

# Concerned about snowy owl health?

Despite common myths, most snowy owls that migrate south are healthy. If exceptionally large numbers of owls are seen migrating south — called an irruption — this means the last breeding season was very successful due to an abundance of food.

While most migrating owls are healthy, a few sick or injured owls will end up in the care of wildlife rehabilitators. Since most irrupting owls are on their very first migration, it is natural that some simply don't develop the skills they need to survive. Others run into danger when sharing landscapes with humans.

Currently, automobile and airplane collisions are the leading cause of death for wintering owls.



However, many owls are also exposed to rodent poison and other toxins. In addition, avian influenza is emerging as a threat.

Learn more at: [projectsnowstorm.org](http://projectsnowstorm.org)

PROJECT **SNOW** STORM

## Practicing good etiquette keeps owls healthy and safe:

### NEVER OFFER FOOD



Owls baited with mice for photographs will associate people with food.



They may later approach humans who harm them out of fear, malice, or by accident.

### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



Observe owls from inside a vehicle or from a respectful distance. **If an owl is watching you, you are probably too close.**

