

# Operation Snowy Owl . . .

By FRED and FRAN HAMERSTROM

Have you seen any Snowy Owls this winter?

If you have please send a report, telling where and when, immediately to:

Milwaukee area—Mary Donald, 6918 Belmont Lane, Milwaukee 17

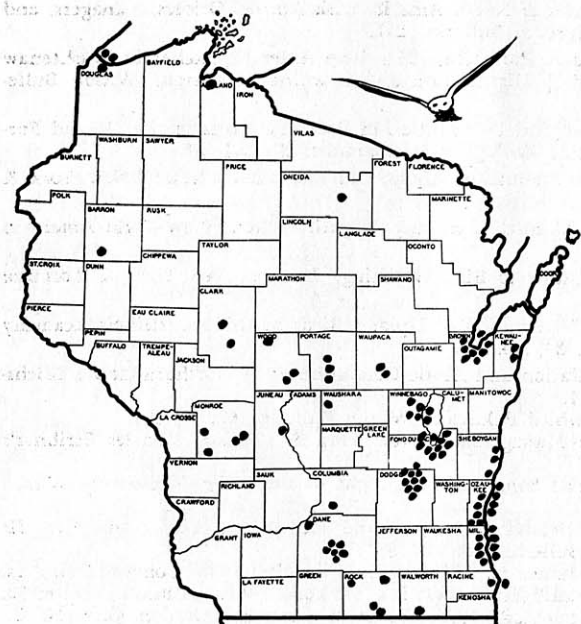
Madison area—Telephone Lloyd Keith at Alpine 5-3311, Extension 2346, or write to Helmut Mueller, Birge Hall, University of Wisconsin

Rest of the state—Fran Hamerstrom, Plainfield.

At least 93 Snowy Owls have been sighted in Wisconsin so far this winter, to the end of January. These records are indicated on the map.

The heaviest known concentrations appear to be near cities with lakes: Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Madison. However, ten have been seen on Horicon Marsh.

The following WSO members have already sent in reports, and we wish to thank them: Tom Ashman, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Barger, Hazel Cox, Nils Dahlstrand, Mary Decker, Mary Donald, Robert Ellarson (whose radio program, "World of Nature," brought in a number of reports), Mr. and Mrs. R. P.



Hussong, Roy Lukes, Harold Mathiak, Melva Maxson, Harry Meinel, Ed Prins, Sam Robbins, and Mrs. R. A. Walker.

Thirty Snowies have been banded in Wisconsin during December and January. Using a technique developed by Dan Berger and Helmut Mueller, they have been marked with the following colors: red, blue, green, copper, pink, orange. Color-markings are on the head, back, breast, right wing, left wing, rump, tail, etc.

Color-marking has already brought in a number of sight records, especially of birds seen again near the banding place. Most of the eight Snowies color-marked at Horicon Marsh have been seen repeatedly in their winter "territories." One bird reported in Kewaunee County had moved at least 16 miles north; unfortunately, however, we do not yet



MRS. FREDERICK  
HAMERSTROM, JR.,  
W. S. O. PRESIDENT  
WITH SNOWY OWL  
TRAPPED AND  
BANDED AT  
GREEN BAY  
IN JANUARY,  
1961.

"OPERATION  
SNOWY OWL,"  
UNDER THE  
HAMERSTROMS'  
DIRECTION,  
RESULTED IN  
A RECORD CATCH  
OF FIVE OWLS  
IN GREEN BAY  
ON JANUARY 22.

PHOTO BY  
ORVELL PETERSON  
GREEN BAY  
PRESS GAZETTE

know whether the right or left wing was the colored one and so are not sure of the exact banding place for this bird.

Operation Snowy Owl is making a diligent attempt to document this winter's flight. We want reports of all Snowy Owls seen this winter and next spring, whether color-marked or not, and wherever they may be. Speed in getting information to us will be greatly appreciated: the sooner we know where the owls are, the better are our chances of banding them.

