

Peregrine eggs begin to break accidentally well *before* they have 20% thinning of their shells; at an average of 20% thinning of eggshells, populations are in severe decline. Finally, Harris apparently sought to study Peregrine behaviour without previous immersion in the available literature. This approach can lead to new and important interpretations because the researcher is not biased by previous writers' conclusions. There is evidence of this in Harris' work. However, this approach can lead to confusion, as with naming behavior patterns. In this book we are offered (without explanation) several new names for standard vocalizations, and some apparently standard vocalizations are described from apparently unusual circumstances.

In 1972 this Greenland Peregrine population provided several addled eggs and shell fragments which averaged 14% thinner than pre-DDT shell thicknesses. In 1973 nine pairs raised young, in 1974 and 1975 only five pairs were successful, in 1976 three pairs, and in

1977 four pairs. A shortage of adults is suggested as the proximate cause of the decline and pesticides in Central or South American wintering grounds may be the ultimate factors. The Greenland population obviously merits long-term monitoring.

In the preface Harris states, "This book will provide readers with all the scientific information necessary for a thorough understanding of the peregrine's present status and its biological value." This is an overstatement, though certainly the book is a significant effort toward that admirable goal.

*The Peregrine Falcon in Greenland* is informative and enjoyable reading for Peregrine biologists, interested students, well-informed laymen, and others who are interested in environmental problems, endangered species, raptors, or the North.

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**CROWN OF THE WORLD.** By CORA CHENEY AND BEN PARTRIDGE. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1979. 194 pp., maps, appendix, bibliography, index. \$7.95.

**CROWN OF THE WORLD** is subtitled "A View of the Inner Arctic", but I think I would term it rather a mental smorgasbord. There are too many dishes to be sampled, and one's appetite is left vaguely dissatisfied. Good black-and-white photographs by the authors, as well as reproductions of old prints and maps, provide the seasoning. There are, however, many statements and conclusions which are not justified, such as: "To find better hunting than Asia offered, and to avoid the pressure of the Mongoloid tribes, the Caucasoid people followed the animals to this new territory" (p. 28), an allusion to the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Another: "One of the most controversial roads in the north is the hastily constructed 'haul road' from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, built for trucks to service the Alyeska pipeline construction. When the road turned into a sea

of mud as summer came it proved conclusively that permafrost was the natural enemy of arctic roads" (p. 111). In fact, there were two roads: the first, commonly known as the "Hickel Highway", was a winter road hastily and badly constructed, which was not intended to be open in the summer. The "haul road", constructed later, was and is an all-season road to service the pipeline; it was built in a different location altogether.

The foreword states in part that this is a book about "the land, water, and people within the Arctic Circle, and is intended for the general reader", and so it is. I judge the statement on the dust jacket to be correct in saying that such a comprehensive geopolitical survey has never before been gathered into a single brief volume. My reservations stem from my feeling that "survey" is a more accurate description than "comprehensive."

A good partial bibliography is included, for the reader who wishes to satisfy his appetite more completely.

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