



Our assumptions concerning the female's rejection of the pups either due to the stress situation and limited space or because of hormonal disorder or individual psychological problem in relation to the offspring shall be either confirmed or disproven late in the year 2010.



BROWN BEAR IN KOSTOMUKSHSKY STRICT NATURE RESERVE

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Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos* L.) that dwells in the nature reserve belong to the nominal subspecies. It is the most common and regularly registered species in the reserve, among four large predators. The other species are registered rarely (Wolverine) or even not annually (Lynx and, especially, Wolf).

During the years of the nature reserve existence, studies of the Brown Bear were conducted within the programme "Chronicles of Nature", and the traditional method of measuring the front paw corn was used. Since 1985, about 160 cards of tracks and visual encounters have been filled in. Drawing upon these data and taking mean density of bears in north-west districts of Karelia into account it was proposed that 10-12 specimens dwell in the territory of the nature reserve.

In 2008, a co-operation agreement between Kostomukshsky Nature Reserve and Bioforsk Soil and Environment Svanhovd (Norway) about joint work aimed on studying of the current status of the Brown Bear population in the Barents region was signed. In the frames of the agreement, in 2008-2009, genetic material, mainly hair, was collected in the territory of the Nature Reserve to be then treated in Svanhovd. All in all, 34 hair samples and 7 feces samples were collected.



DNA analysis enables determination of the current status of the Brown Bear population in the territory of the reserve.



POPULATION OF GAME BIRDS IN THE UPPER KET' VALLEY

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En-route surveys of birds were carried out in the Ket' River valley around the villages of Stepanovka, Maksimkin Yar and Katajga, and in the Ket'-Kass interfluve (Verkhneketsky District, Tomsk Region) in 2008-2009. The surveys covered 19 habitats, including forest, water, meadow and mire biotopes, following the technique by Ravkin (1967). The quota was 5 km in each tract, covered repeatedly every two weeks. The combined length of the routes was about 300 km. Data on bird abundances were averaged over the first half of the summer. In total, 28 species of game birds were found in Ket' area.

Among wetlands, the highest bird abundances were reported from large lakes of the Ket'-Kass interfluve (116 specimens/km²). *Anas penelope* (29%), *A.querquedula* (13%) and *Mergus merganser* (9%) dominate there. Quite many game bird species inhabit floodplain meadows (55), the leaders in abundance there being *A. querquedula* (40%) and *Crex crex* (38%). The abundance of game birds in other wetland habitats is relatively low (1-7 specimens/km²).

The population density of game birds (*Tetrao urogallus*, *Lyrurus tetrrix*, *Tetrastes bonasia*, *Streptopelia orientalis*) in forest habitats is never high (1 to 11 specimens/km²).

