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AMCHITKA ISLAND, ALASKA,

by Barry Reiswig ✓

Key Words: Peregrine falcon
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ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
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INTRODUCTION

A breeding peregrine falcon (Falco peregrines) survey was conducted on Amchitka Island, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge from May 2-9, 1981 in conjunction with a breeding bald eagle survey. Both surveys were conducted incidental to a search of the island for returning Aleutian Canada geese. Approximately 6 biologist-days were required to complete the survey including time allowed for storm conditions.

METHODS AND RESULTS

The survey included all of the island's shoreline east of a line from Crown Reefer Point to a point immediately west of the outlet of Ultra Creek (Figure A). The shoreline was surveyed by two observers working independently of each other. Data were recorded in a manner similar to that reported by Heglund and Reiswig (1980 Raptor Survey; The Breeding Peregrine Falcon Population of Amchitka, 1980, unpublished refuge report, Aleutian Islands Unit, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge files). Falcon territorial units were delineated by the presence of one or two defending adults as described by White et al. (1977).

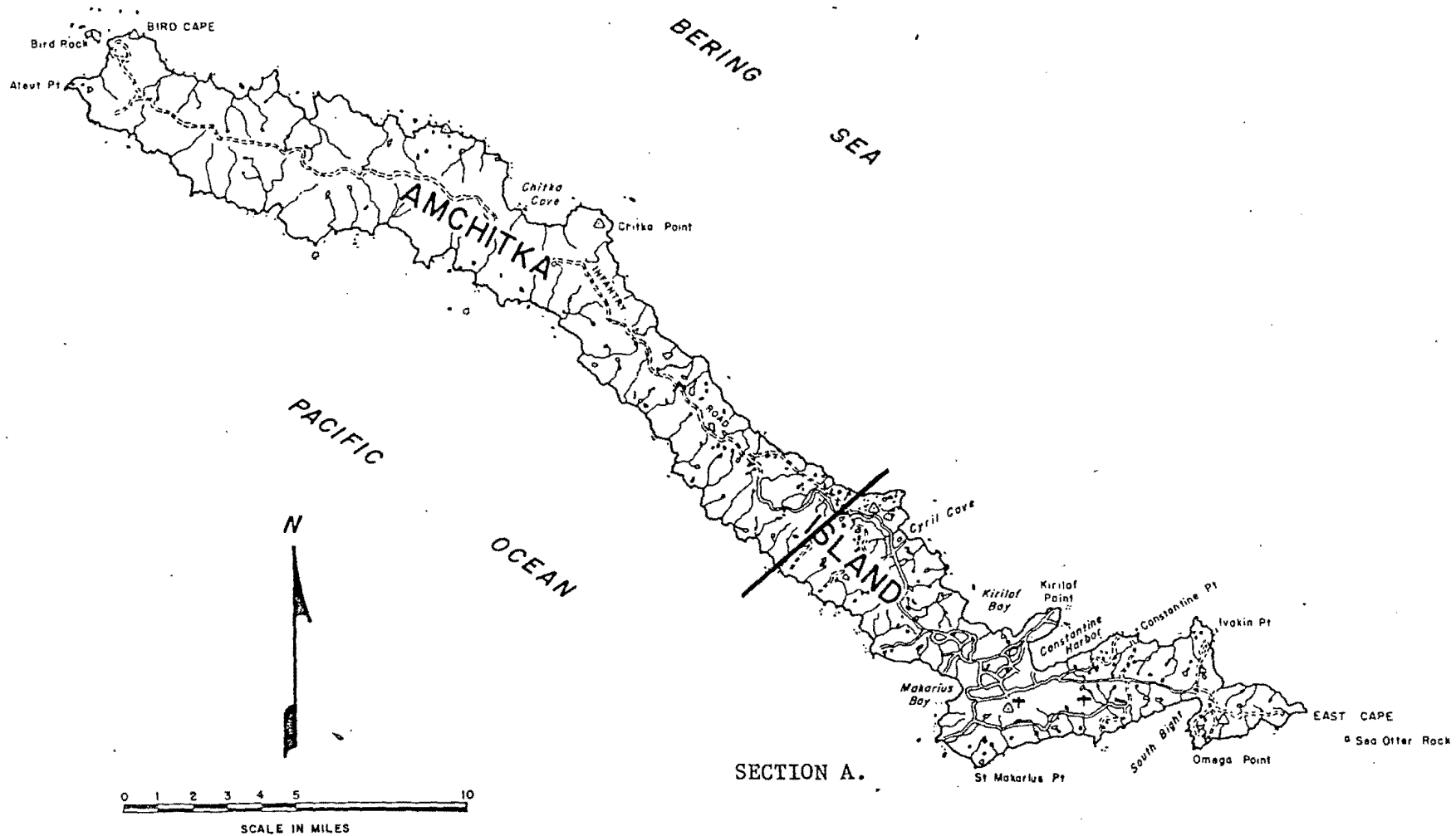
Six territorial units were observed (Figure B) and of these, two eyries were located in Section A. Two territories and one eyrie had apparently moved since the 1980 survey. Each of the two eyries contained four eggs compared to three eggs found in each of two eyries visited in 1980. White et al. (1971) reported an average clutch size of 3.32 eggs per nest for 1969 and 1970 on Amchitka.

The number of eyries or territories has decreased from 7 to 6 since 1980, is similar to 1970 and is one higher than reported in 1969 (Figure C).

LITERATURE CITED

- White, C.M., W.B. Emison and F.S.L. Williamson. 1971. Dynamics of raptor populations on Amchitka Island, Alaska. *Bio Science*. 21(12):623-627.
- White, C.M., F.S.L. Williamson and W.B. Emison. 1977. Avifaunal Investigations. In The Environment of Amchitka Island, Alaska. Ed. M.L. Merritt and R.J. Fuller. Publ. Technical Information Center Energy Research and Development Administration. pp. 227-260.

FIGURE A.



AMCHITKA ISLAND

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ALASKA

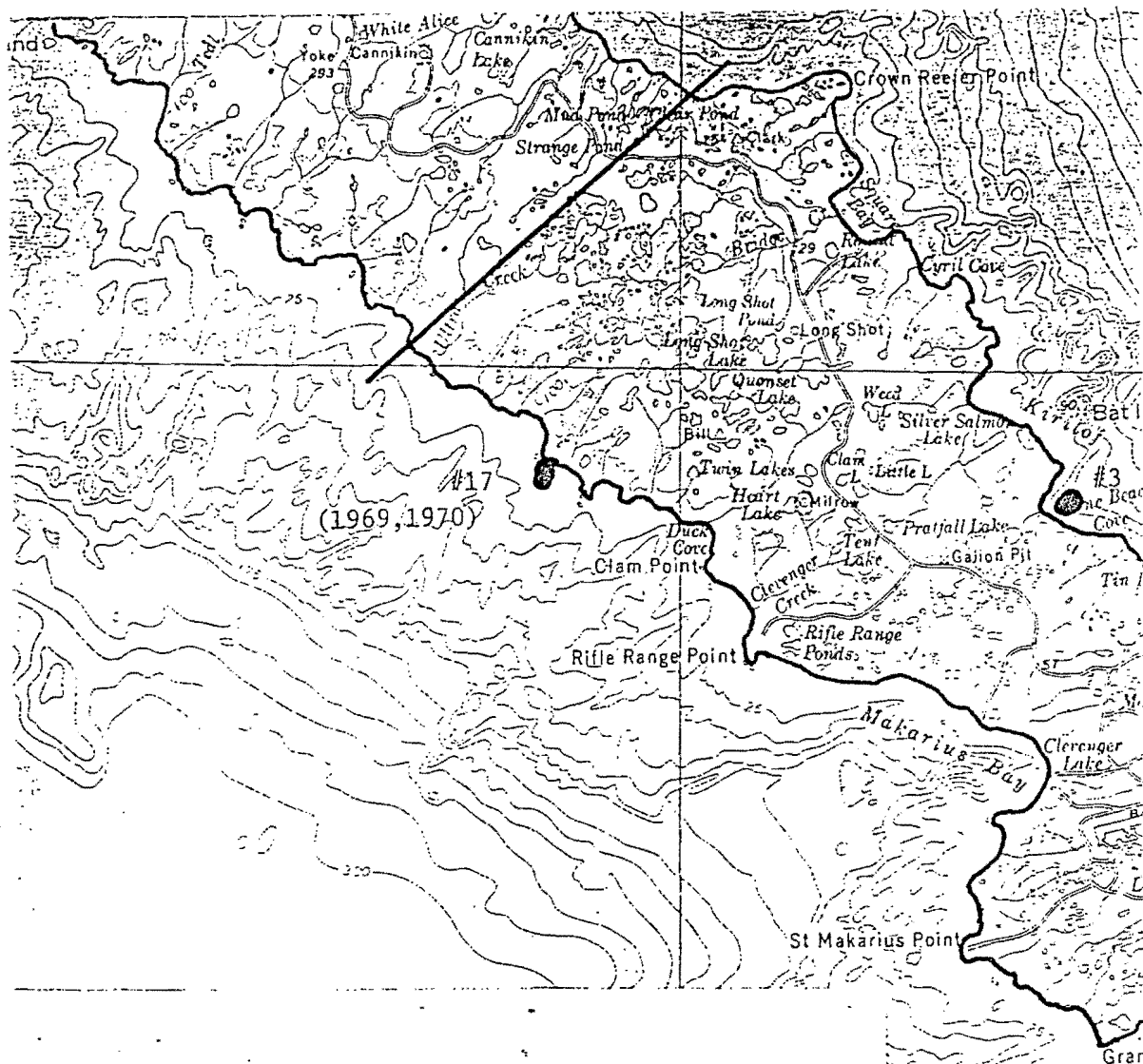
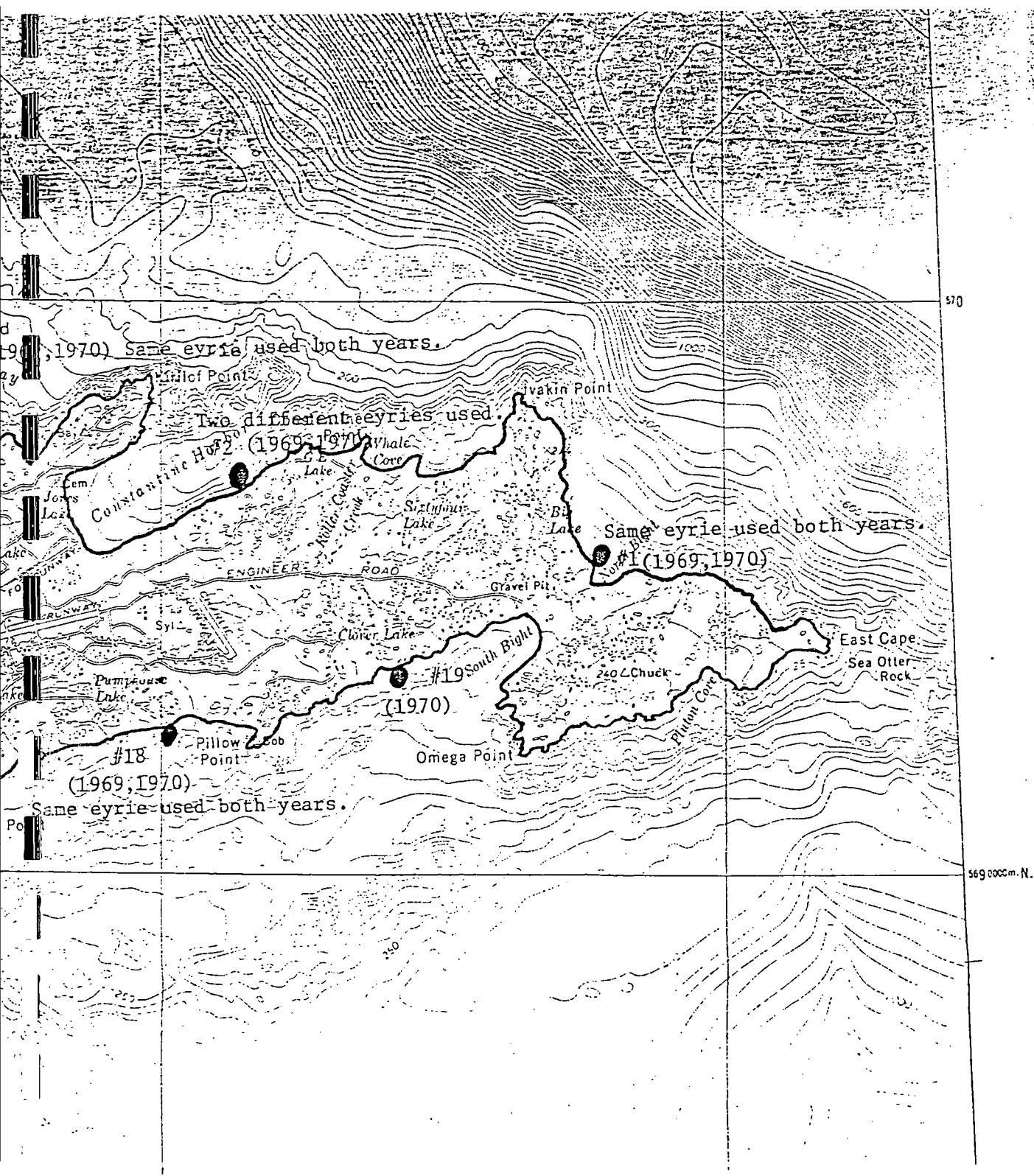


FIGURE C. 1969-70 PEREGRINE FALCON EYRIE
AND TERRITORY LOCATIONS, SECTION A.
AMCHITKA ISLAND, ALASKA Williamson et al. (1972)



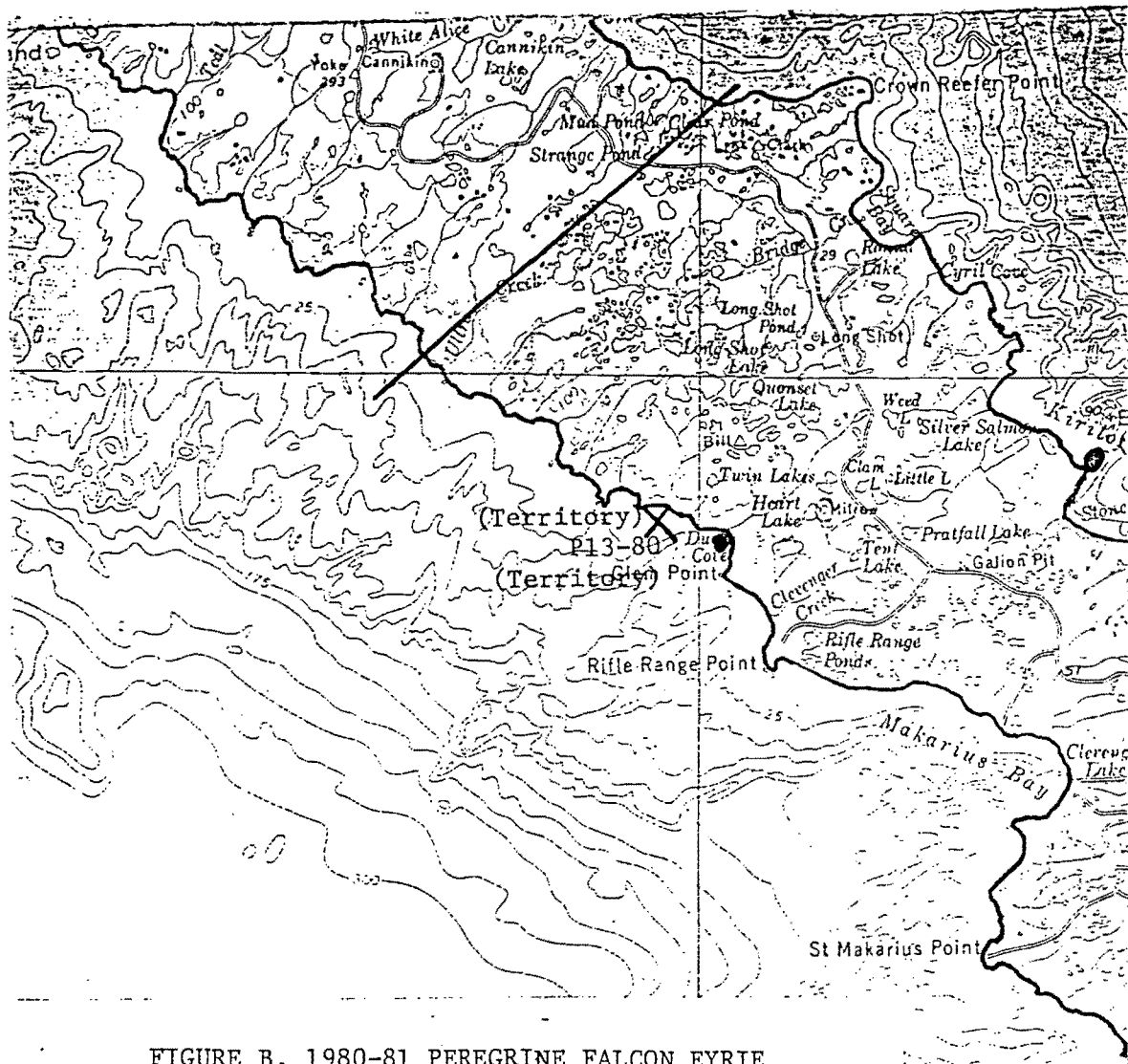
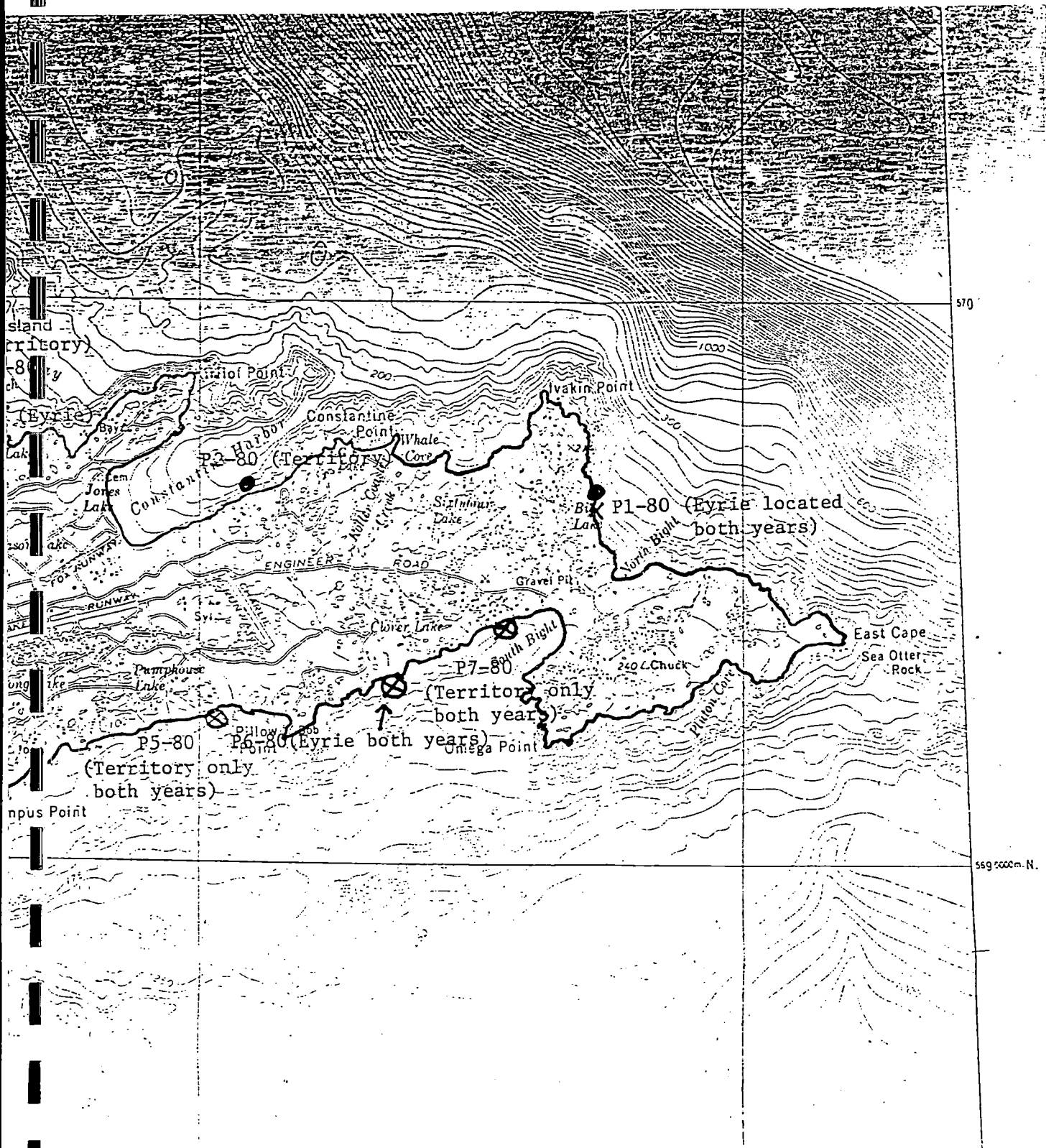


FIGURE B. 1980-81 PEREGRINE FALCON EYRIE AND TERRITORY LOCATIONS, SECTION A. AMCHITKA ISLAND, ALASKA



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