



Introduction to the California Condor California Natural History Guides

By Noel F. R. Snyder

University of California Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 288 pages. Dimensions: 7.2in. x 4.1in. x 0.8in. The story of the California Condor an awe-inspiring symbol of wilderness one of the most dramatic and contentious in conservation biology. Huge scavengers with wingspans reaching more than nine feet, Condors declined by 1985 to just nine individuals left in the wild. At that point, under a highly controversial program, the last birds were brought into captivity to create a population that could eventually be reestablished in nature. This engaging book, written by two scientists who were intimately involved with the Condor conservation effort, tells the full story of the California Condor, from the birds evolution and biology to its captive breeding and subsequent releases, and its uncertain future. It introduces the largest soaring bird in the continental United States to a broad audience and at the same time presents an important case study of a critically endangered species. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Condors suffered from a variety of stresses from shooting to strychnine poisoning that was an inadvertent side effect of campaigns to exterminate wolves and grizzly bears from California. Condors also faced dramatic declines in their food supply and progressively smaller foraging habitats....



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