
MUSEUM NEWS

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

Spring 2008

No. 29

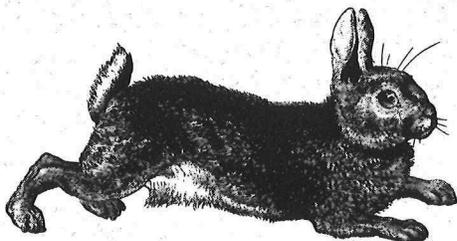
Recent Acquisitions

We're pleased to announce that another of Philip L. Wright's specimens is now in his namesake museum! Hedwig Wright gave the museum a full hide of a **Mountain Zebra** (*Equus zebra*) that was collected by Phil in Namibia, Africa in 1991. The skull was donated to the Smithsonian shortly after the specimen was collected.

The first record of the **Inca Dove** (*Columbina inca*) in Montana was recently deposited in the museum. Scott Carlton of Terry, Montana, in Prairie Co., saw this bird at his feeder in Dec. 2006. He found it dead a few days later and recovered it for the museum. It was prepared as a voucher skin by Charles Miller. Thanks also to Jeff Marks and Paul Hendricks for helping to get this important record to the museum.

Twelve nests of the African **Weaver Bird** (Family Ploceidae) were donated to the museum by Thomas Wojciechowski. He collected these nests in 2005 on Sao Tome Island, which is 200 miles west of the African coast. Three of these unusual nests are currently on display in the hall case in the Health Sciences building.

Margaret Kress brought in a collection of owl pellets that she found in San Bernardino Co., California. We were able to recover skulls of several small species from the pellets, including the following which are very scarce in our collection: **Botta's Pocket Gopher** (*Thomomys bottae*), **Dusky-footed Woodrat** (*Neotoma fuscipes*), and the **California Vole** (*Micortus californicus*).



Friends of the P.L. Wright Zoological Museum

Our major task over the winter was the creation of a new organization, the Friends of the Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum! The Friends mission is to be a fund-raising and advocacy group for the P.L. Wright Museum. The group consists of students, faculty, and staff of The University of Montana as well as the many supporters and constituents of the museum in the community including artists, teachers, archaeologists, birders, and members of state and federal agencies, among others. We welcome those readers to our biannual newsletter who are new members of the Friends of the Museum.

The first goal of the Friends is to create a strong membership base. If you haven't already done so please send in your membership dues! A form is attached to this newsletter for your convenience. Dues are for TWO years and is a great bargain! Also please recruit any new members that you can. Promote the Friends among your students, colleagues and friends! New members of the Friends will receive a 2008 calendar which we produced specifically as a recruitment tool for members. This calendar features beautiful award-winning photographs of specimens from the museum's collection. We are also selling individual calendars for \$3.

The Friends have an opportunity to help create a great future for the museum! Initial ideas for projects the Friends can support include the creation of new display cases and exhibits, upgrading of the museum's storage cabinets, support for the preparation of new specimens, and expanding the museum's tour and education program.

The Significance of the P.L. Wright Museum

Since we have new readers of this newsletter, this is a good time to review some of the features that make the P.L. Wright Zoological Museum so outstanding, and why it deserves our support!

1. Many people are surprised to learn that the P.L. Wright Museum is the largest vertebrate zoology collection between Minneapolis and Washington State! Not only is it Montana's largest collection but the museum is a significant national collection representing the Northern Rockies region.
2. The museum houses over 24,000 specimens of vertebrates, including:
 - * 14,500 mammals, representing 24 of the 26 Orders of mammals.
 - * 7,000 birds, from about 100 families.
 - * 3,000 cataloged lots of fish, representing over 20,000 individuals.
 - * 200 cataloged lots of reptiles and amphibians.
3. The museum's mammal collection is fully accredited by the American Society of Mammalogists; one of only 49 such collections nationwide as of the last survey. The mammal collection also ranks as the 43rd largest collection in the United States!
4. The museum's scientific collections are used on-site by U.M. faculty, staff, students, and visiting researchers. Also through our loan program, specimens are provided to qualified researchers throughout North America.
5. The museum provides unparalleled educational opportunities. It is used extensively in a variety of U.M. courses. We also loan select specimens for off-campus educational programs, and we provide docent-led behind-the-scenes tours for school and other groups.

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"/> Honorarium Fund	\$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Gift	\$_____

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