

Project Update: October 2015



Photo 1

the Tyumen region (photo 1), and found indirect evidence for of steppe polecat in the colonies of red-cheeked ground squirrel (characteristic of the excavated hole by steppe



Photo 3

From September 28th – October 12th we organised a complex expedition in Uzbekistan (photos 4-6). The aim of this expedition was to conduct a comparative analysis of the natural conditions of the steppe habitat of species listed in the project, collect available data on their biology in Uzbekistan and enable hunters to fees humerus bones of stone marten and American mink in hunting season of 2015-2016 year.



Photo 4

The second expedition in the forest-steppe zone of the southern part of Tyumen region was organised in September 2015, according to the result of our trip in bordering part of Northern Kazakhstan and the analysis of the literature. In that case we visited areas of Berdyujskiy and Armizonskiy Districts.

As the result, we were able to establish the occurrence of mole vole in southern part of



Photo 2

polecat, photo 2) and found the great jerboa (photo 3) in a new place near village Prokhorovo in Armizonskiy District. We had another sighting of Korsak fox near the village Nesterovo of Berdyuzhskiy District in winter 2014, according to survey data of hunters. It should be noted that visual surveys with a flashlight at night and set camera traps in the summer and autumn periods did not show Korsak Fox. Perhaps after the establishment of the depth of the snow cover in January 2016, it would be able to put the camera traps in known locations at the period until late spring.



Photo 3

As a result of the expedition we described the ecological characteristics of Korsak fox, steppe polecat and mole vole in arid lands of Tashkent, Samarkand, Navoi and Bukhara region of Uzbekistan. For great jerboa we used our information from the Ustyurt reporting trips in 2012-2014 years, due to the remoteness and inaccessibility of this area. To implement the second component of the project, we agreed fees for humerus bones of stone marten and American mink in Tashkent region with the regional society of hunters.

Thus, over the period of the project in the summer and autumn seasons of 2015, we managed to gather material for the studied species and preserved steppe areas for the preparation of the first working version of the Action Plan for the conservation of Asian steppe complex mammals in forest-steppe of Western Siberia. As well as contracts with local rangers and hunters to clarify the status of Korsak fox in winter 2015-2016, we are saving money for third trip in project area in the spring 2016 (end of April - beginning of May), which will adjust the data and prepare the Action Plan.



Photo 5