TALENT IN ACTION (Continued from preceding page)
modern jazz voices titled "Paris." But whether he was playing old, new, borrowed, or blue tunes, John seemingly could do no wrong as far as the audience was concerned. "Rocket Man" soared, as John allowed three free backup singers to lift his voice up. "Blue Eyes" segued easily into "I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues." And on his personal creed, "I'm Still Standing," John brought the whole crowd to its feet.

The sound was exceptional, and the stage set spectacular. John limited his costume changes to three—at one point, he donned a tri-cornered headress that evoked an aloe vera plant—and sported only one pair of glasses, but the spectacle never lagged.

CARLO WOLFF

JOHN EDDIE

The Ritz, New York

Tickets: $16.50

FLYING INTO HIGH gear with "Dream House," the lead track of his self-titled Columbia debut album, John Eddie wasted no time at this Aug. 26 show taking establishment itself as a full-fledged rocker. But the abandon with which he threw himself into the set—coupled with overpowering stage amplification—may have been reckless.

Eddie and his band were occasionally off key, and when the hyperactive pace finally did slow down for the back-to-back ballads "Please Jodi" and "Stranded," the front man couldn't quite hit the high notes. Still, this part of the show was the musical high point, thanks to the band's beautifully subdued backing—including Jeff Levine's bouncing keyboard transition—and the beauty of the songs themselves.

From there, it was full speed ahead. The brief stop for a slow version of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" and a misplaced verse of "Ben"—the Jets' junior version into his own "Pretty Little Rebel." The bottom line is that Eddie must learn the necessity of pacing his performances for he's certain to be realized. The talent is there.

JIM REISSMAN

BIG COUNTRY

Hollywood Palladium
Los Angeles, Calif.

Tickets: $15

WHEN BIG COUNTRY last toured the U.S. two years ago, it was in the wake of scathing criticism of the group's second Mercury album, "Steeltown." Response to the band's latest album, "The Seer," has been far more positive, and this recent show saw Big Country behaving like a band already at the top rather than one climbing back up.

The group began its set confidently and for more than two hours kept hold of a crowd that only knew the biggest hits. Stuart Adamson delivered cutting vocals while the band's diverse blend of bagpipe-sounding guitars and a tough, rock-steady rhythm section worked perfectly.

Somewhere along the way, Adamson has learned how to manipulate an audience without appearing to work at it. He had no trouble encouraging the near-capacity audience to sing along during songs like "Big Country," "Chances," and the recent single "Look Away." When fans didn't know the words—and many did—they had the cheeky answer anyway.

Big Country proved it had a few new tricks up its sleeves with the material from "The Seer." Live, "The Teacher" was transformed from a typical,anthemic, Scottish-sounding Big Country tune into a full performance of psychedelic/metal/folk guitars.

SHARON LIVETEN

NEIL YOUNG & THE SILVER BULLET BAND THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS

Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center
Louisville, Ky.

Sept. 30

299,844

$21.50

Neil Diamond Productions

JOE DUNTON

The Capitol Centre
29,350

$21.50

Sewanee Promotions

NEW YORK: THE Fabulous Thunderbirds

Capital Center
Landover, Md.

Aug. 26

$16.50

Stevie Ray Express Stage Right Promotions

BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND ON THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS

Nebraska Fair & Exhibition Center
Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 16

378,565

$18

Sawnee Promotions

ELTON JOHN

The O2 arena
Atlanta, Ga.

Sept. 14

$75.50

John Scher

AC/DC LOUDNESS

Koishikawa Koen
Tokyo, Japan

Sept. 15

$30.50

Monarch Entertainment Bureau

NEIL DIAMOND

Veterans Memorial Arena
Columbus, Ohio

Sept. 17

$30.50

Cellar Door Productions

THE MONKIES

Disneyland
Anaheim, Calif.

Sept. 28

$24.50

Festival East Concerts

MOHAWK IN MANHATTAN, Jean Beauvoir strums during his recent opening date for the Eurythmics at New York's Pier 84. Beauvoir is playing live dates to support his Columbia debut album, "Drums Along The Mohawk." (Photo: Chuck Pulin)