SPACING PATTERNS AND ANNUAL RANGE USE OF CAPERCAILLIE AND BLACK GROUSE IN PRISTINE TAIGA FOREST

O. Hjeljord¹, A. Sivkov², P. Wegge¹, J. Rolstad¹

¹Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway; ²Pinega State Reserve, Pinega, Russia

We compare movements and habitat utilization of capercaillie and black grouse on an annual basis in Pinega State Reserve. In both species the birds occurred in separate subpopulations with little overlap and with the lek arena as the centre of yearly activity. In both species males stayed closer to the lek year around than did females. A single lek population of cocks used an annual home range of approximately 40 km² compared to 50 km² for females. Both cocks and hens showed great site fidelity and returned to the same seasonal habitats in consecutive years. Mean distance between cock locations during two consecutive days was approximately 400 m for capercaillie. This is probably best explained as an anti-predation behavior. Density and distribution of black grouse and capercailie are related to landscape features on a large scale and to forest composition on a small scale.



THE POPULATION DYNAMICS OF FINNISH LYNXES – FROM PERIL TO TRIUMPH

K. Holmala

Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

The Finnish population of Eurasian lynxes Lynx lynx has gone through significant changes during only a bit over 100 years. Lynxes