

### Watch for Snowy Owls in Missouri

(KTNC) -- Snowy owls have been sighted in Missouri, some in the northern parts of the state since early December. The Missouri Department of Conservation is asking drivers to keep an eye out for these large, white-and-black birds that have come down from the Arctic, as they often swoop down for food onto open roads, but are unaware of the dangers of cars.

The large black-and-white birds are about the size of a Great Horned Owl, with a large wingspan. Many of the birds are juveniles, who have come south in search of food and following the recent cold weather in Missouri.

Department of Conservation spokesman Jim Low says you should not approach the bird if you see one standing on a roadway, and don't assume that it will fly away as your vehicle approaches.

Two years ago, Low says a record number of snowy owls were seen in Missouri, and it is surprising to see so many again this year, as the sightings, or "eruptions," usually happen every four years.

The snowy owl may be familiar to moviegoers. It is the same type of bird as Hedwig from the Harry Potter movies.

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