
MUSEU.M. NEWS

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

Fall 2008

No. 30

Recent Accessions

More mounts from the incomparable **Bart O’Gara Collection** were officially turned over to the museum recently by Wilma O’Gara. This donation includes shoulder mounts of a variety of wild sheep species from around the world and horn/antler mounts of species such as the **African Buffalo** (*Syncerus caffer*) and a **Sika Deer** (*Cervus nippon*) from Japan. Many of these specimens can be seen in the foyer of the Natural Sciences Building on the UM campus.

Charles Miller used his taxidermy skills to prepare a very difficult skin for the museum, a **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) that had languished in a freezer for 17 years before coming to the museum. Charles was able to produce a fine study skin and partial skeleton of the bird. It was an accidentally killed bird that was originally collected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Hawaii.

U.M. graduate student Jose Garcia donated a collection originally made by the biologist Royal Brunson. The collection contains several unusual specimens, including the skulls of a **Horned Lizard** (*Phrynosoma* sp.) and a **Mudpuppy** (*Necturus maculosus*), and the mandibles of a **Piranha** (Serrasalminidae). Also there is a great collection of cleared and stained skeletons of fish, amphibians, and reptiles. These are invaluable for studying the delicate skeletons of these vertebrates.

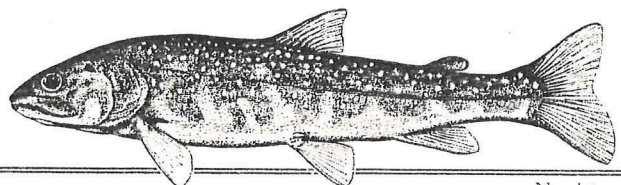
Quite a few accidentally killed birds have been recently added to the museum’s collection. These include: an immature **Red-Tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*), **Brown Creeper** (*Certhia americana*), **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), and a **White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*).

Museum Calendar Receives Award

We are pleased to announce that the museum received an award this fall for our 2008 calendar. The calendar features photographs of objects from the museum’s collection. The award was received from the Mountain-Plains Museum Association’s publications competition. The museum received a first place award in the category of Invitation, Development, or Promotional Package, for museums with budgets under \$250K. The award was presented at the MPMA annual meeting in Kansas City. We were informed by the MPMA that they had received a record number of entries and that the competition was fierce, so we were happy to finish first in our category!

While we are very happy to receive this recognition, the original goal of the calendar was to help recruit members for our new group, the Friends of the Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum. So if the calendar and this award can help reach this goal we will then be satisfied! If you haven’t joined yet, send in the membership application on the reverse of this newsletter. Don’t forget to share this with your colleagues, students, friends, and family!

Though the calendar is now almost out of date, you certainly are going to want one just for the award-winning photos! By the way, our student Johanna Ciampa also won an Honorable Mention in a national student photography contest this year for one of her photos used the calendar. Copies of the calendar are still available through the museum.



YES, I want to become a member of the Friends of the P.L. Wright Zoological Museum!

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Gift	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Note that dues are for a period of **two** years! Checks should be made payable to: *U.M. Foundation/Friends of the Museum*. All contributions to the *Friends* are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Send membership forms to: P.L. Wright Museum – Division of Biological Sciences – The University of Montana – Missoula, Montana - 59812

Meet the Staff: David Dyer, Curator; Maggie Schirack, Museum Technician; Charles Miller, Museum Preparation Lab. Phone: 243-4743. Website: www.zoologicalmuseum.dps.umt.edu

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