

SNOWY OWL INVASION

*Illinois birders witness
second largest flight in state's history*

by David B. Johnson



Snowy Owls, Montrose Harbor, Chicago, December 1991. (Kanae Hirabayashi photo)

Dawn. Early November 1991. DuPage County. Dick Young drives a school bus down a country road at twilight. A large white bird flies across the road in front of him.

Mid-November. Illinois Beach State Park. Photographer Dana Hansen walks along the rocky shores when a large white bird flies out from nearby rocks and lands on the beach in front of her.

December 23. Champaign County. An Illinois State Trooper finds a large white bird with a broken wing along Interstate 57. He takes the bird to an animal clinic.