
MUSEU.M. NEWS

SUMMER 2002

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

RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE MUSEUM

Chris Field collected a **Pileated Woodpecker** (*Dryocopus pileatus*) that was found dead at his cabin on Wildhorse Island, Flathead Lake.

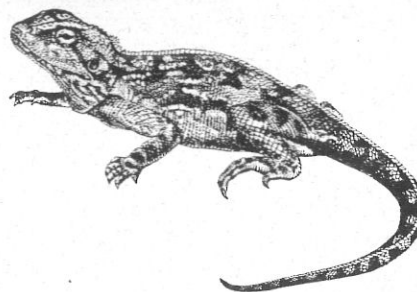
A **Pine Siskin** (*Carduelis pinus*) was found dead in the Rattlesnake neighborhood and brought to the museum by Rebecca Taylor.

David Schmetterling recovered a **Kingfisher** (*Ceryle alcyon*) that had become entangled in a fish net and drowned at Milltown Reservoir. This is the second bird we've seen come to the museum in recent years as a result of drowning. The last was an **American Dipper** (*Cinclus mexicanus*) that also became entangled in a fish net.

Sherrie Wright of DBS recovered an **Eastern Fox Squirrel** (*Sciurus niger*) for the museum. It was found freshly dead just outside the doors of the HS Building. Though common in Missoula, the museum has only one complete skeleton of this species.

The skeleton of a **Chukar** (*Alectoris chukar*) was given to the museum by Heather Davis of the U.M. Flight Lab. This specimen is interesting because it has two documented bone fractures, at known dates. Thus it will be useful for teaching, and will be informative when comparing to other bone fractures in wildlife and to skeletal specimens from archaeological sites.

Nick Decesare donated the skull of a **Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis*) that he found while doing fieldwork in the Rock Creek area.



John Csoka found a **Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) that hit a window at the U.C. on campus.

Other birds that have recently been brought to the museum include a **Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*) and a **Macgillivray's Warbler** (*Oporornis tolmiei*).

NEW CATALOG BOOK IS STARTED

An event occurred in the museum this summer that hasn't happened since 1965: a new museum catalog book was started! The museum currently uses three catalog books, the first volume which was started by Phil Wright in 1947. Each specimen that enters the museum receives its own unique number, which is assigned in chronological order. The first catalog entry, "number 1", is an elk skull that was collected in 1947 by Phil Wright. Today we are almost to number 19,000. This numbering system was traditionally used for mammals and birds so it doesn't include the 3,000+ jars of fish, reptiles, and amphibians, which have a separate numbering system.

The third catalog book is almost filled, so we have started a new fourth book with will begin with the Dennis Flath mammal collection. Once this collection of about 2,500 specimens is cataloged, the remainder of the book will be reserved for mammals only. Birds will be cataloged in another new book, volume five. This follows the recommendations of the American Society of Mammalogists, who visited our museum last summer to evaluate it for re-accreditation. They suggest that mammals and birds be cataloged separately.