hare, wild boar, moose, roe deer). In discussing the results of acclimatization we have attempted to identify the time when the introduced species populations entered the "acclimation outbreak" stage, to determine the reasons for introduction success or failure.

SOME RESULTS OF GAME STUDIES IN AREAS ON THE BORDER BETWEEN RUSSIA AND FINLAND

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Zoological investigations in border areas of Russia and Finland have for many years been very intensive on both sides. They are necessitated by continuous exchange of animals in border areas, in spite of the so-called technical engineering facilities line (on the Russian side) and so-called deer fence (northern areas on the Finnish side), and their further expansion in-depth of both Russian and Finnish territory. Thus, the new mammal species we have recently "received" from Finland is the Canadian beaver, "in exchange for" the raccoon dog. Another new species – American mink, has equally succeeded in colonizing both sides of the border, and forced the native European mink out. Roe deer started expanding from the Karelian Isthmus, Leningrad Region, to resettle in Finland. Wild boar has also arrived in Finland from the Karelian Isthmus and from the Karelian part of south-western Ladoga area. The white-tailed deer – a species new for the Palaearctic region, has been sighted in the Karelian Isthmus (vagrants from Finland).

The most precious "gift" from us to Finland has been resettlement of the taiga reindeer. Joint research into the ecology of its seasonal movements, condition of the pastures, etc. is underway. The dynamics

of game abundance and distribution are also being continuously monitored. The activities include annual inventories of birds and animals following a uniform procedure, and provide baseline materials for working out of coordinated game population management programmes and plans.

THE BIOLOGY OF THE BREEDING SEASON IN THE WOLVERINE (*GULO GULO* L.)

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The biology of the breeding period in the wolverine can be described as follows: a female that has come into estrus starts extensive marking of her territory, using all her scent glands, urine and feces. Her vulva becomes read and swollen. In three to twelve days a sexually mature male becomes sexually active, and the partners start playing mating games, which end in the male mounting the female. While holding the female by the nape of her neck with his teeth, the male copulates and freezes in a lock for ten to fifteen minutes, and sometimes for up to 50 minutes. The animals mate for several days, up to a week. The female's vulva remains swollen and brightly colored for up to three weeks, and during all this time the female is potentially ready to mate, but the female who has been bred stops letting the male approach her after seven to eight days. On rare occasions the vulva remains swollen for up to five weeks, indicating the potential readiness of the female to mate. The male remains potent for over a month, and during this time he is able to mate with several females. The