

amomentintime...



Stoat *Mustela erminea*



...captured by **ANDY SHEPHERD**

"The stoat is one of my favourite mammals and I've tried to photograph it for many years, but with little success, so earlier this year I made a concerted effort to try and capture some shots of this very elusive creature. I was lucky enough to gain access to a suitable location on some private farm land. This gave me the opportunity to set up a bag hide and leave it in place knowing that it wouldn't be disturbed. After many weeks of watching and waiting the time had come to try and capture some images, this particular shot was taken after a very heavy rain shower left big puddles all around. The stoat approached the hide and to my amazement started to bounce around in one of the puddles. I'd heard of stoats dancing before but I never thought I'd capture this behaviour with the camera. I consider myself very privileged to have worked so closely with this fantastic animal and this was a moment that I'll never forget."

Equipment: Canon EOS1D Mk111, 500mmF4IS + 1.4Xteleconverter, F5.6 @ 1/1250th sec, ISO 400