At the same time, the introspective is often missing, which is not surprising because this journal is actually the notebook for future writing, and, indeed, the editors point out that the original is full of paste-ins, margin notes, and added commentary. That does not diminish the value of this diary in any way though and, once the challenge of reading short, sharp sentences is overcome, the tale becomes wonderfully neat, which in itself answers part of the editorial question about whether the world needs yet another Klondike gold rush diary. The other part of the answer can be found in remembering that this is not strictly a Klondike diary, because Robins does not visit the Yukon until well after the gold rush is complete.

The flaw in this edition is not in the diary itself, but in the failure of the editors to place Robins and her diary into context. They concentrate, rather, on her writing and where it fits into the family picture and into Robins’ career. That is what a biography is for, and one of the editors has already written that. This places Robins in the spotlight but the diary is focussed on one moment that might be exploited to make more sense of the diary itself. For example, there is a lengthy description of time spent with Commissioner Brown and his wife who is identified as a former writer for The Globe (incorrectly as The Toronto Globe) in Toronto. Brown’s pseudonym was Faith Fenton, the subject of Jill Downie’s A Passionate Pen: The Life and Times of Faith Fenton, (Toronto: HarperCollins, 1996). Contemporary diaries such as Two Women in the Klondike by Mary Hitchcock (New York: Putnam’s, 1899), which offers a good parallel for the steamship travel just three years earlier, or the writings of Flora Shaw, mentioned in the text but left out of the bibliography, suggest gaps in the research, and many good contextual works don’t appear in the references.

Reviews, however, are less about editors and more rightly about diaries, although these two should have been more diligent about noticing that Robins travelled on the Canadian Pacific Railroad not the Canadian Railroad as they name it, a sloppy mistake that reinforces the sense of a lack of research for context.

The reader will like Elizabeth Robins; will like how she shares the advice offered as she travels across the region like how the key to success in the Klondike is to be a Swede, not know how to read and write, and that you must be dead broke. Where that places her she does not offer a comment. Those who think they have read enough “Klondike” diaries to last should also remember that Robins recalls meeting a women from the rush in ‘98 relating “old trail stories,” for the one Robins tells is indeed a new one, and one worth reading.

Barbara Kelcey is a Winnipeg historian whose research interests include women in the Canadian North.

Northern Eden: Community-based Wildlife Management in Canada by Leslie Treseder, Jamie Honda-McNeil, Mina Berkes, Fikret Berkes, Joe Dragon, Claudia Notzke, Tanja
As a result of the settlement of the comprehensive land claims in northern Canada, Aboriginal peoples have access rights to wildlife resources over vast areas. The Inuit and First Nation hunters in the North have rights not only over their native lands, which they have retained through the claim process, but also over their traditional territories now owned by the Canadian government, or Crown. In Canada, rights of access do not imply ownership, because the Crown always retains its legislative interest in wildlife management. It is under this situation that community-based wildlife management is conducted as a form of co-management involving a form of sharing power and responsibility between local users and the Crown.

*Sharing Eden* is a summary of the current terrestrial wildlife co-management regimes in the northern territories of Canada. It is a review based primarily on the recent literature and supplemented by personal observations and communications from knowledgeable participants in the field of wildlife co-management.

The first chapter is written by Leslie Treseder and Jamie Honda-McNeil gives a succinct overview of the historical government policies and treaties as they relate to co-management dating from the Royal Proclamation of 1763 up to today. The second chapter by Mina Berkes and Fikret Berkes follows with a discussion of subsistence hunting in Northern Canada. The cultural and social aspects of subsistence hunting are discussed as integral parts of the northern mixed economy. Much of the material is based on the authors’ intimate knowledge of the James Bay Cree. The third chapter, by Joe Dragon, examines the commercial harvesting and trade of wild ungulates (caribou and muskox), by aboriginal peoples in northern Quebec, Labrador, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The chapter ends with a description of the prospects for commercial harvesting in northern Canada. The fourth chapter, by Claudia Notzke, examines the nature of community-based ecotourism and sport hunting in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The author points out that sport hunting is a variety of tourism that has the longest history and the closest ties to northern communities. Chapter 5, by Tanja Schramm and Robert Hudson, reviews the status of aboriginal game ranching in Canada and Alaska. Bison, wapiti, and reindeer have been the primary species ranched in the past two decades. Despite the concerns of opponents to game ranching, it is now a well-established component of Canadian agriculture. In the concluding chapter, Leslie Treseder, reflects on the Canadian experience of community-based wildlife management.

This book clearly demonstrates that northern aboriginal communities can continue to be dependent upon wildlife, and that wildlife can play an important role in the
domestic economy of the future. However, it is necessary that all parties involved in wildlife management work together to develop relationships that foster community-based management initiatives.

This book provides an excellent overview of the current roles of wildlife in the northern economies. I would strongly recommend the book to any university student studying in the field of northern resources management.

Rick Riewe is a Professor of Zoology at the University of Manitoba. His fields of interest include northern wildlife management, aboriginal land use, land claims, and the skin clothing of Circumpolar peoples.


This is one of those refreshingly untroubled little books that teaches you so much, while you were sure you are just being entertained. What a great idea: celebrate the adventure and pleasure of the art of field observation in nature and juxtapose it with the pursuit of one of the planet’s most superlative natural species.

The book’s focus is the charisma of the “hunting strategy” of the peregrine falcon, a bird close to the hearts of many northern residents and probably the best scientifically researched bird-of-prey in the world. Yet the tale—for that is what it mostly is, a captivating story of the author’s life-long pursuit—maintains its vision firmly planted in the uncluttered realm of the art of Natural History.

To Dick Dekker the peregrine falcon is much more than just a bird; the charisma of the species has him firmly in its talons. *Bolt from the Blue* is drawn entirely from his first-hand field observations. Skills honed almost beyond belief (he confesses to below standard eyesight at the outset) draw the reader in, following along in his old vehicle, crouching in the hedgerows, freezing in the coastal winds, and enduring muscles aching to hold binoculars steady for hours and hours on end. Dekker observed over 2,000 hunts by wild peregrines! Most enthusiasts might only see one or two.

Expect to be spared the coldness of scientific jargon. A graphic designer by trade, an artistic bent has clung to Dekker from his first peregrine encounters in his native Holland to a lifetime progressing from southern Alberta’s Red Deer River valley, to central Alberta’s Beaverhill wetland, and finally to coastal British Columbia and the Queen Charlotte Islands. The language is artistic. Dekker chronicles the “visceral hunting instinct. . .,” the “bolts from the blue,” the “source of doom” for their prey, and describes the ultimate predator strategy of this fastest thing on the planet: the “numbing excitement” of a peregrine stoop. His excitement and enthusiasm pulls the reader along. Berating the “sneaky,” “thieving,” “klepto-parasites”—bald eagles and red-tailed hawks