

Qupaloraarsuk goes on flying

Researchers have estimated that between one and ten million snow bunting couples are breeding in Greenland. The snow bunting (in Greenlandic qupaloraarsuk) is widely spread around the coast of Greenland. But there is only one qupaloraarsuk web page with photographs and storytelling.

This week the webpage passes a milestone:

Photo of the week number 100!

WWW.QUPALORAARSUK.COM now contains one hundred photographs and one hundred matching small essays in the category Photo of the week. At the same time you can find a lot of series of photographs with essays on the webpage. Right now the webpage contains 736 different photographs and 132 small essays.

The website receives more and more visits, and many visitors return to find the updates. I am very grateful for this. If you have comments and ideas for further development of the page, please feel free to contact me at info@qupaloraarsuk.com.

This photograph of the week was taken in the

hinterland of the town Ilulissat in North Greenland. It was in June 2007.

The snow buntings were busy to lure us away from their hidden nest. Down in an old Inuit grave we could see the human skulls and bones. Down in the grave the snow buntings have built their small nest. Five small, grey-white eggs with reddish spots lay wrapped in a bowl of moss, lichen and grass.

Right now the snow buntings have leaved Nuuk, where I am living. Most of the snow buntings on the west coast are now in their winter quarters somewhere in North America. The bird usually attains an age of between six and nine years. Twice a year, the little snow bunting is crossing the Davis Strait. Here at Nuuk the distance to the North American mainland is six hundred kilometres. The small, robust snow bunting therefore must cross this enormous strait between twelve and eighteen times during its lifetime.

The Qupaloraarsuk website is also robust. Maybe it goes on flying for many years?



Ilulissat, June 2007

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Go to the Text