

SNOWY OWL

Bubo scandiacus

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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Bird (owl)
NATIVE REGION	Arctic North America, Europe and Asia
HABITAT	Open, treeless tundra
DIET	Small mammals such as lemmings and voles, and birds
SIZE	20 to 28 inches
WINGSPAN	Up to 5.5 feet
WEIGHT	3.5 to 6.5 lb
LIFESPAN	About 10 years in the wild
STATUS	Vulnerable
OUR OWL	Hedwig



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Snowy owls hunt by day as readily as by night, which helps in the round-the-clock daylight of an Arctic summer.
- Males grow almost pure white as they age. Females keep dark brown markings for life.
- Their legs and feet have some of the densest feathers of any owl.
- How many chicks snowy owls raise often depends on how many lemmings there are that year.
- Hedwig has a fan built into the roof of her habitat to help keep her cool.

Words to know

Tundra: Cold, treeless land in the far north.

Plumage: All of a bird's feathers.

Scrape: A shallow hollow on the ground used as a nest.

Vulnerable: At risk of becoming endangered.

Think about it

1. Why does Hedwig have a fan in the roof of her habitat?
2. How can you tell a male snowy owl from a female?
3. Why is hunting during the day useful for a snowy owl in the Arctic?
4. How does the number of lemmings affect snowy owl families?
5. How can climate change affect snowy owls?

Draw it

Draw a snowy owl on a perch. Label its golden eyes, its dark markings (if it is a female like Hedwig) and its feathered feet.

Draw here