

## Project Update: July 2015

First expedition in the forest-steppe zone of the southern part of Tyumen region was organised in July 2015, according to the schedule of the project. This territory are actively using for agriculture in the last decade, so one of the first objectives of our expedition has been identify areas of untouched steppe. Thus, it was identified several wild areas in Kazanskiy, Berdyujskiy and Armizonskiy districts where there were found previously or by us representatives of Asian fauna of mammals also like some breeding species of Asian fauna of birds. The results of observations of species are reduced at this stage to validate of Mole Vole meeting in the Kazanskiy area and discovery of two new points in Kazanskiy and Berdyujskiy areas. It was finding new point of red-cheeked ground squirrel - one of the feeding objects of Steppe Polecat. Also was got new data on high numbers of raccoon dogs - one of the main competitors Korsak.



Left: Holes of Mole Vole (*Ellobius talpinus*) – one of the feeding object of Steppe Polecat (*Mustela eversmanni*). Right: Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) from Camera traps – main competitor of Korsak fox (*Vulpes corsac*) on project area.