

both professional and recreational. Concomitantly, there has been a steep increase in new records for the country. In 2011, an extensive work, the *Mongolian Red List of Birds*, has been published jointly by the Zoological Society of London, the National University of Mongolia and the Mongolian Ornithological Society, listing some 476 species. Here the author discusses various aspects of Mongolian bird lists and give an outlook on potential developments in the future.

Small mammal communities in mountain Larch forests of Bogdo-Ula reserve damaged by the Siberian Moth (*Dendrolimus sibiricus* TSCHTV.)

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In 2002-2004 about 29 thousand hectares of larch forest of the Bogdo-Ula reserve (near Ulaanbaatar) were damaged by an outbreak of Siberian moth (*Dendrolimus sibiricus* Tschtv.) (BARANCHIKOV et al. 2008). The death of defoliated larch trees had changed ecological situation in the low layers of the stands. Accordingly the small mammal community that dwells this forest must change.

To find out major environmental consequences of the Siberian moth outbreak on the reserve territory complex studies were carried out under the leadership of Dr. Yu.N. Baranchikov (Sukachev Institute of Forest, Krasnoyarsk, Russia). Three sample plots were set in three habitat types: (1) the dead forest damaged by Siberian moth outbreak (**DF**), (2) an undamaged site with cattle grazing (**UDG**), and (3) an undamaged control site (**UDC**) without grazing (detailed description of these sites is given in BARANCHIKOV et al. 2008). Our goal was to analyze the micromammal communities (insectivores and rodents) at these sites. In each of these areas we put snap-traps to catch small mammals (there were 210, 150, 180 trap-days in each of above-mentioned areas, respectively).

In the studied habitats up to five species of insectivorous genus *Sorex*, and 10 rodent species (including 7 micromammal species and three species of *Sciuridae* family) can dwell (BANNIKOV 1954, SOKOLOV et al. 1985). Of course different species of small mammals are associated with different forest types and different habitats. Abundance of these species has a distinct dynamics from depression to peak varying from year to year considerably. Year 2008, according to circumstantial evidence (the presence of holes and passages, nibbled plants, etc.), was a depression year, and abundance of small mammals in all larch forests in Bogdo-Ula reserve was very low. We failed to catch any shrews at the all three observed sites. No animals were caught at the second site (**UDG**) for 150 trap-days.

At the second control site (**UDC**) we caught two species of rodents: the Korean field mouse (*Apodemus peninsulae* Tomas) and chipmunk (*Eutamias sibiricus* Laxm.). Alpha-diversity Shannon index was **0.69**, and evenness communities (Pielou) index was **0.63**. The sex ratio of the most numerous species - *A. peninsulae* - was **1:1**. Mature under yearlings were dominated. All chipmunks were mature of the current year, females were dominated. A high percentage of chipmunks in snap-traps for small rodents (3 specimens per 100 trap-days) indicates their high abundance here in the given year. Two species of small rodents (*A. peninsulae* Tomas and *Clethrionomys rufocanus* Sund.) and one chipmunk (*Eutamias sibiricus* Laxm.) were caught at the **DF** site. The index of alpha-diversity (Shannon) was **0.96**, and evenness (Pielou) index was **0.86**. The Korean field mouse predominated here. As we showed previously (CHERNOUSOVA 2010) the predominance of mice of the genus *Apodemus* inside small mammal communities of coniferous forests is characteristic for disturbed forest habitats, and it is the most manifested in years of low abundance of typical forest species. Although this pattern was found out in anthropogenically disturbed environment, the same process we observed in the case of a natural damaging factor: the destruction of the forest by an insect outbreak. Increase density of shrub and herb-under shrub layers after forest dieback has created favourable conditions for habitat of several rodent species and more their abundance. In the populations of the Korean field mouse and the gray-sided vole in the defoliated forest males dominated (2.5: 1 and 2:1, respectively). Male predominance in populations resulted in low abundance of small rodents. In disturbed habitats *A. peninsulae* dominated as a species adapted to open habitats.