

The nature around Nuuk - Spring (April to May)



*by
Keld Jensen*

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Some say there is no spring in Greenland. The winter passes directly into the short Arctic summer.

I think the seasons always are diffuse, and I think I am experiencing a period between the winter and the summer, where the cold winter is quietly forced to its knees. The frequency of the periods with temperatures above the freezing point is rising, and so does the frequency of rainy de-pressions from the south. This is the period, I call spring.

One of the first signs of spring is the arrival of the snow buntings. It is again a little vague sign of spring. Some years we can observe the snow buntings in the town in January. Other years they come so early that they must seek shelter

during the snowstorms in small hollows in the snow. In this way, the snow buntings find shelter in hundreds of small holes closely next to each other on a rock wall.

In late March, the boats are launched. Slowly the traffic on the fiords around Nuuk is increasing. Especially the fishermen and the hunters are busy. It is now that the precious harvest of lumpfish roe has to be harvested. The small dinghies constantly move back and forth from the fishing grounds inside the fiord.

In early April, the sun is now so high in the sky that it reaches over the smaller mountains around the town. The sunrays are now hot, and the snow and the ice are rapidly melting. One of these days you again can recognise the smell

of the mould and the heather.

Everything is speeding up in May. Finally, the snow showers turn into rain. Even small streams in the mountains, becomes larger rivers that are hard to force. It is still difficult to hike into the mountains without snowshoes, because there remains much snow on the mountain slopes facing north.

The snow bunting has now been accompanied by another common bird in the mountains – the wheatear. This small hot-tempered bird with its white rump and its green legs can be watched everywhere on the rocky slopes in and around Nuuk.

But just when you think this is spring, the weather of the winter is back and a blizzard clothes the mountains in the white dress again.



Figures in the snow, April 2005



Landscape of snow, April 2005



A snow drift in the sun, April 2007



Ice floes caught in the surf, April 2007



*Iceland gulls on ice floe,
April 2007*



*Iceland gull on ice floe,
April 2008*



Low tide at the coast, May 2008



Algae on rocks, low tide, May 2008



Sun shower above the fiord and Akia, May 2008



*Sun shower above the fiord,
May 2008*



A track along the coast, Malene Bay, May 2001



*Weathered rocks by the coast,
Malene Bay, May 2001*



Weathered rocks, May 2001



A pair of ravens, May 2007



View over the Malene Bay, May 2006



Sunshine on the high mountains on the island Storøen, May 2008



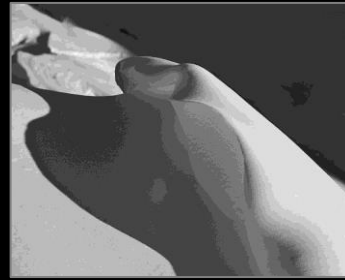
Sunset above Akia, April 2008



The moon above Nuuk, May 2008

Thumbnails

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COLOPHON

The nature around Nuuk – Spring (January to March)

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