

Snowy's Search for Color!

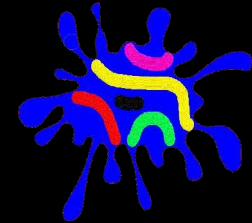
Written and Photographed by Rich Hoeg



Snowy's Search for Color

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Husband ... Father ... Grandfather ...
Naturalist ... Photographer ... Author ...



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Author's Note: All photographs in this book were taken in northern Minnesota. Minor artistic license was occasionally taken to help the story line.

I owe special thanks to these people who helped me make this book a reality ... Molly, Paul, Sparky, and Susan.

I dedicate this book to my Grandchildren who I hope will all learn the wonder of nature, and even see a Snowy Owl with Grampa!



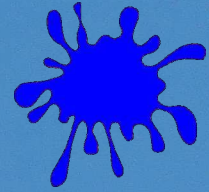
Snowy Owl was born on the Arctic tundra. As his first winter drew near, friends told him the long night would soon start. The sun would not rise in the sky for months.



One night he saw the Northern Lights. Watching Green pillars dance across the sky, Snowy knew he had to see more color!



Snowy decided to fly south in search of color, but he needed directions. When he saw a funny looking bear wearing Blue pants, he stopped to ask for help.





**The bear was not helpful. He just told Snowy:
"Drive Safely and Help Prevent Forest Fires!"**

Snowy flew further south and stopped at a farm to talk with “Red”.





The Red Fox said, "If you really want to find color ask Brother Owl for help. The wise Great Gray Owl will know where to search."

Snowy did not know where to find Brother Owl. He decided to follow Gray railroad tracks.



Suddenly in a big dead tree he saw Brother Owl ...
the Great Gray!



Snowy asked,
“O Wise One ... I seek color.
Where shall I find it?”

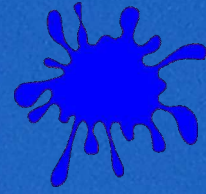
Brother Owl said, "Fly to Lake Superior. There on the shores of Gitche Gumee you will discover color."



When he arrived the first night, Snowy saw only a big ship locked in the ice with Yellow lights.



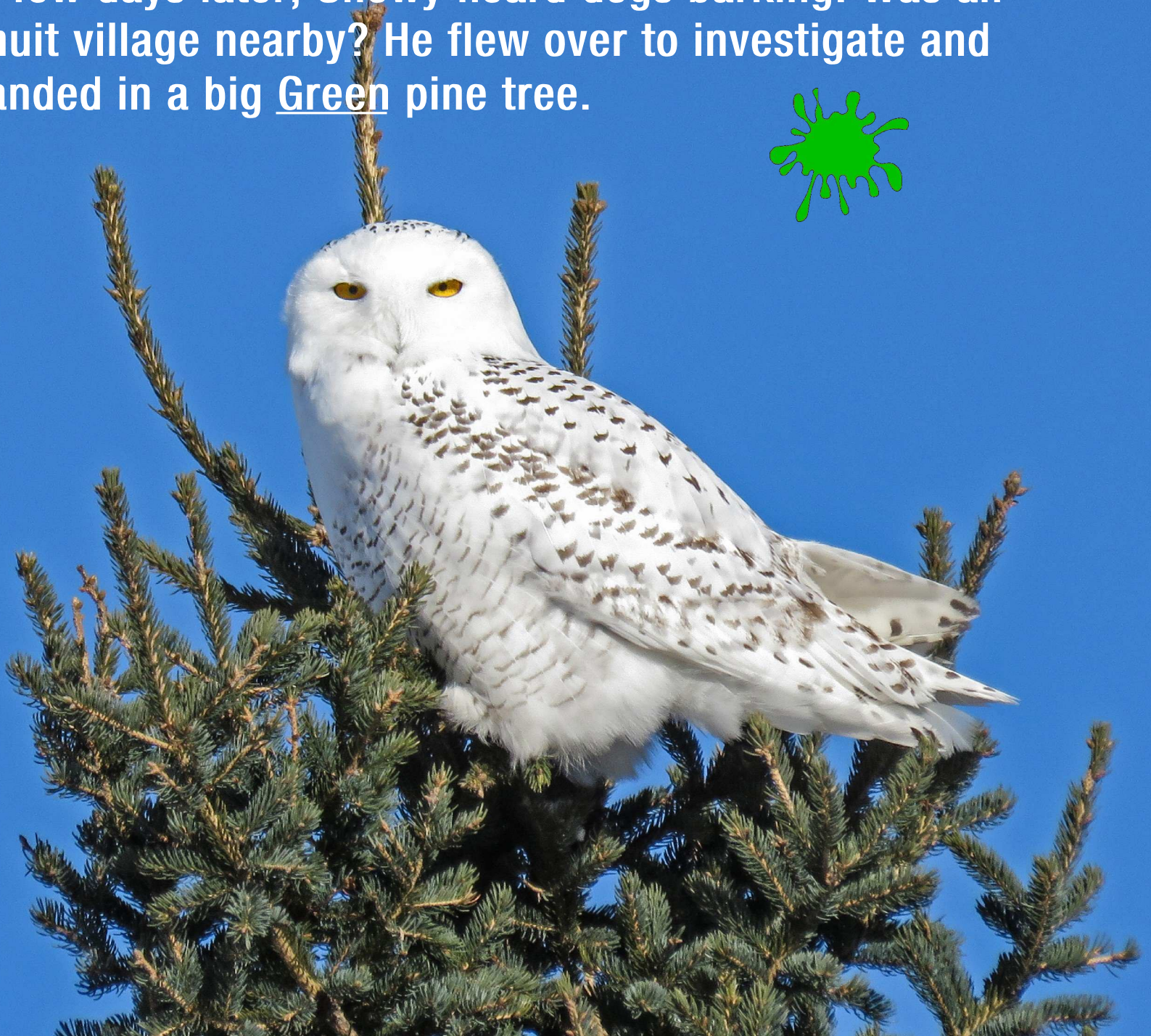
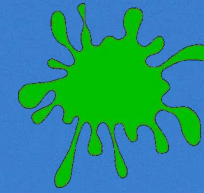
The next morning Snowy landed on a big rock next to Lake Superior. The sky was deep Blue!



He saw a man in a funny Orange boat paddling in between ice flows. The ice reminded him of home and the Arctic Ocean. The boat looked like the kayaks used by the Inuits.



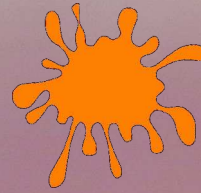
A few days later, Snowy heard dogs barking. Was an Inuit village nearby? He flew over to investigate and landed in a big Green pine tree.



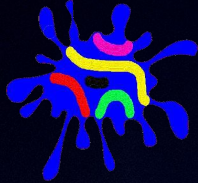
Snowy found lots of dogs racing through the forest. He had never before seen dogs wearing Blue jackets and Black booties!



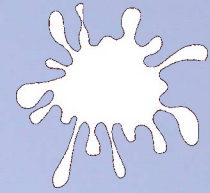
One night as Snowy began to hunt for supper, the sky turned Orange and Red. Was this the color for which he had been searching?



Suddenly Snowy heard music. He flew to the top of a hill to listen ... looked down ... and saw ... Color! All the Colors in the world were stretched out below him!



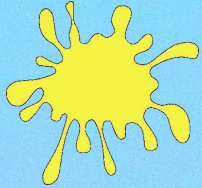
As winter turned into spring, there were many cloudy White days.



One morning he saw a ship appear almost magically from out of the White fog. Although Snowy liked all the colors he had seen, White was still his favorite. After all, he was a Snowy Owl!



The weather was now getting warm enough for young foxes to come out of their den. One looked up into Snowy's Yellow eyes.





Snowy asked the fox kit, "Are you looking for color too?"
and the little fox said, "I like the warm colors of sunshine."



Searching for color was tiring and Snowy fell asleep quickly one night on a hay bale.



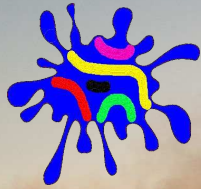
When he woke up he saw Golden Brown grass under the melting snow. This was a signal it was time to fly back north and return home.





When Snowy reached home in the Arctic he landed on a mound of snow. As the sun started to set over the ocean ... Snowy thought ...

Color is everywhere, but I'm happy to be home with my Colors!





Rich Hoeg is a northern Minnesota based naturalist / photographer. His idea of a good time is spending the day out in the Boreal Forest. Rich is pictured with "Silver" the Snowy Owl who he recently hand-rescued and brought to the wildlife rehabilitation center. Silver had a hurt wing.

View Rich's photographs, and learn more about his other children's books at <https://www.365DaysOfBirds.com/>

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