



Snowy owl (Bubo scandiacus)

People in Europe and America have long considered the snowy owl as "God of the Mountain"; a symbol of wisdom and trust and a bringer of happiness. In Greek mythology the snowy owl was known as the governor of knowledge and the arts, and in Aesop's fables it is described as having powers of prophecy. It is believed that merely placing pictures or ornaments of owls in corners of the house will welcome good luck into one's home.

As the name suggests, the snowy owl is covered in snow-white feathers. This large species of owl is mainly found in Arctic tundra areas. The snowy owl can rotate its head up to 270 degrees giving it an extremely wide range of vision. White feathers cover its body all the way to its toes, and its short beak is buried beneath feathers on its face. Unlike most other owls, the snowy owl is active during daylight hours. Summer in the Arctic circle features nights of "midnight sun", and the snowy owl, living in open areas such as tundras, grasslands, wetlands, or rocky areas, must hunt for prey from an elevated point with maximum vision of the area. For this reason, snowy owls are often very active during the day, even though hunting is commonly done in the mornings or evening. Their prey consists mostly of small rodents, but they occasionally feed on other birds too.



















