

DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE/
RAPTOR RESEARCH PROJECT
1990

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

As the only public highway leading into Canada's Subarctic and Arctic, the Dempster Highway offers its users a unique opportunity to access a fascinating and fragile environment. As such, the potential for negative human impact is great.

The Department of Renewable Resources has recognized that one of the best methods of protection is through public education and has developed two programs in this regard.

This report will cover the 1990 season of the five-year-old Dempster Interpretive Centre and the eight-year-old Dempster Raptor Research Project.

PART I - DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE PROGRAM 1990

2.0 GOALS & OBJECTIVES (as excerpted from a June 1989 memo, Schick)

GOAL

The goal of the Dempster Interpretive Centre operation...is to enhance user awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural features and processes within the Dempster corridor...to ensure proper management and sustainable use of the Dempster Corridor environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. To contact (as many as possible) those using the Dempster Highway in the vicinity of Tombstone Campground. This includes highway maintenance personnel, researchers, truckers, tourists and any other category of user.
2. To ensure that those who can have most impact on the integrity of the natural environment receive effective interpretive services that help them to increase their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the region and its sensitivities.
3. To provide basic informational services to highway travellers on an as-needed basis and in a manner that complements the more extensive visitor services offered in Dawson.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 ADVERTISING

At the beginning of the 1990 season, contact was made with staff at the Visitor Reception Centre in Dawson as well as the NWT Dempster Information Office in Dawson. Posters advertising the Centre's dates and hours of operation were placed in these centres as well as on the bulletin board of the Klondike River Lodge at the Dempster Corner.

The Klondike Highways' camp was visited, notifying them of the opening date. They then put up the highway signs advertising the Interpretive Centre.

In August, a 4 x 8 sign identifying the Centre was placed on the exterior of the Centre facing the highway.

3.2 DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

The Centre was operated for 67 days from June 30 to September 3. It was open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 30 to August 21 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. August 22 to September 3. The contractor manned the Centre an average of 2.5 days per week and the interpretive duties for the remaining 4.5 days were shared over the season by three staff. One staff member has been a resident of the Dempster Highway for several years. The other staff and the contractor reside in Dawson.

Within the Centre, the goals and objectives of the program were carried out by using displays, reference materials, video presentations and pamphlets for distribution. These educational tools are stored year-round in the Centre and this year were set up the day before opening.

On the exterior of the Centre, a wildlife sighting board was erected to encourage highway travellers to record their wildlife observations.

Outside the Centre, the goals and objectives of the program were carried out through several interpretive programs and activities such as guided walks/hikes, self-guided walks, scope viewing of local wildlife and guest speakers.

4.0 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

4.1 VISITOR STATISTICS

4.1.1 Number of Visitors

During the 1990 season, a total of 3,480 travellers visited the Centre. This was a 235% increase over 1989's total and can be directly attributed to the increased hours of operation--from 30 hours per week in 1989 to 70 hours per week in 1990. Comparison with prior years is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
VISITOR STATISTICS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Number of visitors	1,445	2,452	2,412	1,483	3,480*
Length of season	59	63	79	63	67
Average visitors/day	25	39	31	24	52
Average hours/day		8	6.7	5	10**

* This does not include evening program attendance or visitors who returned to the Centre more than once the same day.

** Hours were reduced from 10 to 8 for the final 13 days.

It was required that the Interpretive Centre operate 10 hours per day, 7 days a week and that this would include time for camp-fire talks, guided interpretive walks, etc. As the actual hours that the Centre should be open to the public were not specified in the contract, the contractor and staff decided to keep the Centre open 10 hours per day. Eventually, it was expected that a consistently slow period during the day would be noticed and the Centre could be closed for a couple of hours, with evening walks and talks taking their place. It was learned that bus tours leaving Dawson in the morning arrived at Tombstone Campground between 10 and 10:30 so the Centre's hours were set from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A daily sheet (see sample in Appendix A) was created to keep detailed records of how many visitors used the Centre, when they arrived, bus tour information, weather data, closing and opening

times, special events that took place and other points of interest. Appendices B and C summarize the visitor statistics that were made available by maintaining these daily sheets.

After a two-week trial period of keeping the Centre open 10 hours per day, it became apparent that there was no significantly slow time during the day. This stayed fairly consistent throughout the season, as Table 2 illustrates.

TABLE 2
VISITOR STATISTICS BY TIME OF DAY

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>Visitors During First 2 Weeks</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Visitors During Entire Season</u>	<u>%</u>
10 - 11	112	15.5	623	17.9
11 - 12	64	8.9	387	11.1
12 - 1	73	10.1	394	11.3
1 - 2	62	8.6	346	10.0
2 - 3	61	8.4	335	9.6
3 - 4	103	14.3	382	11.0
4 - 5	58	8.0	262	7.5
5 - 6	71	9.8	296	8.5
6 - 7	46	6.4	205	5.9*
7 - 8	<u>72</u>	<u>10.0</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>7.2*</u>
	722	100.0	3,480	100.0

* The Centre was not open between 6 and 8 p.m. for the final 13 days of the season. While the Centre was open 10 hours per day, these percentages were 6.7% and 8.2% respectively.

Because there was no noticeably slow time during the day and because the visitors highly valued the Centre and the travelogue that was handed out (discussed in detail in Section 4.3.1), it was decided to maintain the Centre's hours (on a few occasions, the Centre was closed in order to lead a short walk or hike) and, in addition, carry out as many evening activities as possible.

It should be noted, however, that as August progressed and the hours of daylight shortened, fewer people came into the Centre after 6 p.m. On August 22, the Centre's hours were reduced to 8 per day (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) for the remainder of the season.

Highway traffic lessened considerably after mid-August and the August 17 to September 3 visitor statistics reflect this decrease. If the length of season is to remain at 67 days for 1991, it is recommended that the Centre be open mid-June to mid-August. Table 3 shows that visitations peaked in the period August 10 to 16 and quickly began dropping off after that.

TABLE 3
VISITOR STATISTICS BY 7-DAY PERIODS

	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Visitors/Day</u>	<u>Visitors/Hour</u>
June 29 - July 5	329	47	4.7
July 6 - July 12	393	56	5.6
July 13 - July 19	463	66	6.6
July 20 - July 26	373	53	5.3
July 27 - Aug. 2	355	51	5.1
Aug. 3 - Aug. 9	451	64	6.4
Aug. 10 - Aug. 16	488	70	7.0
Aug. 17 - Aug. 23	278	40	4.2
Aug. 24 - Aug. 30	231	33	4.1
Aug. 31 - Sept. 3	<u>119*</u>	30	3.7
	3,480		

* This period was only 4 days.

Note: The Centre closed at 6 p.m. from August 22 on. The estimated number of visitors missed due to this early closure would have been approximately 3 or 4 per day.

4.1.2 Bus Tour Visitor Statistics

Of the 3,480 visitors to the Centre, 392 were part of a bus tour group and represented 11% of the total visitors. Occasionally, bus passengers did not tour the Centre and were therefore not included in the statistics.

As mentioned previously, it was decided to open the Centre at 10 a.m. due to bus tour groups. Of the 29 bus tour groups that used the Centre this season, 16 arrived between 10 and 11 a.m. and this included 268 (68%) of the 392 bus tour visitors. Table 4 shows the number of buses and passengers and their arrival times.

TABLE 4

BUS STATISTICS ACCORDING TO ARRIVAL TIME

<u>Time</u>	<u>No. of Buses</u>	<u>No. of Passengers</u>
10 - 11	16	268
11 - 12	0	0
12 - 1	3	28
1 - 2	2	17
2 - 3	0	0
3 - 4	3	51
4 - 5	1	7
5 - 6	2	14
6 - 7	1	3
7 - 8	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	29	392

The bus schedules for the 1991 season should be obtained before deciding the hours of the Centre. The main bus companies using the Centre in 1990 were as follows:

- Atlas Tours (Horizon Tours) - Skagway/Inuvik/Skagway
- Rainbow Tours - Whitehorse/Inuvik/Whitehorse
- Gold City Tours - Dawson/Inuvik/Dawson
- Golden Arrow (Greyhound) - Edmonton/Inuvik/Edmonton (they did one trial run this summer)

Time was spent by the staff talking to each tour guide. A travelogue was given to every guide and driver and several of these tour representatives came into the Centre on their final trip to thank the staff for their help.

A couple of times when the Centre had no other visitors, the staff took the bus travellers on a short nature walk and to many, this was the highlight of their trip. It was their only chance to explore nature close up on the Dempster. If possible, this should be done on a more regular basis in 1991.

Appendix D gives a detailed list of each bus tour including its name, date of arrival, time of arrival, direction of travel and number of passengers.

4.1.3 Return Visitor Statistics

Of the 3,480 visitors, 523 were people who returned to the Centre on their return trip southbound. They represented 15% of the total visits.

One reason for encouraging return visits was to have the travelogues brought back to the Centre, as they were in short supply. Tourists enthusiastically supported this idea of recycling and almost all travelogues were returned.

Encouraging travellers to return was beneficial to them as well as to the staff and other travellers. Travellers particularly enjoyed adding their wildlife sightings to the outside sighting board and this stimulated discussions with travellers who were just beginning their Dempster trip.

These return visitors provided staff with daily and often hourly updates on highway conditions, the weather, the fires, etc. This information was invaluable when passed on to northbound travellers.

4.1.4 Length of Stay in the Interpretive Centre

First-time visitors stayed approximately 20 minutes although some stayed an hour or more to use the reference materials.

Bus tours stayed an average of 30 minutes each and throughout that period, most passengers visited the Centre.

The return visitors stayed anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes depending on the number of wildlife sighting reports and how many other tourists were present to share their experiences.

4.1.5 Visitor Place of Origin

The visitor place of origin information was obtained from the guest book. A representative of most parties of people signed the book; therefore, each of the 1,043 entries represents an average of 2 or 3 people. It is suggested that a "Number in Party" column be included in future guest books. Note: Bus tour traveller information is not included in the following statistics.

As in the past, Canadians were the most frequent visitors at 55½%, with British Columbia, the Yukon, Alberta and Ontario providing the bulk of these travellers. Of the Canadians, Yukoners represented 24% this year compared to 19% in 1989 and 25% in 1988.

Overall, Yukoners comprised 13.5% of the visitors compared to 11.5% in 1989 and 10.9% in 1988. One-third of the Yukoners this year were from Dawson.

Europe was the third most frequent place of origin, with West Germany and Switzerland accounting for almost 10% of all visitors.

Table 5 lists the Visitor Place of Origin and Table 6 the Top Ten Most Frequent Places of Origin.

TABLE 5

VISITOR PLACE OF ORIGIN

	<u>1988*</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Canada	54.0%	60.3%	55.5%
U.S.A.	26.2%	28.2%	28.0%
Europe	17.2%	9.0%	13.5%
Other	2.6%	2.0%	3.0%

* The original 1988 figures have been adjusted to exclude Tour Groups and Unknowns.

TABLE 6

TOP TEN MOST FREQUENT PLACES OF ORIGIN

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1988*</u>
British Columbia	17.0%	14.4%
Yukon	13.5%	13.6%
Ontario	9.0%	8.7%
Alberta	7.0%	9.7%
West Germany	6.5%	7.7%
Alaska	6.0%	3.6%
California	5.0%	5.6%
Switzerland	3.0%	3.9%
N.W.T.	3.0%	3.5%
Washington	3.0%	n/a

* The original 1988 figures have been adjusted to exclude Tour Groups and Unknowns.

NB: No figures were available for 1989.

4.1.6 Awareness of Interpretive Centre

Another statistic made available by the guest book is the way in which visitors first became aware of the Interpretive Centre. Bus tour traveller entries were excluded and the remaining 596 entries are summarized in Table 7.

Visitor awareness can be grouped into the following three categories:

- (a) 32% - Knew about Centre before trip (friends/relatives, the Milepost, magazines/brochures or past visit)
- (b) 30% - Learned about Centre while on trip (visitor information centres or posters)
- (c) 38% - Learned about Centre just before or on arrival (road sign or incidental)

The statistics in 1989 for the above three categories were 23%, 31% and 46% respectively. It appears that a higher percentage of people this year knew about the Centre before reaching it than in 1989. With the erection of the information kiosk at the Dempster Corner complete by the 1991 season, more Dempster Highway travellers

should know well in advance of arriving at the Centre how valuable a visit would be to the rest of their Dempster trip. Many people put off going into the Centre until their trip south and regret that decision later. Fortunately, the roadside interpreter was able to remedy this situation occasionally by distributing travelogues and answering inquiries at Engineer Creek Campground and at talk sites along the highway.

TABLE 7

HOW VISITORS BECAME AWARE OF THE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

	<u>1990</u>		<u>1989</u>
Road signs	208	35.0%	38.9%
Dawson information centres	151	25.0%	26.5%
Friends/relatives	64	11.0%	7.0%
Milepost	61	10.0%	8.0%
Magazines/brochures	44	7.5%	5.3%
Past visit	22	3.5%	2.1%
Incidental (saw it)	17	3.0%	7.0%
Other information centres	14	2.5%	1.3%
Poster	15	2.5%	3.2%
	<u>596</u>		

4.1.7 Length of Stay on Dempster Highway

Excluding bus tour travellers, 608 visitors completed the Length of Stay portion of the guest book. Just over 50% spent 3 days or less on the Dempster. Ninety percent were on the Dempster a week or less. Table 8 summarizes the data.

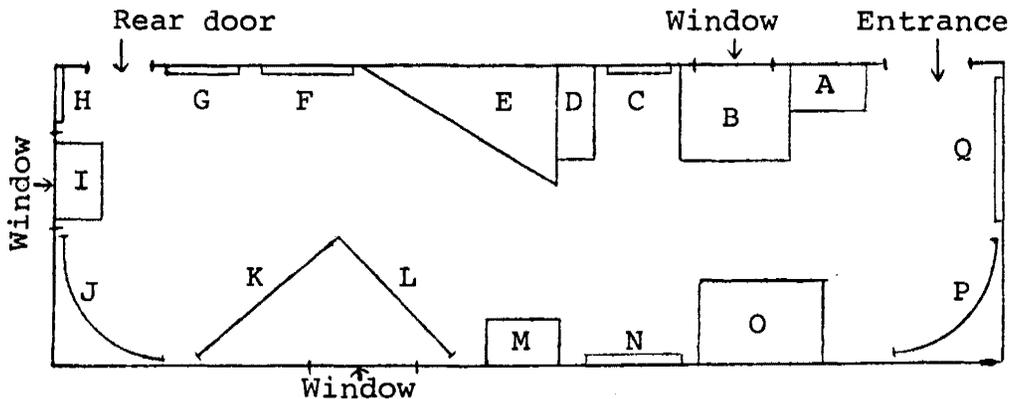
TABLE 8

LENGTH OF STAY ON THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY

1 day	97	16.0%
2 days	111	18.5%
3 days	100	16.5%
4 days	77	12.5%
5 days	72	12.0%
6 days	37	6.0%
7 days	53	8.5%
8-14 days	57	9.5%
15-28 days	4	.5%
	<u>608</u>	

4.2 DISPLAYS

Following the drawing of the Centre's floor plan is a description of each display. Also included in the report are pictures of the displays (Appendix L).



Floor Plan of the Interpretive Centre

- A Guest Book Area - The guest book and the two most-used reference books (flower book and bird book) were placed on top of a chest of drawers supplied by the contractor. The drawers provided handy storage space for pens, art materials and other supplies. Hanging from a hook above the guest book was a caribou antler in velvet, one of the first things visitors saw and felt upon entering.
- B Desk Area - The top of the Centre's drafting table was placed parallel to the floor and provided a valuable, well-lit place for staff to work. It also provided a much-needed area for pamphlet display.
- C Poster Area - A two-print set of animal migration routes along the Dempster corridor was placed here. The lighting is poor in this spot, however, and a brighter, less-detailed display would be better. The prints were rarely used by visitors.
- D Reference Material Area - Built-in shelving units housed the large collection of reference materials, a skull display and a fur sample display. The skull display was very popular and the skulls were often brought down from the upper shelf for handling. The fur samples were in a good location on the first shelf and were touched by most people, particularly the children. The contractor purchased several books for the Centre, borrowed some from the Dawson Public Library and lent some of her own to the Centre. An inventory of the books remaining in the Centre is found in Appendix E.

Also in Appendix E is a list of books that are needed for the 1991 season. Also needed is a small table with two chairs so that people using the reference materials can comfortably study them at the far end of the building where visitor traffic is less.

- E Pine Marten Display - This is an excellent, life-like display of a pine marten and red-backed vole. Tony Grabowski, conservation officer, taxidermist and creator of the display, provided a pine marten pelt that was placed next to the display. This pelt, along with a beaver pelt and caribou hide have been returned to the Dawson Wildlife Office.
- F Dempster Highway Points of Interest Map Area - In a prior year, a map of the Dempster Highway was covered with a sheet of clear plastic and points of interest were marked on the plastic in felt pen. The quality of the map is high but few people spent much time looking at it. Information on bears was placed below the map. The popularity of this material might have drawn attention away from the map.
- G Dry-erase Board Area - Interesting and often little-known facts about bears were written on this board. Some of these facts (taken from the Bear Facts pamphlet) dispelled common myths about bears and therefore started many a discussion.
- H Satellite Photo Area - Many tourists asked where they could obtain a copy of this impressive infrared satellite photo of the Dempster Highway region. Accompanying this photo were regular photographs of the various regions of the Dempster. Missing is a picture of the Peel Plateau Region.
- I Television/VCR Area - The contractor supplied and left in the Centre a shelving unit for the television and VCR equipment. If videos are to be shown in future years, five or six stacking chairs are needed. The three stools in the Centre are too high for comfort. Above the TV were holders for several pamphlets and below the TV was a collection of rocks, unlabelled.
- J/K Porcupine Caribou Display - These displays are good and stimulate much discussion. The public in general is very interested in caribou.
- L Flower, Berry & Lichen Display Area - These displays were made up of good quality posters created in prior years by Interpretive Centre staff. On a shelf below these posters, staff displayed samples of berries in season, flowers currently in bloom and lichen common to the area. This whole display was popular.
- M Mounted Flowers Display - More time was spent by visitors at this display than at any other. A shelf was placed at waist

height and held the Centre's excellent display of dried and mounted flowers. Above these samples was a colour poster of common Yukon flowers with a plastic overlay naming them.

- N Birds of the Dempster Display - This display consisted of photographs of eight birds that can be found in the Dempster area in the summer. More photographs would be a welcome addition to this display.
- O Gyrfalcon Attacking Willow Ptarmigan Display - This display of taxidermy by Tony Grabowski was well-liked by visitors and was often the first thing they talked about. A more professional sign is needed to explain the display.
- P Beringia, Butterflies and Moths Display - Most visitors needed to have the significance of this display brought to their attention. The photos of the butterflies and moths did not usually hold people's attention for long but with staff input, visitors became fascinated by Beringia and the uniqueness of this region of the world.
- Q Bird Facts Area - Four items were located on a board in this area: (1) a poster illustrating the population cycle of willow ptarmigan, (2) a poster comparing breeding seasons of four raptors, (3) a typed chart comparing four species of raptors, and (4) a typed list of bird sightings. This display was intended for occasional use by interested birders. A much-viewed display would not be appropriate in this area as the entrance door opens onto it, blocking viewing. Also, persons standing in front of the display impede traffic flow.

All of these displays were dismantled at the end of the season. Each display was separately wrapped and a photo of the original display was taped to the front of the package. This should make next year's setting up a lot easier than was experienced this year.

As well as a stand or chest of drawers for the guest book, more shelving is required for displaying materials.

Lack of light on some rainy/overcast mornings necessitated the use of lights in the Centre. Because the solar panels were not functionable this year, the contractor hooked the lights up to the DC generator for power on the few mornings in August when the lighting from outside was poor. Except for the generator noise, this proved successful.

4.3 LITERATURE DISSEMINATION AND BOOK SALES

4.3.1 Travelogue

The travelogue is a Renewable Resources "DRAFT" publication distributed to the public only through the Dempster Interpretive Centre. It assisted highway travellers with identifying various points of interest along the Dempster and the idea of a travelogue was very well-received by the public. It was emphasized that this was only a draft and that suggestions for its improvement would be appreciated. Having only 100 copies for the month of July (another 120 were added in August) meant requesting the return of the travelogues. The need to recycle was met with understanding and cooperation. The travelogue was handed out 400 times and almost every time, it was returned. Many people even stopped in at the Centre after hours and deposited the travelogue in a box under the building. On average, each copy was used twice.

It is highly recommended that the travelogue be provided again next season as tourists feel that it enhances their trip and is a better source of information than The Milepost. Ideally, a travelogue should be made available to everyone travelling the Dempster. The short supply this year meant only being able to lend it to people who were travelling a relatively long distance along the highway. A supply of travelogues should be left outside the Centre during off-hours.

Many visitors suggested improvements that could be made to the travelogue. These suggestions are recorded in Appendix F. The three most-stated ones were:

- (a) Coordinate kilometre details with the actual highway kilometre signs (even though the highway signs are inaccurate). For example, the bald eagle nest is at Km 212 according to highway signs, not Km 214.
- (b) Correct outdated information. For example, there is no survival shack at Km 80 anymore.
- (c) Correct grammar and spelling mistakes.

4.3.2 Pamphlets

Several pamphlets, brochures and placemats were made available to the public. Appendix G lists these publications and records how many were left in the Centre at the end of the season. Almost all visitors were interested in The Bear Facts, Be Bear Aware and the Wildlife of the Yukon placemat.

4.3.3 Books for Sale

A few books were made available to the public this year to see if they were interested in purchasing Dempster-related material. The books were bought in Dawson at retail price and sold with no markup. It was strictly a public service this year.

Along the Dempster by Walter Lanz and The Dempster by George Calef were the most popular. Apparently, the latter is out of print but if copies can be obtained, many travellers (particularly bus travellers) would purchase it. The most popular flower reference book was John Trelawny's Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska & NW Canada. A few people mentioned leaving their bird guide book at home and would have appreciated being able to purchase this type of reference material.

4.4 WILDLIFE SIGHTING BOARD

As in the past two years, the outdoor board recording wildlife sightings attracted a great deal of interest. On their way north, visitors were encouraged to keep track of wildlife they saw and to write it on the board on their way south.

The board had the following headings: Date, Sighting, Where Seen, Comments. Throughout the season, 485 entries were made. At the end of each day, the information was recorded on paper for future reference and these sheets accompany this report under separate cover.

Appendix H shows that the top 10 most frequently seen wildlife were (in decreasing order of number of sightings): fox, raptors, moose, Dall's sheep, grizzly bear, birds other than raptors (NB: most people did not note their bird sightings on the board), wolf, black bear, caribou, beaver. When interpreting Appendix H, it should be kept in mind that 485 entries does not mean that only 485 animals were seen. For example, a nursery band of 25 Dall's sheep would be listed as one sighting.

Despite the popularity of the wildlife sighting board, there were some concerns related to it. Having seen the board on their trip north, people expected to easily view big game animals and often were disappointed with their low number of sightings or even nil sightings. To make their expectations more realistic, it became necessary to explain to northbound travellers that the area close to the Dempster Highway had a low density population of big game animals and that the people who saw the most wildlife were often hikers. This low density can easily be seen in Appendix H. For the ten weeks of the Centre's operation, moose sightings averaged 6 per week, Dall's sheep 5, grizzly bears 5, black bears 3 and caribou 3.

A local conservation officer expressed his concern that the wildlife sighting board was being used by hunters and was affecting the population of the big game animals. He would like to see no kilometre location beside these listings. As the staff noticed local and Native hunters driving up to check the board on several occasions, this concern should be addressed by Renewable Resources before the 1991 season commences.

4.5 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

4.5.1 Guided Walks and Hikes

The area adjacent to Tombstone Campground provides an excellent setting for guided walks. There are many opportunities for inter-

pretive talks as flowers and various shrubs are plentiful. There is a rock glacier across the Klondike River, a glacial moraine, a kestrel nest box and the remains of a log cabin. As well, there are many berry patches, several types of lichen (this leads to a discussion of migrating caribou) and numerous scat samples, just to mention a few of the many interesting features. At present, these walks involve using game trails that are more or less overgrown, making it unpleasant walking for older people and young children. Clearing of these trails would be a valuable addition to the interpretive experience. Their proximity to the campground eliminates the need to drive to a hiking area. After trail clearing, the low degree of difficulty would provide a good walk that most people could enjoy. Another added benefit would be that midday the staff could lead a spur-of-the-moment guided walk that would result in only a short closure of the Centre. This type of walk was done a few times this season and would have been done more often and involved more visitors if the trails had been free of brush. Also, over half of the days this season had rain at some point and more people would have been interested in a walk close by rather than a longer hike they had to drive to.

With regards to longer hikes, two one-and-a-half hour hikes were popular this season--Honeymoon Pit and the Ridge Walk. Honeymoon Pit is located at the gravel pit at Km 81 and involves some relatively easy hill climbing. The flowers are abundant, the views excellent and twice this year, staff saw a nursery band of Dall's sheep numbering 25. The Ridge Walk involves either walking or driving to Tombstone Lookout and returning to the campground via the ridge on the north side of the highway. Many points of interest are visible from the ridge and despite the occasional bushwhacking through shrubs, the hike is not difficult and provides an opportunity for hikers to walk on the tundra--a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most people.

A list of the guided walks and hikes that took place this summer appears in Appendix I.

4.5.2 Self-guided Walks

The self-guided flower walk around the Interpretive Centre was set up again this year and received a lot of attention. More professional, weatherproof identification labels are needed, as mentioned in previous reports. The expansion of this to having labels for every type of flower, shrub and tree in the campground would be a good idea.

The self-guided nature walk that originates between Campsites 13 and 14 did not prove to be popular due to vegetation overgrowth. We discontinued suggesting it to visitors; however, this trail is to be upgraded by Parks for the 1991 season. It is hoped that more of this type of work will take place in future years as self-guided walks are often requested by visitors.

4.5.3 Scope Viewing of Local Wildlife

Whenever any interesting wildlife was sighted in or near the campground, a scope was set up for visitors and interpretation was carried out. This impromptu interpretation took place many times during the summer and provided memorable experiences for visitors and interpreters alike. Most of these activities did not necessitate closing the Centre and therefore, when new visitors arrived at the Centre, they were treated to an interpretive event or were told via a note where the activity was being held in the campground. A list of these scope viewings appears in Appendix I. A sampling of the wildlife viewed follows:

GRIZZLY BEARS - By far the most crowd-pleasing were the three grizzly bears that frequented the cloudberry patches on the hillside directly across the highway from the Centre. Grizzlies have been sighted there in prior years. A blonde grizzly and a smaller, whitish-blonde grizzly were seen July 26, 27, 29, August 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 either singly or together. On August 10, a plane flew over, scaring the bears off. The two blondes were not seen on the hillside again but a dark brown grizzly appeared once a few days later for a short time. The Centre's bear skulls were usually brought out during the talks and stimulated much discussion.

The grizzlies attracted many Dawson locals and perhaps accounted for the fact that 33% of the Yukon visitors were from Dawson.

MERLIN FALCONS - Between Campsite 8 and the Klondike River, a pair of Merlins raised a family of 4, with 3 surviving. The falcons were spotted by staff at the beginning of the contract and provided many viewing opportunities until mid-August. People were fascinated watching the aerial transfers of food, the growing young and their attempts at learning to fly. The campground usually has a family of American Kestrels, not Merlins, but the Kestrels did not successfully raise young this year. The female was found dead in the nest box in July.

HAWK-OWL - On August 20, a few days after the Merlins left, a Hawk-Owl became a temporary resident of the campground and was viewed daily until the end of the contract. It was often perched within sight of the Centre which meant that a scope could be set up inside and provide a viewing opportunity in a comfortable setting on rainy days.

OTHER SIGHTINGS - Two cow moose were viewed together on two occasions on the ridge across the highway. Two caribou were seen on the same ridge one day.

The government-supplied, 25-power spotting scope was kept at the Centre for these viewings; however, whenever the contractor was not away on the raptor survey, her 20- to 45-power spotting scope was used and provided far superior wildlife viewing. A 45-power scope is almost a necessity at the Centre and should be purchased.

4.5.4 Guest Speakers

Appendix I shows that two guest speakers gave talks at the Interpretive Centre this season. Conservation Officers Tony Grabowski and Ken Knudsen brought bear hides, skulls and berry samples to accompany their discussions on bears.

If more Renewable Resources experts were scheduled to give talks, it would be of great benefit to Dempster Highway travellers. If possible, guest speakers and the dates they are available should be arranged before the beginning of the season as it is difficult to communicate with them while working in this remote area.

4.5.5 Audiovisual Presentations

For the first time, a television and VCR were set up in the Interpretive Centre. In past years, films were shown in the outdoor cooking shelter but the time-consuming task of closing in the shelter with black plastic and the many problems that accompanied it made the staff this season decide to experiment with video presentations. Videos could be shown on demand any time during the day no matter what the weather.

To provide a good interpretive experience, the quality of the videos must be high. Three videos were obtained from the Yukon Government's Audio Visual Unit but there was no time to preview them and they proved to be of average quality. They were shown on request 30 times to 114 people (Appendix I). Parts of each video were of interest to visitors but there are undoubtedly more valuable videos available. The Audio Visual Unit's catalogue lists a few wildlife videos that might be worth previewing. Some do not have public performance rights, however, and all videos are only available on short-term loan. They also have to be ordered well in advance to guarantee summer availability. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the use of the VCR should be considered in future years for its convenience and interpretive value.

4.5.6 Hiker Registration

This service was again provided this year and was very reassuring to the 15 wilderness hiking groups/individuals that filled out the form (see sample in Appendix J). To complement this service, a radio is required in the Interpretive Centre. This year, there was a delay in receiving all of the necessary radio parts and a hiker emergency in July became more complicated than was necessary or acceptable; however, the parts eventually arrived and the radio was made operational.

There were many requests for information on local hiking. The Interpretive Centre has no guide for hikers and the staff could only point out Walter Lanz's book Along the Dempster as a reference guide. There were numerous follow-up complaints. Apparently, many of Lanz's suggested routes have become very overgrown since the writing of his book.

For hiker safety and assistance, the contractor purchased several topographic maps of the area for resale at cost. These were a popular item and it is suggested that a stock of the following be kept in the Centre:

- (1) 1:250,000 Topo map 116B-116C DAWSON
or
- (2) Photocopies of pieced-together 1:50,000 topo maps of the area. The Tombstone Range requires the use of two maps but a photocopy of the entire area would require the piecing together of four maps.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of the recommendations made in Section 4.0:

1. Keep the Centre open for as many hours as possible per day. If the length of season is to remain at 67 days for 1991, it is recommended that the Centre be open daily from mid-June to mid-August.
2. An interpretive event, such as a guided or self-guided walk should be made available to bus tour passengers.
3. To more accurately record visitor place of origin, a "Number in Party" column could be added to the Guest Book.
4. The new kiosk at the Dempster Corner should advertise the Interpretive Centre and the availability of travelogues so that a higher percentage of highway travellers visit the Centre on their northbound trip rather than waiting until travelling south.
5. The Interpretive Centre needs more shelving for displays, a chest of drawers for supplies, a small table with chairs for visitors using the reference materials and several stacking chairs for video viewing.
6. The following reference books must be purchased for the 1991 season:
 - Along the Dempster, by Walter Lanz
 - The Dempster, by George Calef
 - Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska & NW Canada, by John Trelawny
 - Birds by the Dempster Highway, by Robert Frisch
 - a better bird book than Guide to the Birds of Alaska
 - a better mushroom book than Guide to Western Mushrooms, by J.E. Underhill
7. Add more photographs to the Birds of the Dempster display.
8. Make a proper sign describing the contents of the Gyrfalcon display, including a credit to Tony Grabowski.

9. Update the Travelogue and make one available to all visitors, including those arriving after hours.
10. As a local conservation officer expressed concern that the Wildlife Sighting Board was being used by hunters and was possibly affecting the population of big game animals, this issue should be addressed by Renewable Resources before the 1991 season.
11. Encourage the Parks Department to upgrade the game trails leading from Tombstone Campground.
12. Provide weatherproof identification labels for the self-guided flower walk and perhaps label other flowers, shrubs and trees throughout the campground.
13. Purchase a high-powered (45X) scope for the Centre.
14. If 16-mm films are to be shown in the cooking shelter, a permanent system of blinds is required, as stated in previous reports.
15. For hiker safety, topographic maps or photocopies of top maps should be for sale in the Centre.

PART II - DEMPSTER RAPTOR RESEARCH PROJECT 1990

6.0 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of this project is to monitor and record the activities of falcons, eagles and other raptors that inhabit the Dempster Highway region.

The person carrying out this project is also responsible for providing roadside and campground interpretation of raptors, other wildlife and points of interest along the Dempster Highway.

7.0 METHODOLOGY

On July 5, the contractor took part in an orientation tour of the raptor nesting areas and nest box sites along the Dempster Highway. The tour was led by Dave Mossop, Senior Small Game Biologist, YTG.

Because the government truck's camper was not available for use this year, the contractor contacted the Highways Department at Ogilvie Camp and obtained permission to store a small trailer within the compound. Using this trailer as accommodation as well as a base camp, the contractor located all of the accessible peregrine, gyrfalcon, golden eagle and bald eagle nests. The young were monitored for their number, survival rate, fledging date and any other pertinent data. The nest boxes were visited once. Detailed records were kept and supplied to Dave Mossop.

The roadside and campground interpretation was carried out by setting up a spotting scope whenever wildlife viewing opportunities were available.

8.0 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

8.1 RAPTOR SURVEY

Approximately twenty days were spent performing the duties of the raptor survey and roadside interpretation between July 4 and August 14 (Appendix K). More days would have been required if the contract had started mid-June as in previous years.

Detailed records have been filed with Dave Mossop and this section of the report will serve to briefly summarize the season's activities.

8.1.1 Large Raptors

The contractor supplied her own 20-45X spotting scope, binoculars and window mount for the scope. The 25X scope provided by the government was inadequate for the interpreter and for the public. An advantage of using a powerful scope is the ability to distinguish individual birds, particularly Peregrine Falcons. For example, the colouring and feather patterns can vary from one Peregrine to another and it was determined that the lone Peregrine observed at Ogilvie Camp was not one of the breeding pairs under observation at other sites. An interested person, over a few seasons, might be able to identify several individual falcons and follow their progress over the years to accumulate more in-depth data about the nature of these rare birds.

Peregrines were identified and monitored at five locations. A male and female were spotted at four of these sites but only three pairs fledged young this year. A total of six young fledged between July 25 and August 7. The Sapper Hill Peregrine did not appear to produce young this year. This may have been due to the daily blasting across the highway that visibly distressed them each time.

Of the three Gyrfalcon sites, all produced young, with at least seven having fledged. Two of the sites were visited just

once and two young were seen at each but since the young had already left the nest, there could have been more. The final Gyrfalcon site was visited several times. Two young fledged before July 5 and the third one a few days later.

Two pairs of Golden Eagles raised young successfully this year and their nests were visited frequently. At one site, two young survived and fledged the second week in August, approximately two weeks later than the single nestling at the second site.

Any vehicle stopping close to a nest site caused disturbance to raptors and this was particularly noticeable with regards to the falcons. Often, one of the adults would become agitated and fly over the interpreter and other viewers. This problem became exacerbated after the young fledged. When the adult came into view, the young anticipated a food transfer and when this did not occur, they chased and attacked the adult. For this reason, once the falcons had fledged, the length of stay of the interpreter and the amount of roadside interpretive work were cut back or in some instances, halted. More time was then spent doing interpretive work on the Sapper Hill Peregrines from Engineer Creek Campground where the distance from the cliffs was greatest and least interruptive.

8.1.2 Nest Boxes

Ten nest boxes plus one owl platform were checked once each this season. Seven of the ten boxes showed signs of occupancy although only four families of young were confirmed and all were American Kestrels (Km 115, 202, 205 and 208). The other three "occupied" boxes revealed a dead female Kestrel plus two eggs (Km 72.5, Tombstone Campground), two abandoned eggs of unknown origin and of different types (Km 125) and recent Boreal Owl castings that perhaps indicated that the young had already left the nest by July 5 (Km 241.4). The owl platform was not occupied this year. These findings are summarized in Table 9.

TABLE 9

NEST BOX DATA

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Notes</u>
Km 72.5	n/a	n/a	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	Dead female plus 2 eggs in box
Km 105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Just moss in nest
Km 115	AMKE	AMKE	-	AMKE	BOOW	AMKE	AMKE	5 young born
Km 125	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	2 eggs abandoned
Km 147	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	-	?	?	Not checked
Km 202	BOOW	AMKE	AMKE	-	-	NOFL	AMKE	5 young born
Km 205	AMKE	AMKE	?	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	AMKE	Young not counted
Km 208	-	BUFF	AMKE	AMKE	-	AMKE	AMKE	5 young born
Km 211	BOOW	-	BOOW	AMKE	?	BOOW	-	Squirrel seen leaving box
Km 226.5	?	-	-	-	-	NOFL	-	Interior appeared never used
Km 233	?	-	-	?	-	?	?	Not checked
Km 235.5	-	-	-	-	HOOW	GGOW	-	Owl platform empty
Km 241.4	?	-	-	-	-	-	BOOW?	Recent castings seen in box as though young had already left by July 5

KEY: n/a - not applicable as nest box not in place
 -- - nest empty
 ? - occupancy unknown

In 1989, seven of the nine boxes checked showed signs of occupancy. The owl platform had been used by a Great Gray Owl that subsequently abandoned the site.

The roof of the box at Km 241.4 was damaged while inspecting the contents and needs to be fixed for the 1991 season. The dead Kestrel and the two eggs were removed from the box at Km 72.5.

Since some of the nest boxes are located in trees with few branches suitable for climbing, a ladder would be helpful.

8.2 ROADSIDE AND CAMPGROUND INTERPRETATION

Of the 20 days spent on the raptor survey, 16 also included roadside interpretation and/or interpretation at Engineer Creek Campground. Appendix K shows that 244 people were contacted during this period. Also, there was frequent contact with the Highways' crew at Ogilvie Camp.

As well as setting up a scope on the highway at various raptor and other wildlife sites, a scope was often set up in Engineer Creek Campground to give interpretive talks on the Sapper Hill Peregrines, answer Dempster-related questions and hand out travelogues to the travellers who had not stopped at the Interpretive Centre on their way north. More time was spent at the campground than on the highway near the end of the raptor survey due to several days of rain. The muddy roads made roadside interpretation impossible. These visits to the campground were so successful that it is recommended that more of them be integrated into the interpretive program next year. As the campground is usually empty midday, these visits are best scheduled for later in the day.

In past reports, it was noted that it was often difficult to get tourists to stop. Signs set up near the government vehicle were not very successful (only a 41% success rate in 1988). As a result,

the interpreter decided to not use the signs this year and instead, flagged vehicles down. Even police vehicles and other government vehicles were flagged down. Of the 77 vehicles, all but two pulled over.

Besides allowing for a highly successful pullover rate, the flagging of vehicles had two other important advantages. Firstly, it allowed the interpreter to choose a convenient time for interpretive talks so that the talks did not interfere with her raptor research. Secondly, people were almost always guaranteed to view something interesting in the scope. Vehicles were not stopped when the wildlife disappeared from sight unless it was expected to return shortly.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All staff should accompany the Renewable Resources' representatives on the Dempster orientation drive, not just the raptor surveyor.
2. A powerful and versatile spotting scope (ie. 20-45X zoom), an easily-maneuvred tripod and a good set of binoculars should be provided by the government for the raptor survey and roadside interpretive work.
3. To encourage highway travellers to pull over for roadside interpretive talks, vehicles should be flagged down. The use of the Nature Talk signs is inefficient.
4. Engineer Creek Campground should be visited whenever possible, particularly later in the day, in order to provide valuable services such as peregrine viewing through the scope, answering travellers' questions and distributing travelogues.
5. After the young falcons have fledged, roadside interpretation should be reduced or even halted, depending on the proximity of the nest to the road.
6. A ladder would be an asset when inspecting some of the nest boxes.

WEATHER: Sunny & warm

OPENED: 9:35⁰ a.m.

SAMPLE OF DAILY SHEET

CLOSED: 8:15 p.m.

VISITORS IN THE CENTRE
(including bus tours)

BUS TOUR INFO (time, bus name, no. of people)
EVENT INFO (time, type, no. of people)

9	//	
10	### IIII	10:35 Rainbow Tours (2 + driver) Gave travelogue to driver
11	### ###	
12	### ### ### ### //	
1	###	
2	### ### III	
3	### IIII	
4	### IIII	
5	### III	
6	### ### I	
7	###	
8		(103) not counting people who came back a 2nd & 3rd time during the day!

Travelogues out - ### ### I
Travelogues returned - ### ### ### III

Little girl came in with a butterfly & we identified it as a Mourning Cloud; beautiful. She drew it, coloured it here & copied info onto a sheet

- Opened early for a couple from Vermont.
- Many people ask us to suggest a nice 1/2-hr. to 1-hr. trail near the campsite. The only one we have is the Klondike River trail between campsites 13 & 14; however, many people (especially the young & old) find it too overgrown to enjoy
- Gerry from Highways arrived this morning with firewood (terrible quality of cottonwood) & did a major cleanup of the campground including the toilets, individual campsites & the shelter. The cleanup and firewood were long overdue, as has been the case most of the summer.
- 5 members of the Precipine Caribou Management Board dropped in on their way to a meeting in Atlatlat. Brian Pelchat, Ren Resources
- Diamond Tooth Gattie stopped in on her way to Eagle Plains Lodge Great visit!
- 3 sheep hides were seen in a gravel pit 5 miles south of Rock Creek Camp ground. Probably poached this spring. No heads. Remember to report to Wildlife (on outside of house)

APPENDIX B

DAILY VISITOR STATISTICS ACCORDING TO TRAVELLER TYPE

			<u>Initial Visitor</u>	<u>Return Visitor*</u>	<u>Bus Traveller</u>	<u>Total</u>
June	29	F	36			36
	30	S	44			44
July	1	S	55		25	80
	2	M	53			53
	3	T	39			39
	4	W	24	7		31
	5	T	38	5	3	46
	6	F	23	17	60	100
	7	S	40	12		52
	8	S	41	3	2	46
	9	M	30	6		36
	10	T	51	2		53
	11	W	38	4		42
	12	T	40	10	14	64
	13	F	45	24	28	97
	14	S	38	11	16	65
	15	S	50	12	34	96
	16	M	29	8		37
	17	T	54		28	82
	18	W	29	14		43
	19	T	37	6		43
	20	F	34	8		42
	21	S	34	2		36
	22	S	54	3	40	97
	23	M	49	9		58
	24	T	38	10		58
	25	W	36	4		40
	26	T	33	12	7	52
	27	F	44	2		46
	28	S	44	8		52
	29	S	57	7		64
	30	M	25	8		33
	31	T	30	11	15	56
Aug.	1	W	55	3		58
	2	T	34	12		46
	3	F	59	11		70
	4	S	20	14		34
	5	S	47	5	37	89
	6	M	40	7		47
	7	T	65	6		71
	8	W	67	3		70
	9	T	58	12		70
	10	F	31	16	3	50
	11	S	48	9		57
	12	S	67	33	3	103
	13	M	62	2	4	68

		<u>Initial Visitor</u>	<u>Return Visitor*</u>	<u>Bus Traveller</u>	<u>Total</u>
g.	14	T	63	10	73
	15	W	41	19	60
	16	T	63	10	77
	17	F	18	14	32
	18	S	38	9	47
	19	S	15	9	24
	20	M	53	11	64
	21	T	21	10	51
	22	W	22	5	27
	23	T	28	5	33
	24	F	24	9	41
	25	S	17	3	20
	26	S	14	9	35
	27	M	18	5	44
	28	T	33	1	34
	29	W	23	8	34
	30	T	17	6	23
	31	F	15	2	17
pt.	1	S	19	13	32
	2	S	28	12	40
	3	M	30		30
			<u>2,565</u>	<u>523</u>	<u>3,480</u>
				<u>392</u>	<u>3,480</u>

Return Visit means visitors who are returning to the Interpretive Centre on the return leg of their journey.

APPENDIX D

BUS TOUR GROUP STATISTICS

		<u>Time</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
July	1 Sun	10:00 am	Northbound	20	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	1 Sun	10:50 am	Northbound	5	Rainbow Tours
	5 Thur	1:45 pm	Southbound	3	Rainbow Tours
	6 Fri	noon	Northbound	20	Goway Travel
	6 Fri	3:30 pm	Southbound	40	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	8 Sun	10:00 am	Northbound	2	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	8 Sun	5:00 pm	Northbound	-	Rainbow Tours (empty)
	12 Thur	5:10 pm	Southbound	14	Rainbow Tours
	13 Fri	10:10 am	?	28	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	14 Sat	9:50 am	Northbound	16	Golden Arrow
	15 Sun	10:00 am	Northbound	34	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	17 Tue	10:00 am	Northbound	28	Tour bus from Germany
	22 Sun	10:20 am	Northbound	37	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	22 Sun	10:50 am	Northbound	3	Rainbow Tours
	26 Thur	3:00 pm	Southbound	7	Rainbow Tours
	31 Tue	10:00 am	Northbound	15	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
Aug.	5 Sun	10:00 am	Northbound	37	Atlas Tours (Horizon)
	10 Fri	6:45 pm	Southbound	3	Gold City Tours
	12 Sun	10:30 am	Northbound	3	Rainbow Tours
	13 Mon	7:00 pm	Southbound	4	Gold City Tours
	16 Thur	3:00 pm	Southbound	4	Rainbow Tours
	21 Tue	10:45 am	Northbound	20	Rainbow Tours
	23 Thur	12:40 pm	?	5	Rainbow Tours
	24 Fri	10:00 am	Northbound	8	Coast Mountain Photography
	26 Sun	10:00 am	Northbound	4	Gold City Tours
	26 Sun	10:15 am	Northbound	8	Rainbow Tours
	27 Mon	1:00 pm	Northbound	14	German bus tour (students)
	27 Mon	4:40 pm	?	7	Bus tour from Vancouver
	29 Wed	12:30 pm	?	<u>3</u>	Rainbow Tours

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Atlas Tours (Horizon) - Skagway/Inuvik/Skagway

Rainbow Tours - Whitehorse/Inuvik/Whitehorse

Goway Travel - Normally a Vancouver to Alaska excursion but fire at Tok diverted them

Golden Arrow - Edmonton/Inuvik/Edmonton (trial run this summer)

Gold City Tours - Dawson/Inuvik/Dawson

Coast Mountain Photography - annual Vancouver/Inuvik/Vancouver trip

German bus tours - Whitehorse/Inuvik/Whitehorse

Note: Atlas, Rainbow, Golden Arrow and Gold City change passengers in Inuvik.

APPENDIX E

REFERENCE BOOK LIBRARY

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
Part of the Land, Part of the Water	Catharine McClellan
Second Nature	Alan Herscovici
Guide to Indian Herbs	Raymond Stark
Canada's Colonies	Kenneth Coates
Alaska's Wilderness Medicines	Eleanor Viereck
Peterson Field Guides	
Trees and Shrubs	Petrides
Animal Tracks	Murie
Western Butterflies	Tilden/Smith
Western Birds' Nests	Harrison
Mosses, Lichens & Ferns of North- western North America	Vitt
Guide to Western Mushrooms	J.E. Underhill
Bear Attacks	Herrero
Harvesting the Northern Wild	Walker
Alaska Wild Berry Guide and Cookbook	
Rivers of the Yukon	Madsen/Wilson
Yukon Mammal Series	YTG
Guide to the Birds of Alaska	Robert Armstrong
Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska & Northwestern Canada	John Trelawny
The Mad Trapper of Rat River	Dick North
The Best of Robert Service	
The Lost Patrol	Dick North
NEED FOR 1991:	
Along the Dempster	Walter Lanz
The Dempster	George Calef
Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska & NW Canada (binding is broken on Centre's copy)	John Trelawny
Birds by the Dempster Highway	Robert Frisch
ALSO:	
- a better book on mushrooms than Guide to Western Mushrooms	
- a better book on birds than Guide to the Birds of Alaska	

APPENDIX F

TRAVELOGUE IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS*

- Coordinate kilometre details with highway kilometre signs (even though the highway signs are inaccurate).
- Correct outdated information (ie. no survival shack at Km 80 anymore).
- Correct grammar and spelling errors.
- Indicate key viewing areas with signposts or some form of numbering system tourists can follow along on paper.
- Km 258 - Record rest area, pit toilets, excellent view.
- Km 221 - Record rest area pullout at Ogilvie River.
- Give more details about pingos.
- Km 398 - Indicate what size the mudboils are in their description.
- Bald eagle nest (Km 214) is actually at Km 212. Many tourists could not locate it. Indicate that it is in a tree. Some expected it to be on the ground.
- More information and sites should be recorded re: northern section of the Dempster.
- "Can you put in more information on rocks available for rockhounds?"
- Seismic lines (Km 252) - What does "lines cut through the long part" mean?
- How old are the trees further north (ie. Km 270 plus)?
- Seismic lines (Km 252) - a geologist said this was an incorrect term.
- At 85 km from Inuvik (just past Ringling River), was there a fire or did the trees just die off? Same thing at Km 209 & 210.
- What are the growths near the top of some spruce trees? Answer: a rust called Dwarf Mistletoe that is endemic in this area
- Mention that the difference between glaciated and unglaciated land is more obvious going southbound than northbound.
- Discuss stratifications in cliffs south of Wright Pass summit.
- What is the small mound at approximately Km 468 on west side just south of Yukon/NWT border?

- Km 133 - discuss Native grave marker.
- What mountains are at Km 139?
- Make a cassette travelogue that tells you what features to look for and at what kilometre to turn the cassette back on for the next comment.
- Add the Milepost's information to the travelogue to make it more complete.
- Cornwall River Campground is actually Rock Creek Campground.
- Signs to more mountains and special heights would be helpful.
- "You capture our curiosity about the Mad Trapper re: Km 373. Now tell us why he was wanted by the RCMP."
- Indicate that one of the best panoramas of the Peel River Valley is at the rest stop at approximately Km 259.
- Km 158-219 - what are the occasional black seams--coal, oil-rich shale, asbestos, or what?
- Km 247-275 - what are the names of some of these tundra plants?
- Km 302-333 - "It appears we travel through two different burns--one a ghost forest with new scrub and the other a burn mosaic with little or no new growth. What are the dates of these two fires? How long does it take a spruce forest to recover in this environment? What are some of the variables which create "hot" and "cool" spots in the burn?"
- Km 373 - In geological time, how long has it taken the Eagle River to create this cut?
- Km 158, 199 etc. - Is the black covering on undisturbed limestone a lichen?
- Km 403 - What is the meaning of "Arctic Circle"?
- Km 405 - Are we seeing animal paths in the talus slopes on hill-sides? If so, what animals?
- Km 445 - What are the bright pink mineral deposits exposed on the river bluffs?
- Km 470 - What is the significance of Wright Pass?
- Km 470 - What are the hardy plants attempting to climb the mountain-sides?
- Give names of most common roadside summer flowers by colour--god idea to do this for each ecological area. Refer to Page 41 of Inuvik Visitors' Guide 1990.

- Re: Tombstone Mountain Range, describe cirques, arretes and horns.
- What is the difference between tors and screes?
- Give more information on forest growth.
- List the airstrips and their use.

* Note: All of these questions and suggestions were submitted in writing by Dempster Highway travellers.

APPENDIX H

WILDLIFE SIGHTING BOARD ENTRIES

Fox	86
Raptors	66
Moose	64
Dall's sheep	51
Grizzly bear	49
Other birds	42
Wolf	33
Black bear	31
Caribou	30
Beaver	8
Rabbit	4
Bear *	3
Porcupine	3
Wolverine	2
Weasel	2
Lynx	2
Coyote	2
Marten	2
Lemming	1
Squirrel	1
Cougar	1
Muskrat	1
Vole	<u>1</u>
	485

* Black or Grizzly not
indicated on board

APPENDIX I

INTERPRETIVE CENTRE PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>No.</u>
June 30	Merlin viewing & talk (Campsite 6)	7:30 am	.5	2
July 1	Merlin viewing & talk (Campsite 6)	7:30 pm	.5	10
6	Nature walk - Klondike River	1:30 pm	.8	2
7	Nature walk - Klondike River	11:15 am	.8	7
8	Guided hike - Ridge Route	5:30 pm	.8	2
9	Guided hike - Ridge Route	2:00 pm	2.5	8
11	Guided hike - no one interested	8:00 pm		0
12	Dempster Highway Road Reconnaissance video shown to Ogilvie Highways Camp crew	9:00 pm	.5	10
13	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	8:30 pm	2.5	9
15	Merlin viewing & talk (Campsite 6)	8:00 am	.8	6
15	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	3:30 pm	1.0	3
18	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	8:00 pm	1.5	4
20	Nature walk - south of campground	noon	.5	2
20	Nature walk - Klondike River to start of Lil Creek Canyon	8:00 pm	1.0	1
21	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	8:30 pm	2.0	2
22	Nature walk - south of campground	11:00 am	.5	8
22	Merlin viewing & talk (Campsite 8)	8:00 pm	.8	12
23	Flower walk at campground	4:00 pm	.3	7
23	Nature walk - Klondike River & Merlin viewing & talk (Camp. 8)	8:15 pm	2.0	10
25	Flower walk at campground	7:30 pm	.3	2
26	Campfire talk on Bears & Sheep Guest speaker - Tony Grabowski	8:00 pm	2.0	7
27	Grizzly viewing & talk	2:00 pm	?	?
29	Grizzly viewing with campfire talk & refreshments	2:30 pm	6.0	38
Aug. 1	Grizzly viewing & talk	noon	.5	6
3	White fireweed viewing - S. on hwy.	2:00 pm	.3	8
3	Grizzly viewing & talk	6:00 pm	1.0	15
5	Grizzly viewing & talk	3:00 pm	1.0	15
5	Grizzly viewing & talk	5:15 pm	1.3	17
5	Merlin viewing & talk	9:30 pm	.5	3
6	Nature walk - south of campground	8:30 am	.5	2
6	Grizzly viewing & talk	9:00 am	1.0	13
7	Caribou viewing & talk	4:00 am	.3	5
8	Grizzly viewing & talk	10:00 am	1.5	24
9	Nature walk in campground	4:00 pm	.5	4
10	Grizzly viewing & talk	2:15 pm	.5	5
10	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	8:30 pm	1.5	7
11	White fireweed viewing - S. on hwy.	1:45 pm	.3	6
11	Bear talk by guest speaker Ken Knudsen	3:30 pm	.5	5
13	White fireweed viewing - S. on hwy.	11:40 am	.3	4
13	Nature walk along Klondike River	3:30 pm	1.5	9

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>No.</u>
Aug. 15	Guided hike - rained out	8:30 pm		0
17	Guided hike - campground empty	6:30 pm		0
20	White fireweed viewing - S. on hwy.	2:00 pm	.3	3
20	Hawk-Owl viewing & talk	7:30 pm	.5	4
20	Guided hike - rained out	8:00 pm		0
21	Golden Eagle viewing - North Fork	1:00 pm	1.0	4
25	Guided hike - Honeymoon Pit	2:00 pm	1.0	1
28	Golden Eagle viewing - North Fork	1:00 pm	1.0	0
28	Golden Eagle viewing - North Fork	8:30 pm	1.0	1
30	Hawk-Owl viewing & talk	10:30 am	.5	<u>6</u>
				309

APPENDIX J

TOMBSTONE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Hiker Registration Form

Name(s): Rod Steinacher
Noreen Steinacher
Patricia Stang.

Contact person: Eric + Judy Stang
Whitehorse.

Departure date/time: Aug. 2 / 90.

Latest expected return time: Aug. 5 / 90.

Intended hiking route: North Klondike River valley
to Tombstone Pass + return.

(driving brown Tarus wagon
→ RTL-5 (Yukon).)

Other notes: Back at Centre 3PM, Aug 4th

APPENDIX K

RAPTOR SURVEY & INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

		<u>Vehicles Stopped</u>	<u>No. of People</u>
July	4		
	5		
	8		
	10	6	19
	11	6	13
	12	7	26
	13		
	15	12	31
	17		1
	18		1
	19	2	5
	24	4	9
	25		8
	26	11	33
	30	6	19
Aug.	1	8	22
	2	6	16
	7	1	16
	8		
	14	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
		75	244