



9.2 Shortened snout and high forehead traits found in many domestic animals:

RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE MUSEUM

The first record from Montana of a **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was brought to the museum in September. The kite was originally found injured in Jordan, Garfield Co. and died shortly afterward. Thanks to all who helped recover this specimen: Tim Miller and Randy Matchett of the USFWS, Gene Christensen, and Jeff Marks.

Nick Decesare donated yet another skull of a **Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis*) to the museum. This adds another specimen to our large and significant collection of bighorn sheep.

A **Pigeon Hawk** (*Falco columbarius*) was brought in by Martha Lauterbach. This bird hit a window in Alberton last September.

Paul Hendricks of the MT Natural Heritage Program brought in several interesting mice for the museum; the first specimen from Beaverhead Co. of a **Northern Grasshopper Mouse** (*Onychomys leucogaster*) and two examples of the **Western Harvest Mouse** (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*) from Bighorn Co.

Thanks to DBS graduate students Todd Seib, who donated a complete skeleton of a **Bullsnake** (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) from Missoula Co., and Chris Funk who gave us two **Columbia Spotted Frogs** (*Rana luteiventris*) from his research in Lincoln Co. These specimens will help us build up our research collection of reptiles and amphibians.

Cindy Kagan donated a captive **Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*) that she had raised from a kitten. It will be added to the skin and skeleton collection.

SNOWY OWLS MIGRATE TO THE MUSEUM!

In November we discovered a surprise donation waiting on the doorstep of the museum. There was a large box containing two live-mounts of the **Snowy Owl** (*Nyctea scandiaca*) and two glass domes containing several other live-mounts of a variety of bird species. The mounts all appear to be quite old, judging by the accumulated dust on the birds and the antique appearance of the glass domes. There was no information left with the birds so we would love to hear whom they are from and if there is any data associated with the mounts. Please contact the museum if you know anything about these birds!

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY COURSE OFFERED

The popular Continuing Education course "Zooarchaeology - The Identification and Interpretation of Vertebrate Skeletal Remains from Archaeological and Wildlife Sites" will be offered again Spring Semester 2003. This interactive hands-on course will make extensive use of the museum's comparative skeletal collection, the Anthropology Department's archaeological collection, and the personal collections of the instructors. This interdisciplinary course is available for three undergrad or graduate credits, and will include topics such as techniques used in identifying skeletal remains, biology of bone, vertebrate taxonomy, dentition, museum techniques, taphonomy, radiology, and skeletal pathology. In addition, the course introduces students to interpretive methods used in the analysis of vertebrate remains. Please inform your students about this course! It is relevant for students interested in wildlife biology, morphology, vertebrate zoology, or paleontology.

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