

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.)

2019.03.28	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M2
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1. Country/location of visit
Sasagamine, Nagano, Japan
2. Research project
Sasagamine Field Science Course-Winter Season
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019.03.16-2019.03.20 (5 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Prof. Shiro Koshima, Prof. Shigeru Sugiyama
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 this course I got the opportunity to learn technical skills walking and survive in the snow. Sasagamine to me is a peaceful and challenging place. On the following four days, I got to learn many practical skills for working in such a snowy place. I used skis and wakan to explore plants, wild animals and landscape on these five-days training. The schedule is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Day 1 Arrived at Sasagamine HütteDay 2 Excursion around Hütte, Ski lesson and igloo makingDay 3 Excursion to Mitahara mountain with WakanDay 4 Kurosawa creek excursion with skisDay 5 Cleaned up the station <p>On Day 1, it was heavy snowing when heading to station Hütte by snowcat. In winter, the way to Hütte was beautiful and quiet. It was like we were in a silent fantasy world. The main thing we did on the first day is to get acquaintance to each other through preparation for dinner.</p> <p>On Day 2, I learned how to walk with skis and track footprints of wildlife. In winter, animal movement is much easier to find and clearer because of the snow. Footprint of Japanese hare was commonly found around Hütte station. On the same day, I learned Ski and built igloo. I was surprised by the way to make igloo. In my imagination, the cubes to make igloo will be independently made, but they actually are made using saw. I am proud that igloo of our group was the biggest among the three. After that, we had a wonderful picnic in igloo with hot coca and food.</p> <p>On Day 3, we used Wakan to walk around Mitahara mountain. Along the way, we saw some footprints of small mammals like marten and fox. Through the footprints, we were able to spot the “undergrounds” used by the animals, which I would not be able to find in summer.</p> <p>On day 4, the main activity was ski. Due to my poor skiing skill, I practiced in the lower place I saw Japanese macaques and practiced skiing while others were skiing on top of the mountain. I think highlight for the day was the tracks of Japanese macaques found on the way. I was not able to see the real animals, but others took photos and showed me. It was very lucky. I am wondering where the macaques immigrate from? It must be interesting to understand this in the future.</p> <p>On the last day, we cleaned the Hütte and left for the train. Finally, we returned to Inuyama after the long trip</p>

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Figure 1. Quiet snow paradise in Sasagamine



Figure 2. Ski training



Figure 3. Excursion by Ski



Figure 4. Footprint of Marten



Figure 5. Feces of Japanese hare

6. Others

I would like to thank Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Koshima and Prof. Sugiyama for their kind guidance during the training course. Thanks all the students for cooking the nice food and supporting during the field course. I really appreciate Dr. Fukushima for accompanying and helping all the trip. Finally, I would thank PWS for supporting this wonderful and unique opportunity to us.