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UM EDUCATOR HONORED FOR WORK TO ADVANCE SCIENCE

MISSOULA –

Tom Martin, a faculty member in The University of Montana Division of Biological Sciences, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science. This year 531 members in 24 sections have been named Fellows by AAAS for their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

Martin, assistant leader of the U.S. Geological Survey's Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at UM, was named a Fellow as part of the Section on Biological Sciences for his distinguished contributions to the advancement of community and population evolutionary ecology and for serving in officer and advisory roles for many national organizations to advance the programs among scientists and the public.

Also a faculty member also in UM's Wildlife Biology Program, Martin focuses his research on habitat requirements of breeding birds. He studies the effects of climate change on birds and a high-elevation riparian ecosystem, as well as evolution of demographic strategies of breeding birds, with the goal of understanding ecology and evolution of traits important to conservation.

Martin and his graduate students conduct field studies in central Montana and northern Arizona. In addition, they worked for several years in Yacambu National Park in the northern

Andes of Venezuela, Koeberg Nature Reserve in South Africa, and in New Zealand and Tasmania. This year Martin began a new research project in Borneo's Kinabalu National Park.

In April 2008, USGS designated Martin a senior scientist. The umbrella organization of all cooperative wildlife research units employs 10,000 scientists, and only 25 may be designated senior scientists.

AAAS was founded in 1848. The association includes 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874.

The newly elected AAAS Fellows will be honored at a Feb. 20 forum during the association's 2010 annual meeting in San Diego.

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