

Alaska Region

A gray wolf, tagged in Gates of the Arctic NP& Preserve with radio collar #321, recently was taken by a hunter in Fort McPherson, Northwest Terr., Canada. Alaska wolf #321 was born in 1986 in the central part of the Brooks Range, AK. In 1987, the animal was tagged as part of a NRPP funded world study.

The wolf was located by Canadian scientist in April 1988 and remained in Canada. The straight line distance between capture and kill site was 4343 miles. The longest distance previously known to have been traveled by a wolf in North America is just over 450 miles.

Among the 51 marked wolves in the study, the primary cause of loss from the study area was dispersal, although the population was subject to fairly extensive hunting and trapping.

The evidence points to #321 as being *truly* "a lone wolf."

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One of the radio-collared wolf packs in Denali NP&P has left its established territory and traveled 140 miles. This pack numbered 14 animals within a 800 k2 territory in the center of the park. Eleven wolves, including 3 radio-collared animals, crossed the Alaska Range and moved through at least 4 other wolf pack territories, along the way making several caribou and moose kills.

While wolf pack forays into other territories have been observed, movement of nearly all of a pack for such a long distance has not previously been recorded in Denali. The pack broke into smaller groups during the summer. Their subsequent movements, including whether or not they return to the park, will be of considerable scientific interest.