

# A Flutter of Snow!

In this season of winter, we are looking at five birds that have 'snow' in their name:

**Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiaca* Ulchabhán sneachtúil  
Snowy Owls breed in the Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America. Owls are mostly nocturnal, feeding at night but the Snowy Owls are diurnal and will feed both day and night. They are rare visitors to bogs in the West of Ireland.



**Snow Goose** *Chen caerulescens* Mionghé shneachta  
Snow Geese are found in North America. They spend winter in southern areas of the continent and once winter is over, they fly north to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. Though they are known for the white plumages, some Snow Geese are darker, with grey-brown plumage. Snow Geese are rare visitors to Ireland.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealóg shneachta  
Snow Buntings breed in the arctic, around Scandinavia, Siberia, Greenland, Alaska and Canada. In winter they migrate to lower latitudes. They are uncommon in Ireland but can be found in a few places, such as Mayo and Donegal. Snow Buntings are related to the sparrow.



**Snowy Egret** *Egretta thula*  
Snowy Egrets are very elegant, medium-sized Herons. In the 1800s they were widely hunted for their beautiful feathers, which damaged the population. No longer hunted, their population has recovered and are found throughout North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, living mainly along the coast but also inland in wetlands.



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