

# Owl Skirmish

Story and photos by Eric Walters



Photo 1

At 8 a.m., on 15 Nov. 1995, at the north-eastern point of the Northwestern University landfill in Evanston, Cook County, I saw a bird flying southbound just above Lake Michigan's surface. A group of gulls was attacking the bird, nearly driving it into the water. When the gulls reached land, they handed the harassment over to a small group of crows.

By now, it was obvious that the bird being attacked was a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), which had landed against a wall, and was eyeing the crows circling overhead. (Photo 1).

The owl then directed its attention at me, the third intruder into its morning (Photo 2.)

The owl flew south (Photo 3) only to have the crows aggressively begin the chase (Photo 4).

After a brief skirmish in the air (Photo 5), the owl flew southeast over the lake leaving the crows behind.

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Photo 2

Photo 3



Photo 5

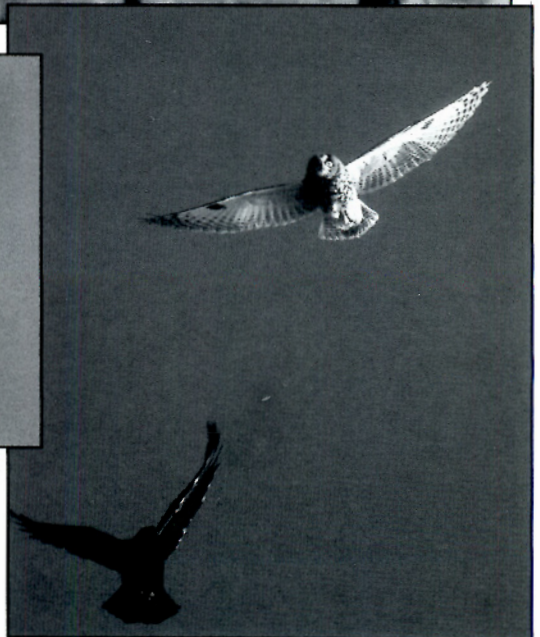


Photo 4