
MUSEU.M. NEWS

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

Spring 2007

No. 28

Recent Accessions

A skull of a **Black-footed Ferret** (*Mustela nigripes*) was donated to the museum by Brian Holmes, a former graduate student of Kerry Foresman. Brian is now with the BLM in Colorado and arranged the transfer of the specimen to U.M. It is a known-aged specimen, which will add greatly to its research value.

The U.M. Flight Lab donated the skin and skull of two unusual species to the museum: an **Elegant-crested Tinamou** (*Eudroma elegans*), an entirely new genus for the museum, and a **Chilean Tinamou** (*Nothoprocta perdicaria*). Both were captive-raised birds.

Steve Carson, of Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks donated two skins of the **Hispid Pocket Mouse** (*Chaetodipus hispidus*) from Carter Co., MT. This is the first record of *Chaetodipus* in the museum, and only the second record reported from Montana.

Several specimens were added to the comparative skeletal collection recently, including a **Chukar** (*Alectoris chukar*), a **Vaux's Swift** (*Chaetura vauxi*) three **Barn Swallows** (*Hirundo rustica*), and a fetal **White-tailed Deer** (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

Museum Web Page

Don't forget to check out the museum's web page at: www.zoologicalmuseum.dbs.umt.edu for more information on collections, exhibits, education, research, and staff. Also, you can now do an on-line search of the museum's database through the web site! Thanks to Steve Carson for setting up our database and over-seeing the data entry.



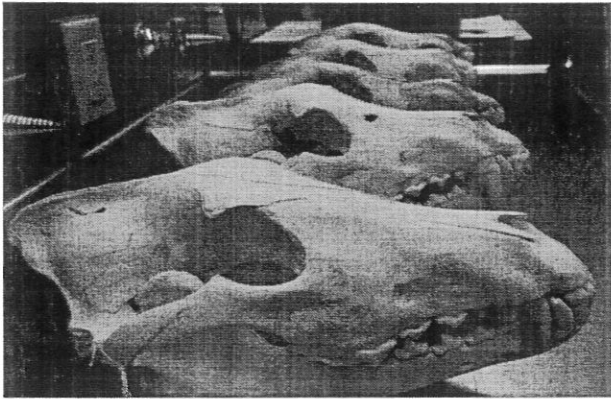
Upper tooththrow of Bison

Museum Receives Two Significant Collections

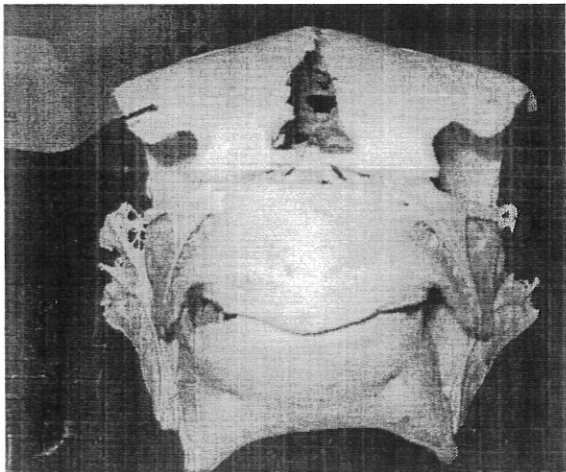
The museum is pleased to report that it has received two collections of note during the fall of 2006. First, thanks to Larry Aumiller for donating a great collection of 125 skulls! They are mostly mammal skulls and include such difficult to obtain specimens such as a musk-ox, wolf, otters, fisher, wolverine, lynx, and known-breed domestic dogs and cats. These are all relevant to the museum's mission and are valuable additions to our collections (see photos on page 2).

Larry Aumiller is a life-long skull collector and was a biologist for many years with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Larry's training as a biologist is reflected in the detailed data that he recorded for each specimen. We were busy cataloging them into our teaching and research collections over the winter break.

We also had the opportunity to acquire a collection of live-mounted birds from the Boston Children's Museum. They were making these objects, which were no longer relevant to their programs, available to other museums. Most of these were former exhibit mounts, and we received 23 bird mounts and three mammals. The majority of these are species that we previously didn't have represented in the museum and include the following: Orchard Oriole (from 1870!), Red-breasted Blackbird, Masked Tityra, Palm Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Raven, Horned Grebe, Black-backed Woodpecker, Savannah Sparrow, Violet-green Swallow, and Tree Swallow. The mammals included a great River Otter mount, and a small wildcat that was originally labeled at Boston as an Ocelot but appears to be a Margay Cat (*Leopardus weidii*).



Alaskan wolf skulls awaiting cataloging.
Larry Aumiller Collection.



Skull of a Pufferfish (*Diodon* sp.) from
Mexico. Larry Aumiller Collection.

Meet the Staff! David Dyer – Curator; Dawn Odom – Museum Technician; Russell Walker – Museum Prep Lab; Charles Miller – Museum Prep Lab & Head Volunteer; Becky Bigley, Shannon Gilbert – Research Associates. Phone: 243-4743.

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