

SNOWY OWL

Bubo scandiacus

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

Snowy Owls breed throughout the Holarctic tundra and winter irregularly S to mid-latitudes of the United States and Europe through n. China and Korea (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951b, Cramp and Simmons 1985, AOU 1998). Responding to rodent cycles, Snowy Owls stage southward "irruptions" in some years to s. parts of the winter range, at which time they can be observed far at sea (e.g., Gross 1927) and on offshore islands such as Bermuda and Japan (AOU 1998). Perhaps the southernmost record of Snowy Owl ever recorded involves a first-fall male that appeared at the Honolulu Airport, *O'ahu*, 24 Nov 2011 ([HRBP](#) 6713 published *NAB* 66:193). Airport personnel attempted to scare it from the runways but when it refused to leave it was shot as part of bird-strike control efforts and sent to the Bishop Museum (BPBM 185577; [HRBP](#) 6714). An irruption of Snowy Owls had commenced in the North American Pacific Northwest during Nov 2011, and the record was accepted as a naturally occurring vagrant to Hawaii by the [HBRC](#) in May 2015.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>