

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.)

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1. Country/location of visit
Sasagamine, Japan
2. Research project
Sasagamine field course (Snow season)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018 Mar.22-26
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Tetsuro Matsuwaza (PRI), Shiro Koshima (WRC), and Shigeru Sugiyama (Shizuoka Univ.)
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.
I attended Sasagamine field course in snow season as follow.
<p>DAY 1 : Preparation for the ski practice</p> <p>DAY 2 : Practicing ski</p> <p>DAY 3 : Waking with a pair of wakans and building an igloo</p> <p>DAY 4 : Practicing ski and making fire</p> <p>DAY 5 : Cleaning our hutte</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>
<p>DAY 1: We arrived at the hutte by snowmobile. It was beautiful weather and the sun was so bright that I couldn't open my eyes. After dinner (borsch), we prepared for skiing on the next day and learned how to make fire in the fireplace.</p> <p>DAY 2: I skied for the first time in my life. It was dangerous but fun. Except for skiing (e.g., walking or climbing), we used a seal to make skis hard to slip. While wearing skis, we had to make our legs slip by using a pair of stocks, except for sking. It is the most important in snowy mountains to save the energy, so that this moving style may be one of saving the energy.</p> <p>DAY 3: We climbed a snow mountain with a pair of wakans. They are ellipse in the shape and are used to prevent foots from falling into the snow, we found many animals' foot stamps and feces (e.g. those of fox, raccoon dog, serow and hare). Each of foot stamps was identified by the shape of claws or hoofs and the direction of kicking the ground. When arriving at our hutte, we started to make an igloo. At first, we trod the snow harder, listening to a favorite music to make this monotonous task fun. From this, we cut out many snow blocks and piled them up. It was really warm in igloo. In DAY 5, we found many foot stamps and feces of wild animals around the igloo. They might use it to avoid severe coldness at the last night.</p>

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DAY 4: While ski practice I learned “schuss” and “traverse”. I couldn’t control the pressure of the legs to the ski, and fell down many times! (But I didn’t give up.) After skiing, we made a fire on the snow using the barks of white birch which is easy to lit.

DAY 5: Each of us left Sasagamine, In this course, I got the impression strongly from these words, ‘It is only a few experiences of the all snow mountaineering in this occasion.’ Before Sasagamine Field Course, we heard news of accidents in snow mountains and while the course an accident happened in Yatsugatake Mountains. Owing to the good teachers who have many experiences in the mountains, we could complete this activity and return to home safety.

6. Others

I really appreciate Dr. Matsuzawa, Dr. Koshima and Dr. Sugiyama. This course was supported by PWS. Thank you very much.