

Project Update: September 2015

Next expedition was organised by our Project Group in August 2015 to Northern Kazakhstan on the bordering area with southern part of Tyumen region. From 10th to 17th August, we scanned the same forest-steppe area on the border with Tyumen region to finding Korsak fox, steppe polecat and mole vole.

As a result, we collected materials on ecology of Korsak Fox in 50-60 km to the south of the Tyumen region, from which place it can penetrate to the north during migrations. It is interesting to note that in contrast to the extremely wild populations of Korsak fox in Uzbekistan, in the north of the area this species prefers to live in close proximity to humans. It also characterises the food composition of Korsak fox - hens, ducks, and rabbits. We found some feeding remains of these animals near Korsak fox holes.

There were also a good number of mole voles on this territory of Kazakhstan, which will allow us to coordinate the route of the second expedition to the south of Tyumen region in September 2015. We could not be found Steppe Polecat due to the low numbers of rodents.

It should be noted that on 7 August 2015 our volunteers on the project saw a Great Jerboy at Lake Chernoe in Armizon district of Tyumen region. This area is considered by us as a model of land conservation of steppe ecosystems in the south of Tyumen region.



Korsak fox (*Vulpes corsac*) from camera traps in northern Kazakhstan (55 km from Tyumen region border).



Wing of hen finding near Korsax fox hole in northern Kazakhstan on 12th August 2015