

Efforts to protect the fauna, although increasing, are still inadequate. Protective legislation is widespread but not well enforced. The ten private or quasi-public conservation organisations, with impressive exceptions such as the Friends of English Harbor and the Barbados Natural Trust, are mostly only beginning to become influential.

The Carlozzis show that conservation of natural and historic features underlies the chief hope for economic survival of these islands – tourism. The needs they foresee include research, educational guidance, strong conservation-oriented institutions, physical planners, land acquisition, and expertise in site development. To pool efforts and to encourage both local and necessary outside support, they propose a Caribbean International Park System. If the mutual benefits can sufficiently attract these individualistic islands to such a scheme, other advantages are obvious.

F. H. WADSWORTH

Man and the California Condor by Ian McMillan. Dutton, New York, \$5.95.

The author is a rancher whose home is within the mountainous horseshoe of country which dips to within 20 or 30 miles of Los Angeles at the southern end and stretches two arms northward for 150 miles along either side of the San Joaquin Valley. This also is 'condor' country, and in 1963 he and two others were commissioned by the Audubon Society to report on the status of this immense vulture. The California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* had last been censused in the 1940's by Carl Koford who put the total stock at 60; McMillan estimated that it had dropped to 46. He discusses the causes of this sharp decline in 20 years. First, in historical sequence, it was shot; then its eggs were collected. As these activities declined it began to suffer disturbance in its remote breeding places by the opening up of wilderness areas to tourism, or by burning off scrub to increase forage; after that poisons and finally pesticides. One does not gather that during the last 50 years it has been subject to exceptional pressures but its slow rate of reproduction due to the bird not breeding until about its sixth year and the laying of a single egg every other year makes it extremely sensitive to loss. The author comments on the rather dim attitude of the forest authorities, who are officially charged with the conservation of the condor, to their responsibilities, and ponders on the final irony of trapping condors for captive breeding in zoos.

The California condor can be saved in the wilderness: 'If man chooses to do so, and with no more than a token sacrifice, he can live with the condor.' The book is well illustrated with good photographs of condors and the country they live in.

G. DES FORGES

Journey to Red Birds by Jan Lindblad. Collins, 36s.

This is a pleasant, informal account of how the author visited Trinidad and Tobago, with side excursions to Bonaire and Brazil, and successfully filmed some of those islands' most remarkable and beautiful birds, especially the scarlet ibis and oilbirds of Trinidad. A good deal of varied natural history is mixed with the narrative, and there is an accompaniment of 24 excellent colour photographs and 26 black-and-white. But perhaps the most valuable point that the author makes is the urgent need for far more effective conservation of these and other striking, and in some cases unique, animals in a part of the world that is rapidly becoming over-congested, developed, and tourist-ridden. The scarlet ibis, Trinidad's national bird, has a breeding colony within sight of Port-of-Spain, and no other regular breeding colonies of this dazzling bird appear to be