

First Record of Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus* (Mammalia: Arvicolidae) in South Bulgaria

Boyan Milchev

University of Forestry, Wildlife Management Department, 10, Kl. Ochridski Blvd., 1756 Sofia, Bulgaria; E-mail: boyan.m@ltu.bg

Abstract: Remains of the Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) were found in Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) nest in South Bulgaria (UTM square NH60). This new locality for the Muskrat is located near the town of Yambol, the Tundzha River and its feeder the Mochuritsa River. Parts of the two rivers and several small artificial lakes are overgrown by aquatic plants that are suitable habitats for Muskrat. The distance from around 130 km between the new locality and the known distribution in North Bulgaria without any contact between the Tundzha River and the Danube River with its feeders eliminates the possibility for the natural spreading of the Muskrat in the vicinity of the town of Yambol.

Key words: *Ondatra zibethicus*, *Buteo rufinus*, Bulgaria