



MIGRATIONS OF ANSERIFORMES IN PINEZHISKY RESERVE AREA

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The present paper is based on materials from the field work carried out in Pinezhsky strict nature reserve and adjacent areas in 1977 - 2009. There occur 25 Anseriform species in the study area, including 15 breeding species, 6 – passage migrants, and 4 – vagrants. Some changes have taken place over the study period in the species composition, structure and migration dates of some species. Four new species appeared in the passage migrant group: Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Bewick swan (*Cygnus bewickii*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). The Barnacle Goose abundance is gradually growing. This species first appeared there in 1996, sightings have become annual since 2003; in 2003 – 10 to 50 birds, in 2006 – 2 flocks of 100 and 150 birds, on May 22, 2007 – about 1000 Barnacle Geese stayed in flood-plain meadows near the village of Pinega. Arrival of 15 Canada Geese was recorded in Pinega River valley on May 15, 1998. Five adult Mute Swans were noted in Kuloy River flood plain (Kuloysky reserve) on July 13, 1999.

During spring migration geese mainly fly north-eastwards. Goose flocks then stop over to feed in the meadows in Pinega River valley, sometimes forming large aggregations. In autumn, Anseriformes (mainly White-fronted Goose and Bean Goose) pass the area flying high in flocks of up to 350 birds. Autumn migration is mostly directed south-westwards. Massive autumn passage of geese takes place in late September – early October, before snow. Geese fly in a wide strip on different times of the day, both over Pinega River valley and over the reserve territory, 15-20 km away from the valley. The latest massive passage of geese was observed on October 16-17, 1985, and on October 16, 2005 (some 9500 geese, mainly White-fronts, passed within a strip of 500 m between 1 and 2 pm, and intensive passage continued until 6 pm).



Analysis of the materials amassed over 30 years of monitoring enabled tracking changes in the dates of onset and end of migrations of some most common Anseriform species. The onset of spring migration has shifted slightly to earlier dates in Bean Goose and Mallard. The timing of autumn migration in Whooper Swan remained unchanged, whereas in Mallard, Bean Goose and Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) it shifted to later dates.



WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRD STOPOVERS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF LAKE LADOGA AREA: STATE-OF- THE-ART AND THREATS

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The analysis builds on the data gathered over the past decade, including results of fixed-site seasonal observations and short-term observations at various points on the shore and islands of southern Lake Ladoga. Daily monitoring was carried out on the SW shore, near Cape Morjin Nos from April 10 to June 1, 2002, in Petrokrepost' bight close to the Neva River source from September 15 to October 30, 2002, and from March 30 to May 18, 2007, as well as annually from early/mid-April to mid/late October on the SE shore in the Svirskaya Bay (databank of the Ladoga Ornithological Station (LOS)). The results of monitoring at LOS were analysed to select the timing of short-term observations at other sites. Such observations were performed in late April - early May 2004-2009 covering Karedzhi Islands, Zelentsy Islands, Volkhov River mouth, Volkosarskiy Peninsula shore (near the village of Ligovo and Lake Ivanovskoye). Short-term monitoring was carried out every spring, autumn and winter in the SW part of the Petrokrepost' bight.