

## NOTES ON THE APPEARANCE OF THE SNOWY OWL IN GARFIELD COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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### ABSTRACT

Rumors of the existence of a pair of snowy owls in this vicinity has been reported since 1928. A check up of reports of hunters, farmers, and high school boys brought out the possibility of permanent residence of the snowy owl in Garfield County, Oklahoma. Some even reported seeing the nests and eggs. Personal observations were made by the writer for several years without seeing even one specimen. A cash reward was offered for bringing in specimens. Only light-colored western horned owls and barn owls have been brought in.

About two years ago a snowy owl was caught alive by Mr. E. T. Barrick on his farm three miles northwest of Enid, Oklahoma. It flew into a patch of weeds and was easily secured. It was exhibited in the Garfield County Poultry Show soon afterwards. It wouldn't eat much while in captivity and upon its death was given to the writer for his biology classes. L. D. Alley, a member of the Enid Biology Taxidermy Research Club, mounted the specimen for the museum of the Enid High School. A picture of this bird appeared in the *Sooner Magazine* and *The Oklahoma Teacher*.

Dr. Margaret Nice of the University of Chicago and author of *Birds of Oklahoma* states "that the snowy owl does not nest in Oklahoma—only comes south in winter as a rare winter visitant."

Dr. Carter of the Northwestern Teachers College at Alva collected a few specimens of the snowy owl.