

The tulugaq

The black raven, *Corvus Corax*, is a bird, which frequently visits my bird table. The raven is present almost everywhere in the Greenlandic nature. Throughout the year, we can follow the black bird around in our town.

From a distance the bird looks black-coloured, but if we get close to it we can see that the coat of feathers actually is dark and has shiny metallic, blue shades.

Tulugaq, as the raven is called in Greenlandic, is a queer bird. It can play with a flag halyard. It can slide down the snow-slopes. In many ways the bird acts quite human when its wise eyes and the head tilted to regard us from a roof or a rock edge.

Many are annoyed with the ravens in the town. If meat and fish are hung outside to dry, the wise bird probably

will grab it, even if all sorts of efforts are made to protect the meat from the omnivorous bird. The raven also finds its way to the waste containers and the bins, and the result is that the waste is spread widely.

Scientific studies suggest that ravens are smarter than chimpanzees. They think logically and they have a good memory. For instance people in my hometown tell me, that a raven can see the difference between someone who carries a rifle and others who do not carry a weapon.

It has previously been an important knowledge for the tulugaq. From 1943 to 1969 the Greenlandic provincial council paid a shoot premium for the ravens. Four thousand ravens were killed each year in this period, most in our district here in South Greenland.



The raven,
Qaqortoq,
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