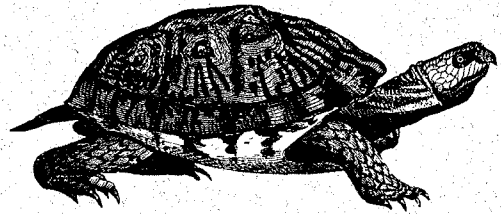


MUSEUM NEWS

FALL 1998

No. 12



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

RECENT ACCESSIONS BY THE MUSEUM

Ted Nordhagen donated a collection of bird skins from Westby, Sheridan Co., MT. Included are a **Sedge Wren** (*Cistothorus platensis*) and a **Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*); both of these are the first records from Montana in the museum. Also in the collection are three **Baird's Sparrows** (*Ammodramus bairdii*) and a **Leconte's Sparrow** (*Ammodramus leconteii*). (Fed. permit PRT-686271)

Bart O'Gara brought in two unusual specimens from his recent trip to Queensland, Australia; the skulls of a **Red Kangaroo** (*Macropus rufus*) and a **Wallaroo** (*Macropus robustus*).

The mounted head of an **Elk** (*Cervus elaphus*), with antlers in velvet, was donated by Elaine Caton. This specimen was originally collected near Ovando, MT.

A **Gray Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) was found dead next to the Health Science Building, likely a window-kill, and was recovered by an ornithology student.

Colin Henderson, DBS, contributed a collection of 15 **small mammal** study-skins for the teaching collection. These well-prepared specimens will be useful in future mammalogy courses.

Jack Reneau brought in a **Northern Water Thrush** (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) that flew into a window at the Boone & Crockett Club, Missoula, in August.

A **Domestic Rabbit** (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) was donated by Arrow Coyote of the UM Anthropology Dept. This may seem irrelevant to the museum, however bones of the domestic rabbit are found regularly in historic archaeological sites. It was used in the past as a food animal, and with a skeleton in the comparative collection we can use it to distinguish domestic from wild lagomorphs. Furthermore, this specimen has a documented cancerous growth on the mandible and will be a valuable aid in identifying diseases in dried bone specimens.

MISSING SPECIMENS

Over the many years of the museum's existence, specimens from the collections, for one reason or another, have turned up missing. Most of the missing

specimens were probably used in teaching and became separated from their labels, broken, or simply lost. (This is one reason that we now maintain a separate teaching collection!) The fact that most of the missing objects are small mammal study skins bears this out. It is unlikely that they were stolen!

Other specimens were loaned by the museum and no paperwork exists today that documents the loan. Many of these we have discovered and returned to the museum. For example, Heidimarie Whelan-Panaro was working in the UM Paleontology recently and found that about 35 mammal skulls, presumed to be lost, were housed there. They had been borrowed from the Zoological Museum many years ago to teach a vertebrate paleontology course. Many important and unusual skulls were in this collection, including a Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus griseus*), a Prehensile-tailed Porcupine (*Coendu rothschildi*), and a Blind Mole-rat (*Spalax microphthalmus*). It would be very difficult to replace these skulls! Also, a mounted golden eagle and a bison head that were housed in the university archives for many years were returned this year to the museum.

Unfortunately, several important specimens are still unaccounted for. We ask that if anyone knows of the whereabouts of the following specimens, that they contact David Dyer, Curator, at 243-4743. Hopefully they are somewhere on campus and can be returned to the museum. They may have a museum catalog number written on them, with a prefix UMZ or MSUZ. Other skulls of more common mammals are not listed below yet are still missing. Take a closer look at that skull on your shelf or that paperweight on your desk!

<u>Museum #</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Item</u>
13519	Wart Hog (<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>)	- Skull
7923	Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>)	- Skull
8464	Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>)	- Skull
5112	Sea Otter (<i>Enhydra lutris</i>)	- Tanned hide
13279	Sea Otter (<i>Enhydra lutris</i>)	- Skull, bones
13277	Giant Anteater (<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>)	- Skull
6464	Spiny Anteater (<i>Zaglossus bruijnii</i>)	- Tanned hide
8466	Night Monkey (<i>Aotus trivirgatus</i>)	- Skull, bones
917	Mountain Lion (<i>Felis concolor</i>)	- Skull
921	" " " "	- Skull
996	" " " "	- Skull