



The locations of the birds changed in summertime. After staying in bilberry spruce forests along mire margins, close to the lekking site in May and June, Blackcocks in July-August were mainly sighted in dense middle-aged pine-spruce-birch stands formed in the area burnt in 1937. In mid-August, as bilberry ripened, they started moving back to sparser bilberry spruce forests. Males could be seen in flocks all year round, but the number of sightings in flocks was the greatest in the winter season. Females were always encountered in young dense stands, but showed more preference for sites with a higher proportion of birch than males. We have never recorded the presence of other individuals nearby.

According to radio-tracking data, raptors were the cause of a significant mortality rate among adult Black Grouse. The predation pressure is the highest in winter months.



DYNAMICS OF GROUSE NUMBERS IN POKROVSKOYE HUNTING FACILITY, VLADIMIR REGION

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Dynamics of grouse abundance was investigated in Petushinsky District of Vladimir Region in the territory of Pokrovskoye hunting facility from December 2008 to December 2009.

Results of four transect counts, two counts with a decoy, counts of Capercaillie and Black Grouse in leks were analysed. Transect counts covered more than 170 km, and 14 Capercaillie, 30 Black Grouses, 67 Hazel Grouse were registered there.

In the last two years (2008 and 2009), the numbers of Capercaillie and Black Grouse have considerably declined. Capercaillie abundance (vs. 2007) decreased by 57 %, Black Grouse abundance – by 47 %. Hazel Grouse numbers, on the contrary, grew by about 50 % in comparison with 2005 (data from winter transect counts).



A reason for declining Capercaillie and Black Grouse abundance is, i.a., a rise in the numbers of wild boar and raccoon dog.

Thus, an obvious upward tendency in the number of wild boar has been observed in Vladimir Region since 1998. It rose from 1 600 to 12 000 individuals over 11 years. Wild boar abundance in Pokrovskoye hunting facility doubled (from 192 to 365 individuals) over 4 years (from 2006 to 2009).

According to hunting statistics and hunter questionnaires, the numbers of raccoon dog in Pokrovskoye hunting facility are quite high.



MAN AND LARGE PREDATORS IN KARELIA (HISTORY, PUBLIC OPINION, VISIONS)

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The paper discusses the history of coexistence of man and large predaceous mammals in the region since the Neolithic, state-of-the-art and potential development of these interactions. We present original questionnaire-based information indicating the attitudes of people towards the large predators issue, the level of awareness and the sources of information available to people, ideas about the danger these animal pose, preferences in the choice of specialists to deal with population management issues, as well as demand for additional competent information. Published sources, archival data from the Zoology Laboratory of the Institute of Biology, KarRC of RAS, data from questionnaires disseminated in Karelia in 2010 were used in the study.

