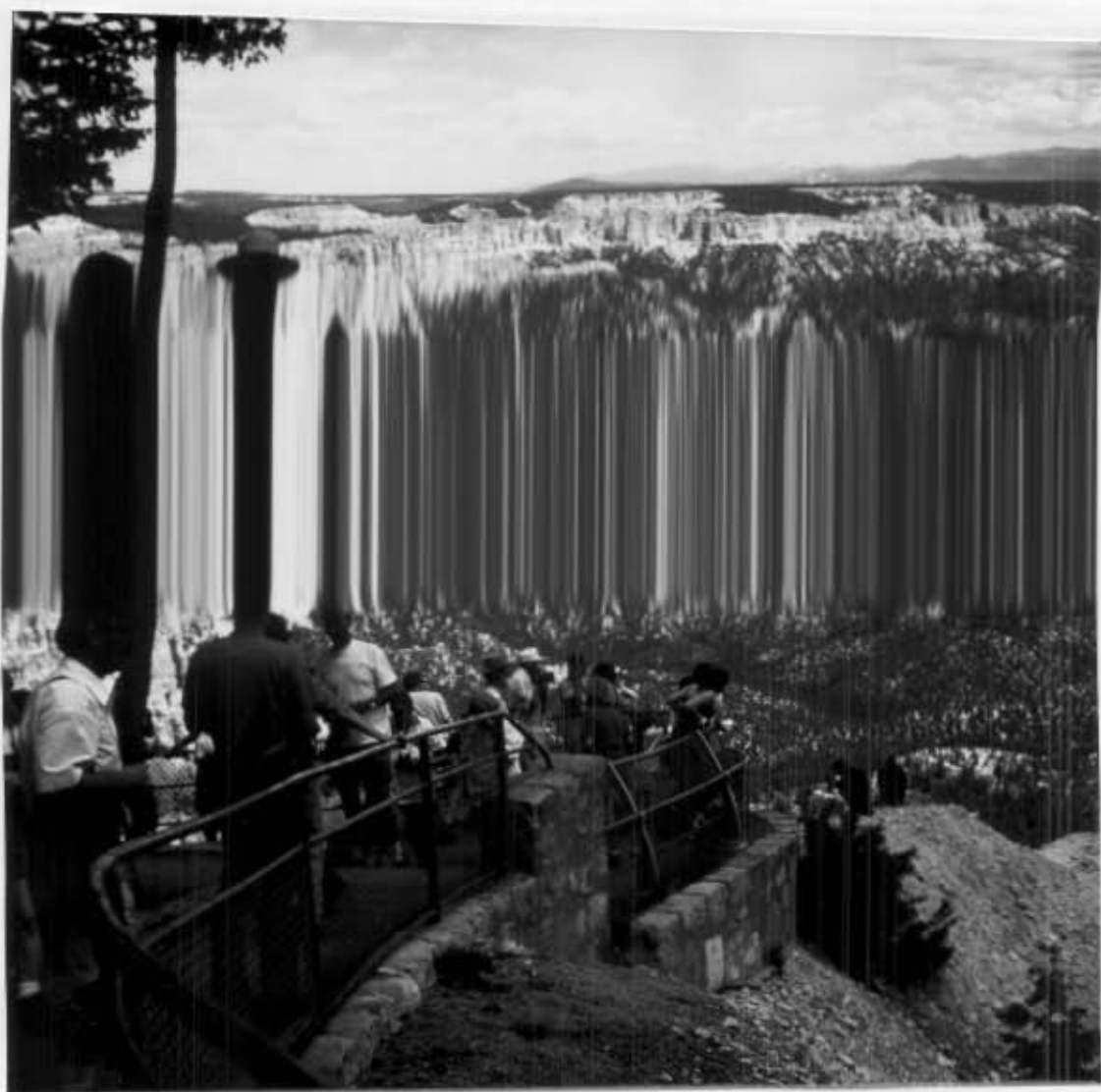
Date (Month, Day, Year) 6 17 97 Time (a.m., p.m.) Weather

Description, Behavior, Number, Sketch, Map, Etc. (Use reverse if necessary.)

on front of Page 1. Two birds eventually landed (& one spread wings) on a ridge near where the chased bird disappeared. Another went down behind them.
 For more information please contact me after June 21. (See over)
 BE ACCURATE - DO NOT GUESS

Park: BRYCE Observed by:

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California Condor --- Rainbow Point, BRCA --- June 18, 1997

OBSERVATION

Condor		
Location		
Black Birch Canyon		
Date (Month, Day, Year)	Time (a.m., p.m.)	Weather
08-14-97	10:00	Clear
Description, Behavior, Number, Sketch, Map, Etc. (Use reverse if necessary.)		
1 Bird, Soaring,		
Card received 8/14/97 @ 1300. Perry Fund CaCo project notified by me on ans. mach. 9/4/97 @ 1305. (AB)		
(Says saw CaCo when @ Rainbow in June) (AB) Says did not see # patches or notice underlying variation, distant sighting (AB) BE ACCURATE - DO NOT GUESS		
Park: Bryce	Observed by: Campbell's Hauer	
Form 10-257 (6/58) 3923\$ NATURAL HISTORY FIELD OBSERVATION		