



W. K. Kellogg  
Biological Station  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release  
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### **W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary re-opens Resource Center and educates on Snowy Owls**

**AUGUSTA, Mich.** — Join us Tuesday, March 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary to learn about Snowy Owls in Michigan. This is a great event for the whole family to learn about Project Snowstorm, the Snowy Owl monitoring project. Brenda and Rich Keith from the Kalamazoo River Valley Bird Observatory (a program of the Kalamazoo Nature Center) will bring their expertise in bird banding to the Sanctuary. Inside the Auditorium a slideshow will be shown with information on the research and data collected through banding Snowy Owls.

Project Snowstorm is a primarily crowd-funded program that was started in winter 2013-14 after a large irruption of Snowy Owls into the Northern United States from the Canadian Arctic. This collaboration among scientists is catching Snowy Owls and outfitting them with solar powered GPS – GSM transmitters to analyze the owls' activity. The project is continuing and one new owl had a transmitter put on in 2015. Rich and Brenda Keith will explain how they have helped outfit Snowy Owls with transmitters.

Snowy Owls are diurnal (daytime) hunters that are found near shorelines of lakes and the ocean, agricultural fields, and airports due to the wide open spaces. They like to perch conspicuously on fences, telephone poles, or buildings.

The cost for members is \$5/adult, \$4/ student or senior, and \$3/ child. The cost for non-members is \$7/adult, \$6/ student or senior, and \$5/child. Pre-registration with payment is appreciated, but not required. Contact (269)671-2510 or [birdsanctuary@kbs.msu.edu](mailto:birdsanctuary@kbs.msu.edu) with questions. Reservations can be made online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/ProjectSnowstorm/>.

On February 29, the staff at the Bird Sanctuary's Resource Center will be celebrating its re-opening after the winter. The Resource Center includes a gift shop, and features local artists as well as new Spartan Pure Maple Syrup. The Resource Center will open at 9 a.m. and be open until 5 p.m. As always, visitors are welcome to explore the Sanctuary grounds at regular admission prices for non-members (members' admission is free).

The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, located at 12685 East C Ave., Augusta, is part of the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University's largest off-campus education complex and one of North America's premier inland field stations. The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary conserves native habitat for migratory and resident birds, and through research, education and outreach helps people gain environmental awareness about our past, present and future.

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bethany Bohlen, Communications Coordinator, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station  
[communityrelations@kbs.msu.edu](mailto:communityrelations@kbs.msu.edu)  
(269) 671-2015