Snowy Owl Rehabilitation
SORCO’s Mission

• The conservation of birds of prey through rehabilitation and a focused promotional and education program which generates public interest and support for the preservation of this vital part of our natural inheritance

• Rescue, Rehabilitate & Release

• Injured & Orphaned Birds of Prey
  Owls, Eagles, Hawks, Osprey, Falcons and Vultures
**SNOWY OWL**

Popularized by the Harry Potter series, snowy owls—with their striking white plumage to match their Arctic home—look perfect for a world of wizards. Although their white feathers set them apart, like all owls, they come with a set of adaptations that make them fierce birds of prey. Here are some facts and stats about *Bubo scandiacus*.

- **Class:** Aves
- **Order:** Strigiformes
- **Family:** Strigidae
- **Genus:** Bubo
- **Species:** B. scandiacus

**Facial discs**, stiff feathers that surround their eyes, reflect sound waves toward their ears. Snowy owls have ear tufts, though they’re small and often hard to spot. Asymmetrically-placed ears help pinpoint the exact location of potential prey. Their beaks are short, curved, and hooked for gripping prey. Owls are far-sighted and rely on bristles around their beaks to sense nearby objects.

Forward-facing eyes give snowy owls excellent stereoscopic vision and depth perception. Snowy owls have big eyes—they weigh as much as our own. Their large corneas and pupils allow for a huge amount of light to enter the eye, giving them incredibly good night vision.

Owls have three eyelids: upper, lower, and a third—called a nictitating membrane—to clean and protect the eye. Owls cannot move their eyes. To see their surroundings, snowy owls rely on their highly flexible necks which are able to turn up to 270° in either direction.

Thanks in part to thick feathers needed for insulation, snowy owls are the heaviest owl species in North America, typically weighing about 4 pounds.

Snowy owls swallow small prey whole. Indigestible parts of animals, like bones and fur, are compacted into pellets that the owls regurgitate up to 24 hours after eating.

Snowy owls use their talons to snatch prey.

Snowy owls have a wingspan between 4 and 5 feet. Snow owls are the official bird of Québec.

While adult male snowy owls can be almost completely white, females and owlets have some dark scalloping on their plumage.

Female snowy owls are about 20% larger than the males.

**SNOWY OWL RANGE**

- **Breeding**
- **Non-Breeding**

The snowy owl was once placed in its own genus (*Nyctea scandiaca*) but recent genetic analysis revealed the species is closely related to horned owls in the *Bubo* genus.

Snowy owls eat an estimated 1,600 lemmings every year. That’s about 3 to 5 each day.

Unlike most owls which are typically nocturnal, snowy owls are diurnal—they’re active both during the day and at night.

The snowy owl is also known as: the snow owl, the arctic owl, the great white owl, the ghost owl, the ermine owl, the tundra ghost, the nisipek, the white terror of the north, and the Scandinavian nightbird.

Snowy owls are usually silent except during breeding season.

Depictions of snowy owls have been found in cave paintings in Europe dating back 30,000 years.

**Sources:** the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Mass Audubon, Audubon, National Geographic, POC pages.

**HELLO MY NAME IS**

Snowy owls have been found in cave paintings in Europe dating back 30,000 years.
Winter 2012-2013

• 5 snowy owls came into our care from November 2012 until January 2013
Locations

- Kelowna
- Penticton
- Kaleden
Issues

- Lice
- Weak
- Young
Rehabilitation

- Examination
- Feeding
- Fluids
- Medication
- Exercise
Release

• 2 owls back to Kelowna
Release
Release

- 1 owl back to Kaleden
Study

• Our data is being complied with others
Why?

- 2012-2013 - Here
- 2013-2014 – East Coast
- Young Owls
- Food source
- Climate Change
More information

www.projectsnowstorm.org
SORCO

- Started in 1987 by Sherri Klein
- Leased land – The Land Conservancy of BC
- A Treatment & Rehabilitation Facility
- Conservation Biologist Manager shared with
  – The Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC
- Funded by public donations and grants
- Volunteer Supported
Numbers of birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Birds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Open House and Grand Opening

- Sunday May 4
- 10-3
- Opening Ceremony 11am
Thank you

www.sorco.org

Facebook
Twitter