

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2017.03.30

Affiliation/Position	Graduate school of Asian and African Area Studies / M1
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1. Country/location of visit
Niigata prefecture Myokokogen
2. Research project
Sasagamine Field Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.03.22-2017.03.26 (5 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Kyoto University Sasagamine Hut / Sugiyama-sensei
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>During 2017/03/22-2017/03/26, in order to take part in Sasagamine Field Course (Winter Season), I visited Kyoto University Sasagamine Hut, which is located in Myokokougen, Niigata prefecture. Through participating in this course, we learned many skills for skiing in mountain with a lot of snow and how to make igloo. We also observed vegetation and traces (marks) of animals.</p> <p>【Schedule】 2017/03/22 : Kyoto→Kanazawa→Joetsu-Myoko→Myokokougen→Sasagamine Hut / Lecture 2017/03/23 : Practical lesson for backcountry skiing / making a igloo 2017/03/24 : Ski trip to a pond and Karasawa/ straight descent practice 2017/03/25 : Ski trip to Kurosawa / Snowball fight, making a snow sculpture, cooking outdoors 2017/03/26 : Clean up / Sasagamine Hut→Myokokougen→Joetsu-Myoko→Kanazawa→Kyoto</p> <p>【Day 1】 We arrived at Kyoto University Sasagamine Hut by snow tractor. The Hut was covered with snow so that we could enter the Hut from the veranda. After the dinner, teachers and members of KUAC (Kyoto University Alpine Club) told us how to use a seal skin for backcountry skiing and we learned other characteristics of backcountry skis.</p> <p>【Day 2】 After having breakfast, we learned how to walk with skis. It was little bit tricky because it was the first time for me. However, after practicing briefly, I got used to walk with the skis soon. After we reached a water place, we took a short brake and then we started to walk again to a stock farm. On the way, we found several footprints of rabbits, and a deer or serow. We enjoyed skiing there and went back the hut. After the lunch, we made a igloo, which was comfortable, beautiful and really strongly-built. We (PWS men) learned basic skills to make a good igloo from Matsuzawa-sensei. It was sunny all day.</p> <p>【Day 3】 We went to a pond and observed ducks even though I couldn't identify them. Next we went to Karasawa, climbed up more and climbed down with the skis to the hut. After the lunch, we enjoyed skiing in front of the hut. It was cold and really bad weather all day.</p>

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【Day 4】

After the breakfast, we made rice-balls for our lunch and left the Hut for Kurosawa. While we were walking, it was too hot for me and I took off my outer, gloves, neck-warmers, and cap. On the way, we luckily heard 3 beautiful drumming of woodpecker (perhaps, it was great spotted woodpecker) even though we couldn't see it. We reached Kurosawa in about 2 hours and took a break. Then, we took away seal skins from skis and started climbing down carefully. It was really great to have a chance to enjoy skiing in the forest. We came back to the hut safely and enjoyed snow-ball fights, making a snow sculpture, and cooking outdoors. It was sunny all day.

【Day 5】

On the last day morning, we cleaned up the hut and got on our way back home.

Comments

Through this course, we really enjoyed skiing and playing with snow, as well as learning how to make an igloo, and how to cook outdoors. I was born in Hokkaido, so I used to go skiing on weekends with my parents or friends. But skiing in a mountain was completely different from skiing on a slope, it was really new to me and a very interesting experience. I'm thinking to get a chance to enjoy skiing at least once a year. The landscape around the hut was completely different from the one of summer, and it was beautiful. I strongly recommend other PWS students to participate in this course. Don't forget to bring Ama-zake (Sweet sake). I'm sure that it will make your igloo experience much more amazing. If you can practice skiing near Kyoto or Inuyama in advance (skiing on a slope), you will be able to enjoy skiing further.



Photo 1. The hut with a lot of snow



Photo 2. Walking with skis

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Photo 3. Making igloo



Photo 4. Very comfortable



Photo 5. Footprint of a deer or serow



Photo 6. Wood-burning stove



Photo 7. Cooking outdoors (ramen)



Photo 8. Snow sculpture

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Photo 9. Beautiful mountain covered with snow

6. Others

I am deeply grateful to PWS leading program, Matsuzawa-sensei, Sugiyama-sensei, Takizawa-sensei, members of KUAC and other participants in the course.