



Vanessa Foley

SNOWY OWL

Bubo scandiacus
(Linnaeus, 1758)

Most owls sleep during the day and hunt at night, but the snowy owl is active during the day, especially in the summertime.

BEHAVIOR AND CHARACTERISTICS

Often pairing for life, the male snowy owl performs an aerial display for the female during courtship, sometimes carrying a lemming too.

Snowy owls will aggressively defend their nest from predators, and have even been known to drive wolves away.

Although it generally feeds on small mammals, the snowy owl is also capable of taking prey as large as geese.

CONSERVATION

Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Satellite monitoring projects found that previously the population was overestimated (R. Solheim, G. Gauthier, 2017).



DISTRIBUTION

Typically found in the northern circumpolar region. However, it is a particularly nomadic bird, and because population fluctuations in its prey species can force it to relocate, it has been known to breed at more southerly latitudes.



IDENTIFICATION, FOOD AND HUNTING



7-12 roents per day,
almost 1600 per year

Juvenil: dark grey

♀ : Spotted

♂ : All white

