Hunting bag of wild boars is growing in infected areas but in those areas where are no AFS cases hunting bag of wild boars is decreasing. There are no statistically significant relationships between AFS cases and hunting bags of moose (*Alces alces*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and beaver (*Castor fiber*).

AERIAL SURVEYS OF BIRDS IN KARELIA

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The basis of the rational use of natural resources is the assessment of populations in the territory and the analysis of the number of animals. The suitability of a survey method is a defining moment for bird monitoring. The adequacy of the method based on the choice of the optimal time and conditions of observations, spatial characteristics of the controlled area and the selection of vehicle and other equipment.

The most common and reliable method of estimating the number of birds of resource species on large areas is traditionally considered to be winter route surveys (WRS). The time of WRS is relatively synchronous on all territory of Russia. The requirements for accounting procedures allow obtaining the comparable data, and the rejection of unsatisfactory observations minimizes the errors. Personal skills of accountants, however, may affect the result. Therefore, there is a need to find new methods and approbate the known ones to register animals over large areas.

The study aims at assessing of the relative abundance of resource birds species and generally repeats the similar work carried out in Karelia a few decades ago. Development of the technological base allowed us to register more details, however in general, the technique is not significantly changed.

Bird surveys of resource species using aviation were carried out at the territory of North Karelia in the spring of 2014. In the process of

observation, a team of three observers and a pilot conducted a survey. Standardization of observation conditions (altitude and speed of flight, relatively similar weather conditions, recording of the flight route with geographical coordinates of observations) made it possible to conduct a relative assessment of the number of birds.

Based on the obtained data, we have made the maps of the relative abundance of birds of different species. We divided the surveyed area into squares that coincide with those used for the analysis of the results of WRS. Matching the latest available data of WRS and results of aerial surveys has not revealed a coincidence in the distribution of birds within the each square. The differences in the distribution of birds may be the result of their activity in the days of surveys at a particular point, the individual characteristics of the observers, as well as the peculiarities of the methods used.

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PREDICTORS OF MOOSE BODY CONDITION

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Factors predicting moose body condition in Sweden were investigated by means of dressed weight from shot animals and combining a range of potential explanatory variables from public national databases. There were significant differences between regions, sexes and age-classes with considerable variation between years and moose populations. Population sex ratio (male: female) and ungulate species richness (number of sympatric ungulate species present) were highly relevant in the northern region, while densities of other ungulates (red deer, fallow