

# MUSE U.M. NEWS

APRIL 1998

No. 11

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PHILIP L. WRIGHT  
ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM - THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



Paelearctic wild sheep, *Ovis ammon*

## RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE MUSEUM

Bart O'Gara and Robert M. Lee donated a spectacular skull with full horns of a **Marco Polo Sheep** (*Ovis ammon polii*). Bart collected this specimen in the Kyrgyz Republic. (Fed. permit PRT-832615.)

Bart O'Gara also donated seven horn mounts, including an immature **Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis*) from Montana, two **Mouflons** (*Ovis musimon*) from Hawaii, and two **Barbary Sheep** or **Aoudads** (*Ammotragus lervia*) from Morocco.

In August 1997, Diane Boyd-Heger and Ed Heger witnessed and photographed an obviously injured immature **Mountain Lion** (*Felis concolor*) in Flathead Co. In October, they found the remains of this same individual and brought it to the museum. The animal had a severely fractured right femur, probably from a gunshot or an accident. The ossification visible at the fracture indicates that the lion survived for several weeks following the initial injury. Diane and Ed also brought in a **Coyote** (*Canis latrans*) which was prepared as a complete skeleton.

Another **Coyote** (*Canis latrans*) was brought in by Dave Harmon. This was a very young individual and is an interesting addition to the skeletal collection. It appears that this animal had ingested strychnine-laden meat, then was finished off by a car.

Gene Miller, of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, discovered a **Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*) that was killed by a car in Sanders Co. Gene did the initial preparation of the specimen and brought the carcass to the museum for final preparation as a complete skeleton. The bear was a 17 year old male, weighing 250 - 300 pounds. Such skeletons with full data are valuable additions to the comparative skeletal collection.

A complete hyoid, a bone supporting the base of the tongue, from a **Grizzly Bear** (*Ursus arctos*) was given to the museum by the Montana State Crime Lab and the UM Anthropology Dept. This specimen was removed from a legally killed bear that charged a hunter in the Gallatin National Forest. It is unusual to find this bone in many collections since it is routinely overlooked when skulls are prepared.

Two specimens of a **Black Bear**, discovered in the collections of the UM Anthropology Dept., were given to the museum. One was the skull and partial skeleton of a cub and the other was the partial skeleton of an adult. Thanks to Garry Kerr for expediting the donation of these two specimens and the Grizzly hyoid.

Jason Hobson of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation donated a **Mule Deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) which was prepared for the comparative skeletal collection.

Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge made available several birds that are needed for the skeletal collection. These include two **Ring-necked Pheasants** (*Phasianus colchicus*), an **American Dipper** (*Cinclus mexicanus*), and an **American Coot** (*Fulica americana*).

## PHIL WRIGHT'S PORTRAIT

For those that haven't seen it yet, a framed portrait of Phil Wright is now hanging in the second floor hallway of the Health Science building. Included is a brass plaque dedicating the museum to Phil. This excellent portrait, taken by UM photographer Todd Goodrich, captures Phil's remarkable spirit and his love of the museum, especially the bird collections. Placed directly across from the museum door, Phil will continue to watch over the museum that now bears his name.

## NEW AVIAN DATA CARDS

Heidimarie Whelan-Panaro, of the Museum Preparation Lab, has redesigned the Avian Data Cards used to gather data during the preparation of bird specimens. This new format, replacing the cards that have been used since the 1950's, will ensure that the the maximum information from a specimen is recorded as it is prepared as a study skin or skeleton. The new format also logically follows the steps in the preparation of a specimen. First the collection data from the collector's label is recorded on the front of the card, then the external measurements and characteristics are recorded, and finally the data gathered during the dissection of the bird are noted at the end of the card. These cards allow for the recording of information that may become unaccessible once the bird has been prepared. Thanks to Heidimarie for her efforts and to everyone who gave their input. The complete Avian Data Card is shown on the reverse of this newsletter.



Avian Data Card - Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum

Accession No. \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog No. \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Identified By \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Locality \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat \_\_\_\_\_

Collector \_\_\_\_\_ Collector's No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Collected \_\_\_\_\_

Body Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Wingspan: \_\_\_\_\_ Tail Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Tarsus Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Wing Length: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plumage\***

	Left	Right		Left	Right		Left	Right
Primary	1. _____	1. _____	Secondary	1. _____	1. _____	Rectrices	1. _____	1. _____
	2. _____	2. _____		2. _____	2. _____		2. _____	2. _____
	3. _____	3. _____		3. _____	3. _____		3. _____	3. _____
	4. _____	4. _____		4. _____	4. _____		4. _____	4. _____
	5. _____	5. _____		5. _____	5. _____		5. _____	5. _____
	6. _____	6. _____		6. _____	6. _____		6. _____	6. _____
	7. _____	7. _____		7. _____	7. _____			
	8. _____	8. _____		8. _____	8. _____			
	9. _____	9. _____		9. _____	9. _____			
	10. _____	10. _____		10. _____	10. _____			

Body Plumage Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Symbols:** P = Pin: 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 = Stages of Growth. FS = Full Grown but still Unsheathing.  
 F = Full Grown: W = Worn, B = Bleached, U = Unworn. M = Missing.

Male Testes: Right \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_; Left \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ mm. Breeding? \_\_\_\_\_

Female Ovary: \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ mm. Diameter of largest follicle \_\_\_\_\_ mm. Breeding? \_\_\_\_\_

Bursa of Fabricius: Depth \_\_\_\_\_ mm. Skull ossified? \_\_\_\_\_

Material Saved: Skin \_\_\_\_\_ Skull \_\_\_\_\_ Skeleton \_\_\_\_\_ Tissues \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_ Preparator \_\_\_\_\_