

Snowy Owl

Bubo scandiacus

Description

The Snowy owl, a majestic bird, is the largest owl in North America by weight. The Snowy owl is 52–71 cm long, with a 125–150 cm wingspan. The adult male is completely white while females and young birds have some dark spots. Snowy owls migrate to Alberta during the winter months, after spending the spring and summer in Alaska. The Snowy owl is the provincial bird of Québec. The Snowy Owl is an exceptional hunter. They fly silently due to the fact that its flight feathers are tipped with soft down, allowing this predator to swoop down silently on its prey. The Snowy Owl has exceptional hearing and sight, allowing it to capture its favourite prey, lemmings, as lemmings are unable to hide under the snow to avoid capture. Snowy Owls form a monogamous pair and vigorously defend their territory, even against large carnivores such as wolves.

FUN FACTS

- ▶ Unlike many owls, Snowy Owls are fully diurnal hunting during the long daylight of the Arctic summer.
- ▶ Snowy Owls are the heaviest of North American's owls weighing approximately 4 lbs.
- ▶ A single Snowy Owl can eat upwards of 1600 lemmings in a year.
- ▶ Snowy Owls migrate to spend their winters in southern Canada, including in Calgary.



If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org






Photo: Naturespicsonlines

Contact Us

 11555—85th Street NW, Calgary, AB T3R 1J3
 403-214-1312

 admin@calgarywildlife.org
 calgarywildlife.org

 @calgarywildlife
 @calgarywildlife
 @Calgary_wildlife