

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

An aerial photograph showing a vast, dense herd of reindeer in a snowy, mountainous landscape. The reindeer are packed closely together, filling most of the frame. The snow is bright white, and the reindeer have brown and grey fur. The overall scene is a striking natural spectacle.

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The Truth About Viking Women

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A special desert bird confronts a changing habitat

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Urban sprawl threatens the tiny but tough western burrowing owl in Arizona, but a determined group of conservationists is dreaming up ways to help it survive.

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ON THE COVER

SUBSCRIBER EDITION In Canada's Northwest Territories, thousands of reindeer—members of the country's last free-ranging herd—migrate toward their calving grounds, protected by Inuvialuit herders.

Photograph by KATIE ORLINSKY

NEWSSTAND EDITION The Birka Warrior, depicted here in combat, was a 10th-century Viking long thought to be male, but DNA analysis has confirmed her true identity as female.

Illustration by ARIA SAFARZADEGAN