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Rare California condor, gray wolf events

In two once-in-a-century events, the endangered California condor will return to the northern part of the state, and a rare gray wolf has entered Fresno County in the species' farthest trip south in modern history.

The Yurok Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to release four or six captive-bred juvenile California condors each year for 20 years throughout Redwood National Park, which intersects with ancestral Yurok territory, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The birds, which almost became extinct in the 1970s, can live to about 60 and have magnificent 10-foot wingspans.

Tiana Williams-Clausen, director of the Yurok tribe's wildlife department: "Not having him here for 100 years now, we as a people are wounded without having that spirit flying in our skies."

The rare gray wolf, OR-93, entered Fresno County on Monday after crossing into California from Oregon on Jan. 30. Gray wolves are endangered in California, where fewer than 12 live.

Amaroq Weiss, senior West Coast wolf advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity: "We think OR-93 is in search of a mate, but even if he doesn't find one this year, we sure hope he sticks around. He adds genetic diversity to our tiny wolf population and a very Californian flair for outdoor adventure."