



Mitsuaki Iwago. Sharing a Cradle of Ice.

A young spotted seal and a fledging slaty-backed gull share an ice floe off the coast of Rausu in the Shiretoko Peninsula in Hokkaido, Japan. Occasionally, the gull pecks the seal, who appears annoyed but doesn't bother to escape into the water. It's an idyllic scene, but one that may soon feel the impact of global warming. Over the past few decades, sea ice has been decreasing here in the Sea of Okhotsk. Seals give birth on the ice floes whose gentle rocking motion makes them a

natural cradle, and the pups like this one remain on the ice for about a month. Photographer Mitsuaki Iwago wondered what would happen to the seals if the ice continued to disappear.

— *Hoping That Nature's Beauty Will Last Forever*

Shot in Shiretoko National Park in Hokkaido, Japan, on March 3, 2008, at 10:39 a.m., with the Olympus E-3, Zuiko Digital ED 300mm, f6.3, 1/1000 sec.

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Focusing on environment issues and nature preservation, wildlife photographer Mitsuaki Iwago presents the state of our world through photos and movies.

Global Warming Witness — Mitsuaki Iwago Special

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New episode featuring Shiretoko, Japan, now available.

Mitsuaki Iwago, born in Tokyo in 1950, is an internationally renowned wildlife photographer whose work has won many awards and has appeared in and on the cover of *National Geographic*.



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