

The Loon's Cry

Peter Lewis Paul

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1. Mecimìw wasísok qecikesultúwok kèq weci-tuci-kiwattáqsit oqim. Qospémok nipayìw=oc nìt eci-kiwattáqsit. 'Qocitpùhk=te=hc nìt èlùwe. On nìt tóké, nkotùwakònùtòmon weci- nìt -líhtáqsit oqim.

'Children are always asking why the loon makes such a mournful sound. At the lake they will make mournful cries in the night. Sometimes this will (go on) almost all night. So now I want to tell you why the loon sounds like that.'

2. Píhce skinúhsis naka pilsqéhsis wisòki-kseltúwok. Kõma=lu kisi-nipüwiwiyok 'sami-wecüwawakütúwok.

'A long time ago a boy and a girl loved each other very much. They could not marry, though, because they were too closely related.'

3. On nìt kõma kiseltomüwámuhk nisüwiníya, eci-macehkawõtíhtit sönuciw. Tamà nìt wisòki-spáhke.

'So then, when they were not allowed to marry, they walked down by the river. Somewhere where the bank was very high.'

4. Nìt pòl mahkíyèw, 'totòloteminiya. Mam=òte 'qisitáhatòmòniya, 'cuwapòtoqhiniya, na nehpuhusiniya. Naka wòt=òna skinúhsis wapiskipepisu.

'At first, they just cried there for a while. In the end, they made up their minds to jump into the water, and so to kill themselves. And this boy was wearing a white neckband.'

5. On nìt cuwapòtoqhíhtit askómot. Mam=òte sòlahkiw muskiyácik nisüwok oqimúwok, pèsq=cel wapiskipepisu.

'And then they jumped into the water forever. Then, all of a sudden, two loons bobbed up; and one even had a white band around his neck.'

6. Nìt weci, weci- tókèc -líkit napáha oqim. Mecimì wapéyu wiwönìw 'topskúhkek. Wiwönìw, wiwönìw 'topskúhkek wapeyù wiphùn.

'That's why the male loon looks like that now. He is always white around his neck. All around, around his neck, his feathers are white.'