

The snow sparrow or snow bunting

The snow sparrow lives on barren mountain peaks among glaciers and eternal snow. It is the most common small bird in Greenland and behaves like our house sparrows in the Eskimo communities. These snow sparrows winter in the Soviet Union and move through northernmost Scandinavia. Our own snow sparrows probably winter around the North Sea.

Lapland's bird of prey

In the month of April, the snow sparrows move in large, white, glistening flocks through the woodland on their way to the mountain tops. In Lapland, the snow sparrows are long awaited. They come early in the year and are an important sign of spring.

Comes to man

In April, the snow is still deep in the forest. The snow sparrows look for food on the ground and go to bare spots around the houses. At the time horses were used for logging, the snow sparrows were gathering at the stables in the forest. Today, they also look for food by the roadsides, and in spots on airfields without snow.

Sparrow soup

It was just a matter of thanking, and receiving for the settler when the fresh food came flying to the door. The children snared snow sparrows, which were cooked in a pot.

It is even said that snared birds were sold. A merchant in Oslo bought in April 1889 about 5,000 snow sparrows from Northern Norway.

There were many ways for the mountain farmer to get income from nature. Among all the dangers that met the snow sparrows on their vast journeys across tundras and seas, the mountain farmer was probably one of the least dangerous.