



well as on aspen, spruce and linden (12.5% each). Siberian flying squirrel was constantly present in the dwelling areas monitored from 2007 to 2009.



DABBLING DUCKS (*ANAS*) IN LAPLAND BIOSPHERE RESERVE AND ADJACENT ANTHROPOGENIC LANDSCAPES OF THE KOLA PENINSULA IN 1970-2009

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Four species of dabbling ducks (*Anas*) had been known in Lapland Nature Reserve in 1930-1960s. The most common ones were Teal *Anas crecca* and Wigeon *Anas penelope*, “rather rare” were Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Pintail *Anas acuta*. Later on, vagrant and nesting Shoveler *Anas clypeata* and vagrant Garganey *Anas querquedula* and Gadwall *Anas strepera* were noted.

In the period from 1970 to 2009, mean density of Mallard was 0.8 birds per 10 km of coastline (*lim* 0-2.5, $\sigma = 0.6$), that of Teal - 1.9 (*lim* 0.3-4.8, $\sigma = 1.1$), of Wigeon - 0.5 (*lim* = 0-2.1, $\sigma = 0.5$). Pintail was observed in the reserve away from survey routes annually until 1986, and only in 3 seasons thereafter. Shoveler was sighted in 8 seasons during this period, Garganey – in 2 seasons. Mallard numbers increased 6 times, Teal numbers dropped 2 times, Wigeon abundance remained stable.

Mallard abundance weakly correlated with Wigeon abundance ($R = 0.33$; $p < 0.05$). No correlations were found between the numbers of Mallard and Teal, or Teal and Wigeon. The Mallard numbers have been growing since the early 1980s, in agreement with the emergence and rise of urban populations of Mallard in Murmansk Region. Teal abundance was the highest in 1970 – 1978. It then remained quite stable



and decreased in the 1990s. In the nearby cities of Monchegorsk and Apatity, in addition to Mallard, we observed a tendency for a rise, although not so sharp and manifest only by the late 2000s, in the numbers of Teal and Shoveler, and for a decline – in Pintail.



SCIENTIFIC FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PA NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AS A FACTOR FOR CONSERVATION OF GAME ANIMALS IN EASTERN FENNOSCANDIA

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A team of leading specialists at Karelian Research Centre have prepared and published the “Scientific feasibility study of the development of the network of protected areas in Republic of Karelia” (2009). The study deals with the problem of conserving the biotic diversity – natural objects in Republic of Karelia that are typical, rare, unique, most vulnerable to human impact sites. Provisional basic criteria for PA identification and practical principles for the regional PA network formation were formulated. All the material regarding the qualities of the natural complexes in general and their components are presented in the following order: 1) methodological approaches to and grounds for development of the nature protection network; 2) adequacy of the operating and planned PA network, 3) designation priorities for the coming 5-7 years, 4) problems and potential solutions. Interregional continuity of PA networks is analysed separately. Special focus is on