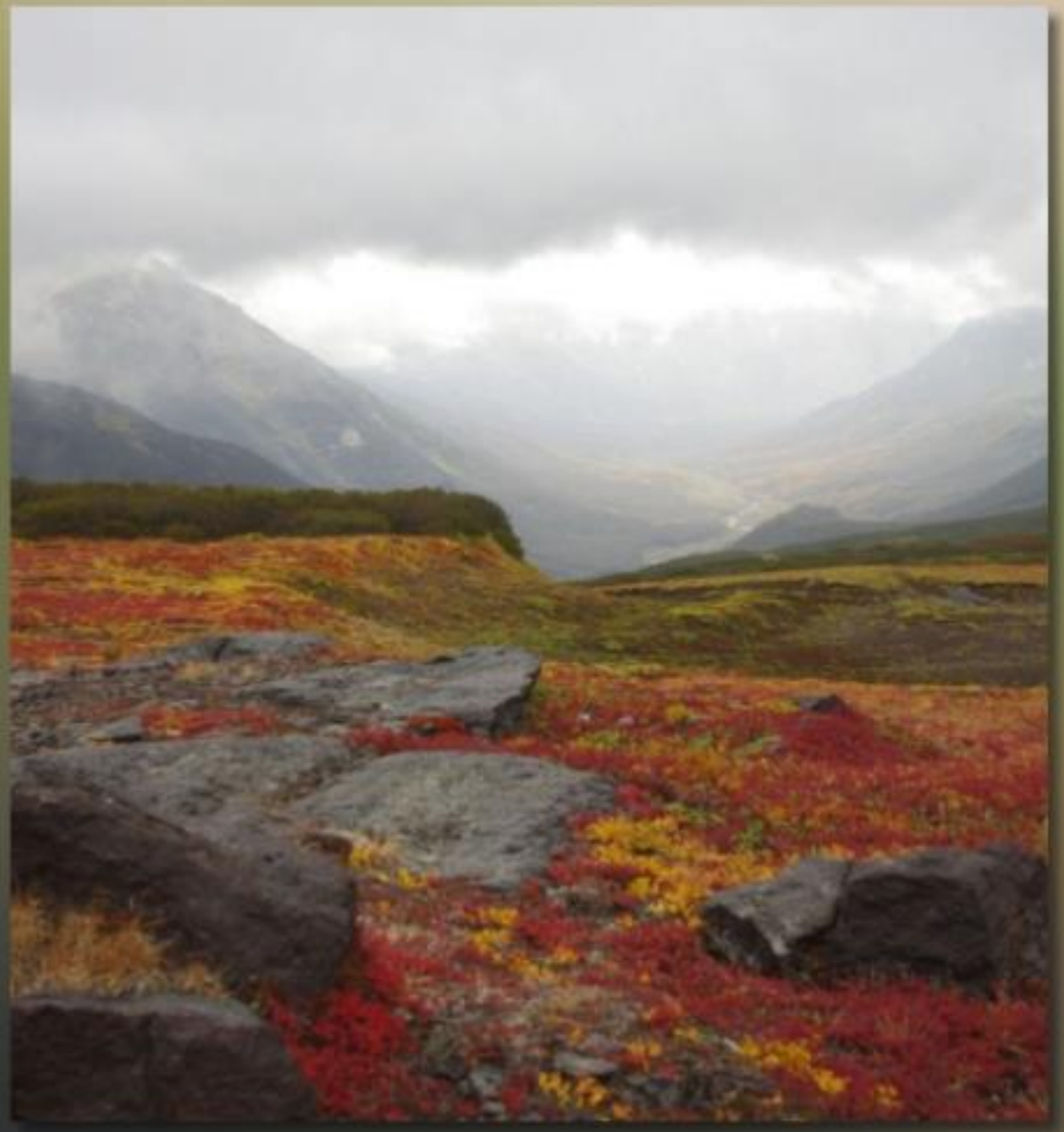
"ORNITHOGENIC SOILS



Polar ecosystems are generally nutrient-poor

P

PHOSPHORUS

N

NITROGEN

Organic matter rich in nitrogen and phosphorus is brought from the sea to the land

BUT HOW???

they are added to the soil thanks to populations of seabirds, forming colonies – in the Arctic, mostly little auks

GUANO

EGG SHELLS

BIRD REMAINS

FEATHERS

THEY BRING NUTRIENTS IN VARIOUS FORMS

THIS leads to the formation of ornithogenic soils.

Large accumulation of organic matter of marine origin around breeding colonies contributes to the emergence of vast areas of ornithogenic tundra.

Ornithogenic tundra is characterized by rich plant communities