



SEX AND AGE STRUCTURE OF THE LADOGA RINGED SEAL (*PUSA HISPIDA LADOGENSIS* NORDQUIST, 1899) HERDS IN SUMMER HAUL-OUTS AT VALAAM ARCHIPELAGO ISLANDS

E.V. Agafonova, M.V. Sokolovskaya, V.U. Shakhnazarova

Leningrad Zoo, St. Petersburg, Russia

Summer relaxation haul-outs of Ladoga ringed seals at islands of the Valaam Archipelago were studied in 1999-2009. In most cases, only adults were observed at the haul-outs in the study area. Pups, recorded only in singular cases, make up less than 1% of the total number of the hauling-out seals. In June, the majority of the hauling-out seals were males (on the average, 70% of the total number of the hauling-out seals). Apparently, there are no strict hierarchical relations among Ladoga ringed seals in summer haul outs sites. Both females and pups can occupy the most attractive sites.



SOME PECULIARITIES OF THE ECOLOGY AND ABUNDANCE DYNAMICS OF WILLOW PTARMIGAN IN EAST EUROPEAN TUNDRAS

V.V. Anufriev

*Institute for Ecological Problems of the North, RAS Ural Division,
Arkhangelsk, Russia*

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) populations in East European tundras are noted for long-term cyclic variations of the abundance. In 1994-1997 total numbers of the birds in the tundras declined, in 1998 - 2008 – grew. In high abundance periods, the core of the Willow