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.

_Crow of the World_ 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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