

Illinois Ornithological Society



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Winter memories

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Two phantoms of the north graced Illinois with their presence last winter, creating lasting memories. Snowy Owls invaded Illinois reaching as far south as Franklin County. The owls didn't know they were making a record of the second largest flight in the state's history, but David B. Johnson, author of our lead article, "Snowy Owl Invasion," did.

Meanwhile, the rare appearance of an Ivory Gull in Chicago's harbors created a stir not only among birders, but also among local press who wondered why anyone would stand outside on a frigid, blustery winter day to see a plain old white seagull with a dirty face. There's no use trying to explain why to a non-birder. Instead, just relish your search for rare gulls and owls this winter. And when you're not out birding, settle in next to a roaring fire and enjoy our winter issue, a tribute to the phantom birds of the north.

Sheryl DeVore