



DISTRIBUTION OF SIBERIAN FLYING SQUIRREL IN TYUMEN REGION

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Siberian flying squirrel (*Pteromys volans volans* L., 1758) or *pal'-ur* (from Komi language) and *tovlyn lenyn* (from Mansi language) has been little studied in the region. No Pleistocene fossils of this species have been found in Tyumen Region. Flying squirrel now occurs throughout the region's forest zone. The northernmost records of this species come from Sidorovsk village on the Taz River and from the Synya River basin. It is very likely flying squirrel can get further north via forests along rivers. The southern limit of its distribution is the southern boundary of sub-taiga, where it was recorded near Antipino village, in Uspensky Bor forest, in Tavda River basin. It is also known from Yalutorovsky District, along the Yurga River. The "Catalogue of mammals of the USSR" (1981) mentioned the subspecies *P. v. gubari* Ognev, 1934, which inhabited forest-steppe areas of Western Siberia and Northern Kazakhstan, but occurred locally in forest sites south of the Tyumen Region borders. Siberian flying squirrel is rare everywhere in the region, but may locally show high abundances (Sabun River basin). In 2007-2009, we carried out pioneer investigations to estimate flying squirrel abundance in middle taiga and sub-taiga of Tyumen Region. The method of faeces count was used (Hanski 1998). All in all, 32 sites (9 - in middle taiga and 23 - in sub-taiga) were surveyed. Flying squirrel presence was detected in 28.1% of the observed sites (22.2% - in middle taiga and 30.4% - in sub-taiga). All habitats were in the transition zone from a water divide to a floodplain or a mire. As a rule, these transition zones were sparsely vegetated. The species has also been recorded from a forest park in Tyumen City. The faeces were found on birch (62.5%), as



well as on aspen, spruce and linden (12.5% each). Siberian flying squirrel was constantly present in the dwelling areas monitored from 2007 to 2009.



DABBLING DUCKS (*ANAS*) IN LAPLAND BIOSPHERE RESERVE AND ADJACENT ANTHROPOGENIC LANDSCAPES OF THE KOLA PENINSULA IN 1970-2009

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Four species of dabbling ducks (*Anas*) had been known in Lapland Nature Reserve in 1930-1960s. The most common ones were Teal *Anas crecca* and Wigeon *Anas penelope*, “rather rare” were Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Pintail *Anas acuta*. Later on, vagrant and nesting Shoveler *Anas clypeata* and vagrant Garganey *Anas querquedula* and Gadwall *Anas strepera* were noted.

In the period from 1970 to 2009, mean density of Mallard was 0.8 birds per 10 km of coastline (*lim* 0-2.5, $\sigma = 0.6$), that of Teal - 1.9 (*lim* 0.3-4.8, $\sigma = 1.1$), of Wigeon - 0.5 (*lim* = 0-2.1, $\sigma = 0.5$). Pintail was observed in the reserve away from survey routes annually until 1986, and only in 3 seasons thereafter. Shoveler was sighted in 8 seasons during this period, Garganey – in 2 seasons. Mallard numbers increased 6 times, Teal numbers dropped 2 times, Wigeon abundance remained stable.

Mallard abundance weakly correlated with Wigeon abundance ($R = 0.33$; $p < 0.05$). No correlations were found between the numbers of Mallard and Teal, or Teal and Wigeon. The Mallard numbers have been growing since the early 1980s, in agreement with the emergence and rise of urban populations of Mallard in Murmansk Region. Teal abundance was the highest in 1970 – 1978. It then remained quite stable