



the weekly anthropocene



dispatches from the wild, weird world of humanity and its biosphere

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The Yurok: California Condors. At the same time, the Yurok tribe is nearing their goal (in progress since 2008) of gaining regulatory approval for the reintroduction of critically endangered California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*, adult with ID tags and chick pictured) on their land. The California condor was once widespread across North America, but habitat destruction, poaching, lead poisoning from bullets in their prey, and other factors drove them to extinction in the wild in 1987. In that year, there were only 22 condors left in the world, all in captivity. A painstaking captive breeding and reintroduction program has brought the population back up to about 500 birds-and the Yurok are now set to bring the condor back to Northern California. Thanks to their leadership, condors will fly over redwoods again, restoring a keystone species and a component of Yurok cultural heritage. “It wasn’t my lifelong dream to be a wildlife biologist and bring Condor home, but it was my dream to help restore the Yurok people,” said Tiana Williams-Claussen, director of the Yurok Wildlife Department. “This is a very powerful way to do that.” Once the decision comes through, the Yurok could receive their first condors as early as 2021. The Yurok tribe are absolute heroes of the Anthropocene, leading the way in revitalizing their culture and landscape. Spectacular news! For more, see tinyurl.com/YurokCondors.