



years the number increased from 2,5 (bag statistic) to five (snow track index) times and in 2009 the number has reached the level it has never been before. Quick increase on red fox number was observed in 2009 when the number increased from 1,7 (snow track index) to 2,1 (bag statistics) times. Such a high number of red fox was observed only once before within last 50 years. Scabies (sarcoptic mange) was quickly spread in the abundant populations and became probably one of the most important natural mortality factor of both carnivore populations taking over the previous role of rabies. In 2009 we observed first time a wider spreading of scabies in wolf population while only single observations have been made in the past. We found infections from five different wolf packs and it means that about 20 % of the population was infected. Furthermore, in 2009 we recorded first two cases of scabies from lynx in Estonia. Whilst it's not known how much the sarcoptic mange may increase the natural mortality of wolf it should be seriously considered when planning the wolf management in future.



SEX AND AGE STRUCTURE OF UNGULATE AND BROWN BEAR POPULATIONS IN KARELIA

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We analyse the results of wild ungulates, brown bear and wolf take in Republic of Karelia in the 2009-2010 hunting season. Hunting methods, sex and age structure of the animals taken, hunting intensity by months, effectiveness of hunting in different districts of the republic are discussed.



Ways to make population management more efficient and to simultaneously improve monitoring of the populations are proposed.



IMPORTANCE OF PAs IN THE STUDY, PROTECTION AND REPRODUCTION OF GAME BIRDS AND MAMMALS IN BORDER AREAS

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Pasvik Strict Nature Reserve (founded in 1992, 17 000 ha in area) is a part of the transboundary nature reserve of Russia and Norway. It is situated in the midstream of the border River Paz. The national border between Russia and Norway runs on the water and the reserve territory is therefore continuous. This continuity generates comfortable conditions for studying migrations of birds and animals in the border area. Preservation of biodiversity of this territory is further promoted by the frontier regime in Russia (special technical facilities along the borderline) and the strict nature reserve status. The main output of the 18 years of the reserve's activities is information about the biota from the former almost *terra incognita*. Inventory of birds and mammals has been conducted regularly by the reserve. These materials are indicative of the situation with the game fauna of Northwest Russia. Many factors influence the abundance of populations, but a reduction in human impact is a positive factor. Special regulations are needed to harmonize the National Border Act and the PA Act. At the same time, support from the authorities in the sphere of the international law is needed, especially in what concerns border-crossing by domestic reindeers and wildlife.

