



were extirpated from Finland around 1930's and 1940's. The species was protected from hunting in year 1962 and from thereon the population has been increasing. For a while in 1990's the population size was stable but in recent years we have witnessed a rapid growth in lynx numbers. The current minimum population estimate is around 1905 – 2060 lynxes before the onset of hunting season 2009/2010. The reasons behind the downhill and the rapid recovery of the lynx population will be discussed, especially in relation to hunting and prey populations.



## **ABUNDANCE DYNAMICS OF GEESE ON SPRING PASSAGE IN THE MIDDLE COURSE OF THE OKA RIVER IN 1956-2009**

**V.P. Ivanchev, Yu.V. Kotyukov, N.N. Nikolaev**

*Oksky State Biosphere Reserve, Brykin Bor, Ryazan Region, E-mail:  
ivanchev.obz@mail.ru*

Spring migrations of birds, including Anseriformes, in the middle course of the Oka have been monitored since 1956, and since 1998 the number of birds feeding and resting in the floodplain has been counted periodically 2-4 times in a season. The surveys cover the territory stretching for 60 km along the Oka channel (about 10 500 ha). The monitoring procedure includes daily registration of all birds within sight of the observer within 4 morning hours. Observations continue for one and a half months, from April 1 to May 15. According to counts from the lookout site (LS), an overall upward trend in goose abundance persists in the middle course of the Oka. However, the bird numbers registered at LS in the 2000s are much lower than in the 1990s. A contradictory picture is generated by the comparison of the number of geese sighted at LS and those feeding in the Oka floodplain (within the same time interval). According to observations at LS the number of



geese in 1998-2009 remained stable, whereas according to censuses in the floodplain goose abundance has considerably decreased. At the same time, considerable congestions of up to 10 000-15 000 birds are annually registered near settlements in the floodplain periphery in the pre-departure period, when spring goose hunting has ended. Geese are observed within the "green belts" of the villages of Izhevsk, Ivankovo, and Odoevskaya Ferma of Spassky District, where poachers do not disturb them.

One can conclude that during spring migrations geese are constantly moving in search for good foraging and resting grounds. These movements cover considerable areas both in the floodplain and outside it.



### **ON NESTING OF GRAYLAG GOOSE *ANSER ANSER* ON BOLSHOY AINOV ISLAND (VARANGER-FJORD, BARENTS SEA)**

**N.Yu. Ivanenko**

*Murmansk Marine Biological Institute, 17, Vladimirskaia str., Murmansk,  
183010, Russia*

In the past decades a colony of Graylag Geese *Anser anser* has formed on Bolshoy Ainov Island in the south-eastern part of Varanger-Fjord (69°50'N, 31°34'E, Kandalakshsky Strict Nature Reserve). About 20 pairs nested on the island in 2002, but in 2008 we found and examined 145 nests. The main nesting habitats were areas under *Leymus arenarius* (tussocks), where 49.6 % of all nests were found, and willow *Salix spp.* (scrub) – 39.3 %; less frequently did the birds settle among tundra vegetation – 5.5 %, and on bedrock outcrops – 3.4 %. The geese first occupied scrub, then tussocks, rocks, open tundra spaces, and last – marshes. The density was about 79.9 nests/km<sup>2</sup> in