

CURRENT STATE AND OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH OF LARGE CARNIVORES IN THE EXCLUSION ZONE

Maryna Shkvyria¹, Denis Vishnevsky², Yegor Yakovlev¹

¹ Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine; ² Chernobyl Ecological Centre Ukraine

Abstract

The Exclusion zone is a unique area due to protection status, the nature management, a cross-border disposition, fauna complexes. Moreover the status of Exclusion zone as key transboundary territory – ecological corridor and future Biosphere reserve creation needs monitoring of dynamic situation. Large predators of European forests are species-indicators of forest ecosystems conservation. Research and development of recommendations for the management of these species communities are extremely important because of current level of the environmental transformation.

Researches of large carnivores have been realized during 2003-2016 yy. Methods were used: route accounting (the final route length was 700 km), tracking, mapping of denning sites, phototraps accounting, collection and analysis of feces and prey carcasses; helminthological studies – full or partial dissection and MacMaster technique of helminth egg flotation of feces.

Territorial structure of wolf packs was studied. Seven den sites were mapped. The study of food showed a small share of anthropogenic food in the diet. The number is 40-50 specimen. Finds of lynx were recorded and the number is estimated about 15 specimen. Brown bear finds are occasional (tree marks, tracks, shots), no breeding was recorded. Main points of human-carnivores coexistence are connected with fear of damage and attacks, and lack of education for locals and employees to create positive image of wildlife in Zone (Shkvyria & Vishnevskiy, 2012).

The role of anthropogenic influence on Biological Signal Field (BSF) characteristics of the wolf was studied in comparison with results obtained from Białowieża National park (Poland). It was found that there was no significant dependence on the characteristics of the territory and the differences between the behavior of wolves in studied territories and the main factors which govern the character of wolf activity are not the level of the anthropic load and hunting pressure, but periods of the life cycle and spatial structure of groups (Shkvyria & Yakovlev, 2016).

Since the beginning of the study based on the materials obtained during an autopsy and study of feces of wild animals (wolves, foxes and lynx) we were recorded such species of helminths: *Alaria alata*, *Ancylostoma* sp., *Thominx* (= *Eucoleus*) *aerophilus*, *Spirometra* sp., *Toxocara canis*, *Toxocara mystax*, *Dirofilaria immitis*, *Macracanthorhynchus catulinus*, *Trichocephalus* (= *Trichuris*) *vulpis* (Yakovlev *et al.*, unpublished data).

Two species – *Canis lupus lupus* and *Lynx lynx* are characterized by stable number and territorial structure. Perspectives of *Ursus arctos* is not clarified.

References

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