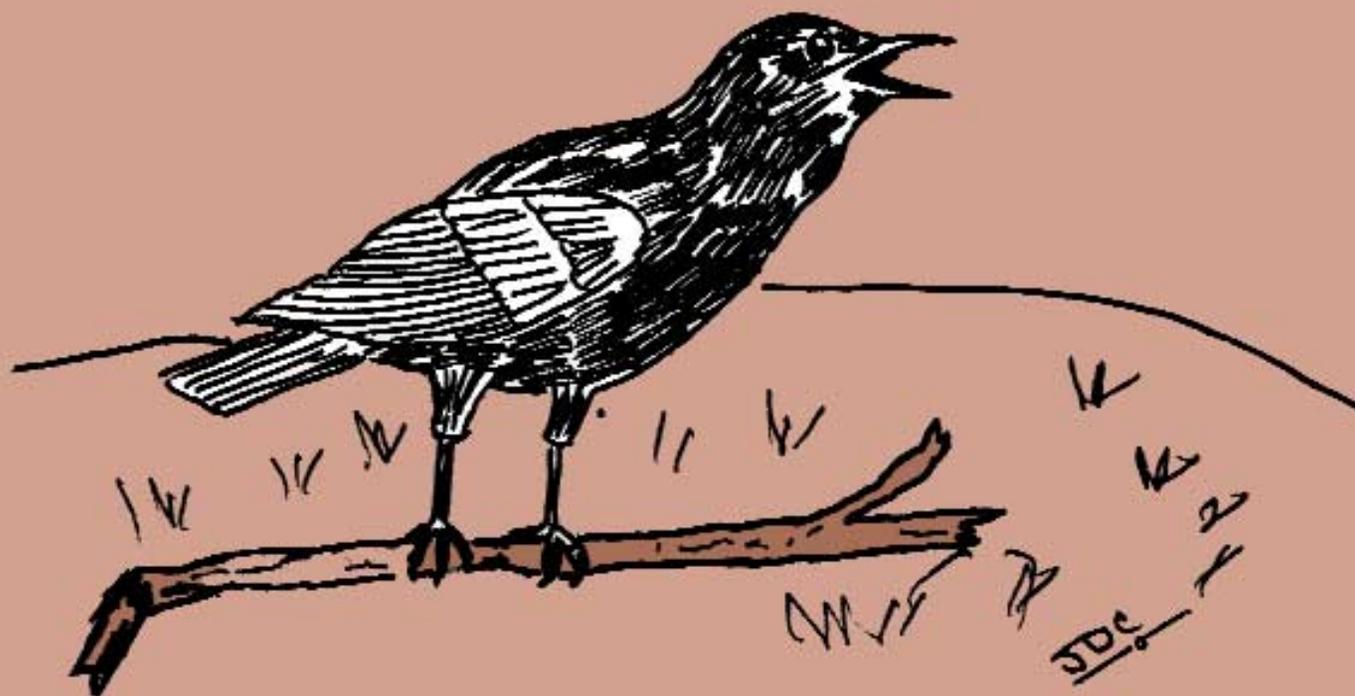


The Crow

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

The Crow

Level II Book 13

An Assiniboine Story

As told by Richard Blue Talk

Illustrated by Joseph D. Clancy, Sr.

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 710 Southwest Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

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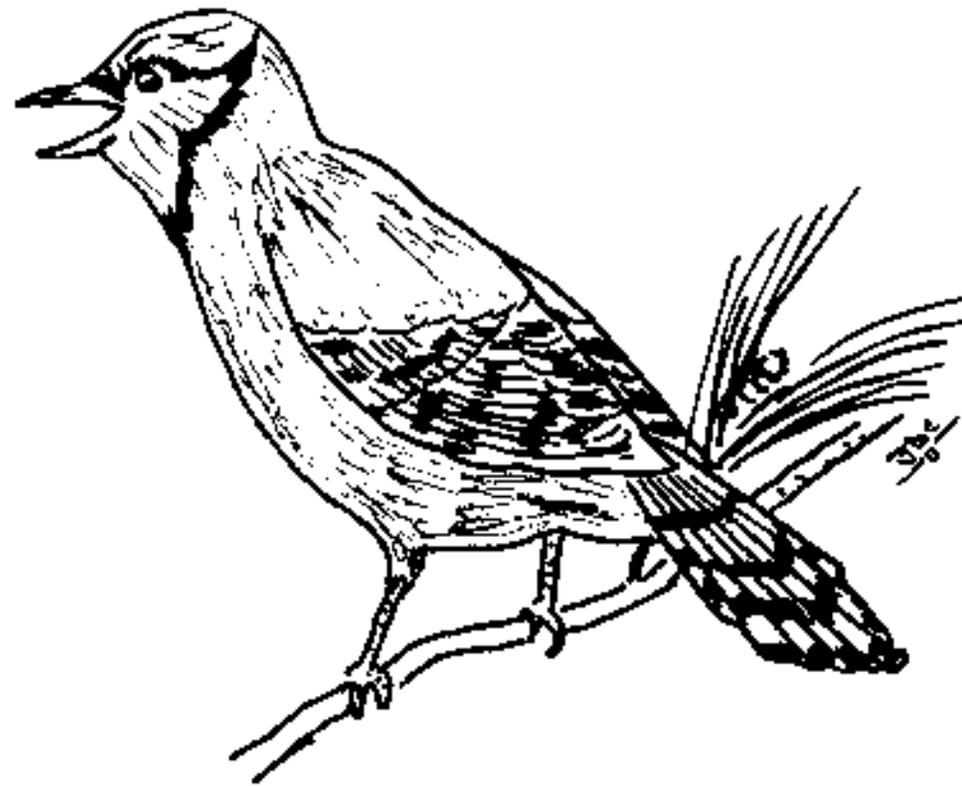
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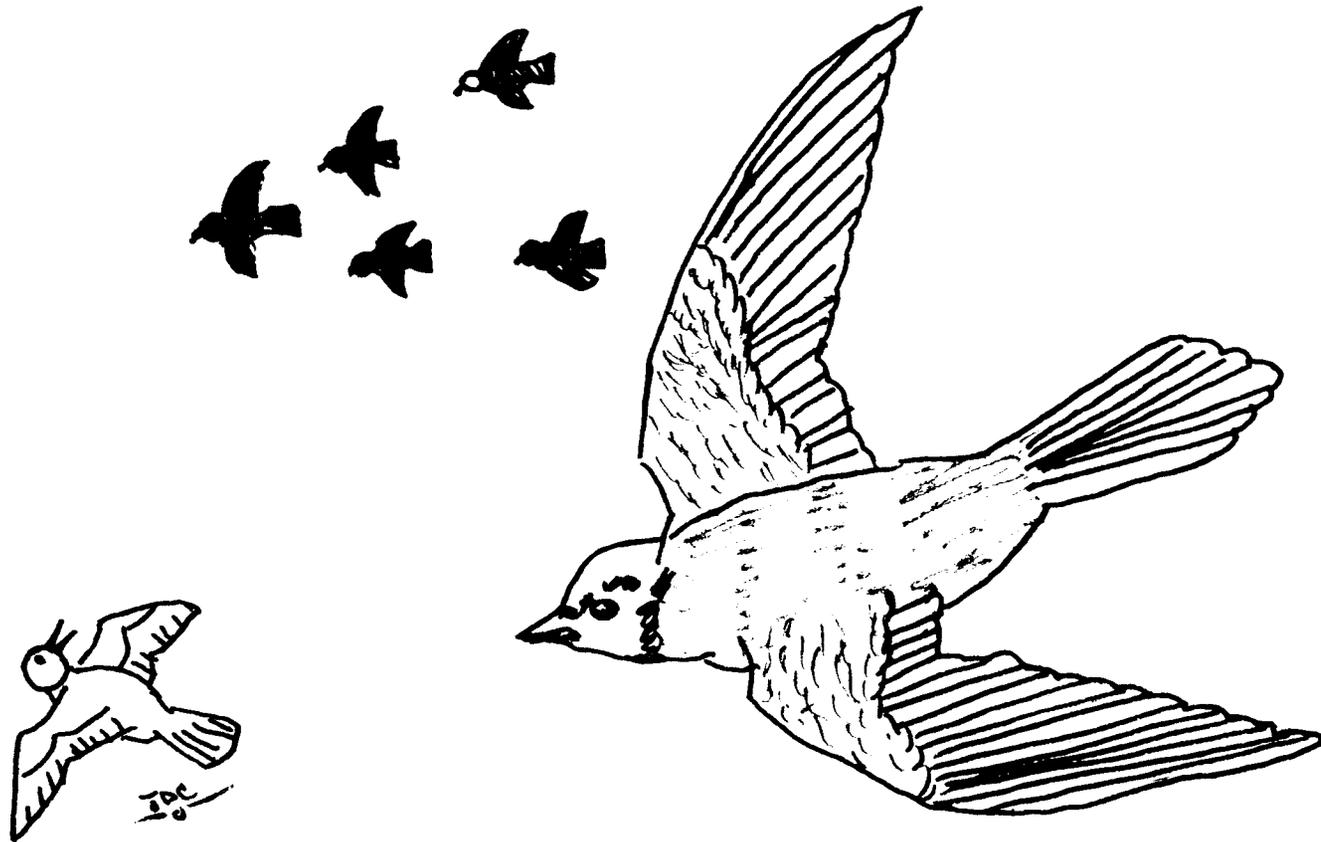
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Inkdomi is a legendary figure in the Assiniboine culture. He takes a role similar to the Blackfeet's Napi. Although Inkdomi claims to be the Creator of all things, he really is a trickster and a liar. Often, he takes the form of different animals and birds in order to play tricks on people. He does both good and bad things.

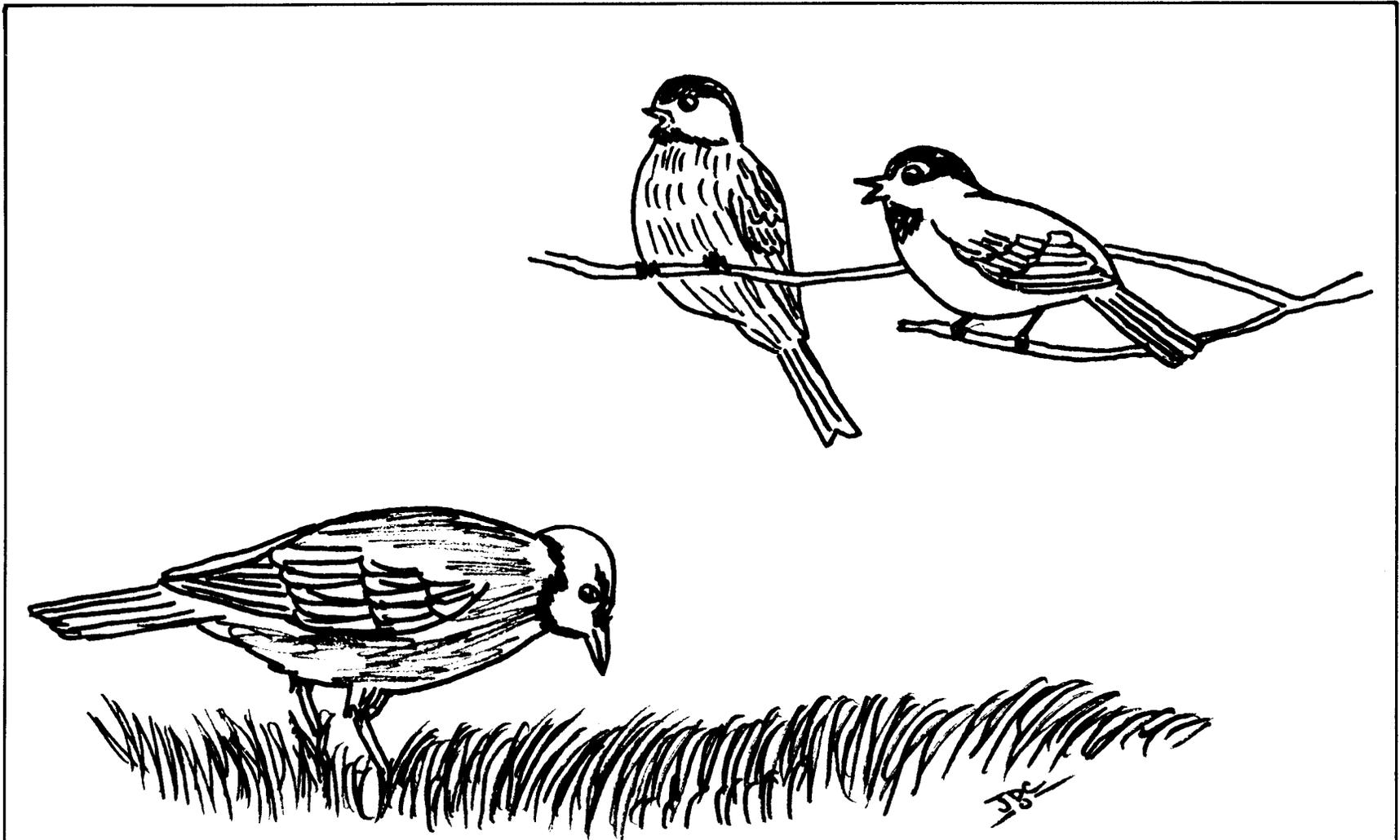
Stories about Inkdomi have been passed on from generation to generation, and many times one story will have several versions. Some of the stories are humorous and others are more serious. This story tells how Inkdomi, in the form of Eagle, turned Crow black.



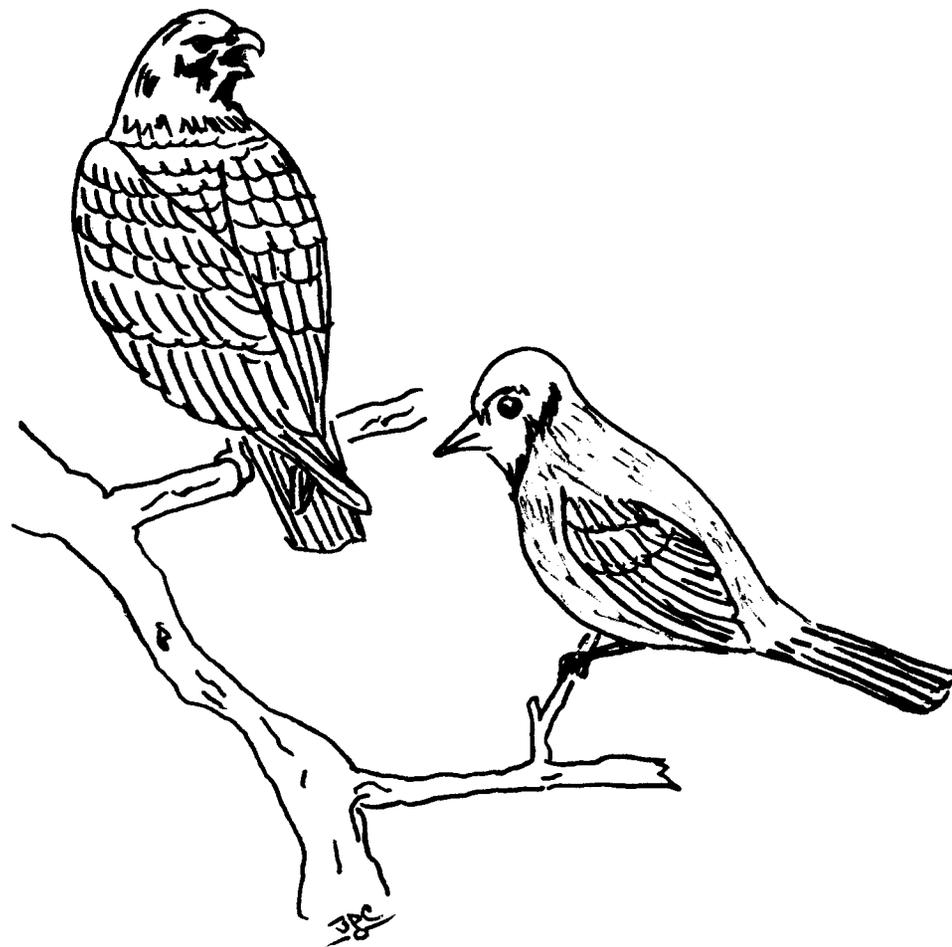
A long time ago, Crow was a beautiful bird.
He had a good singing voice.



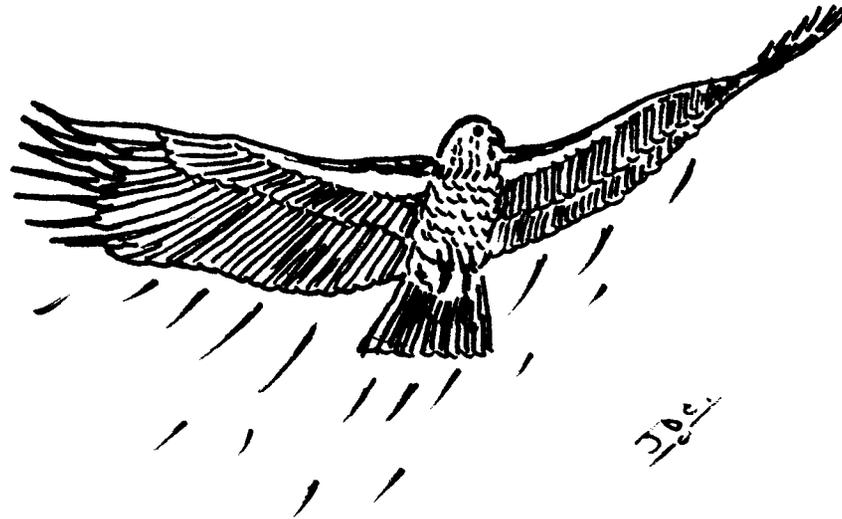
Crow was very proud of himself.
He would fly around and show off his beautiful feathers.



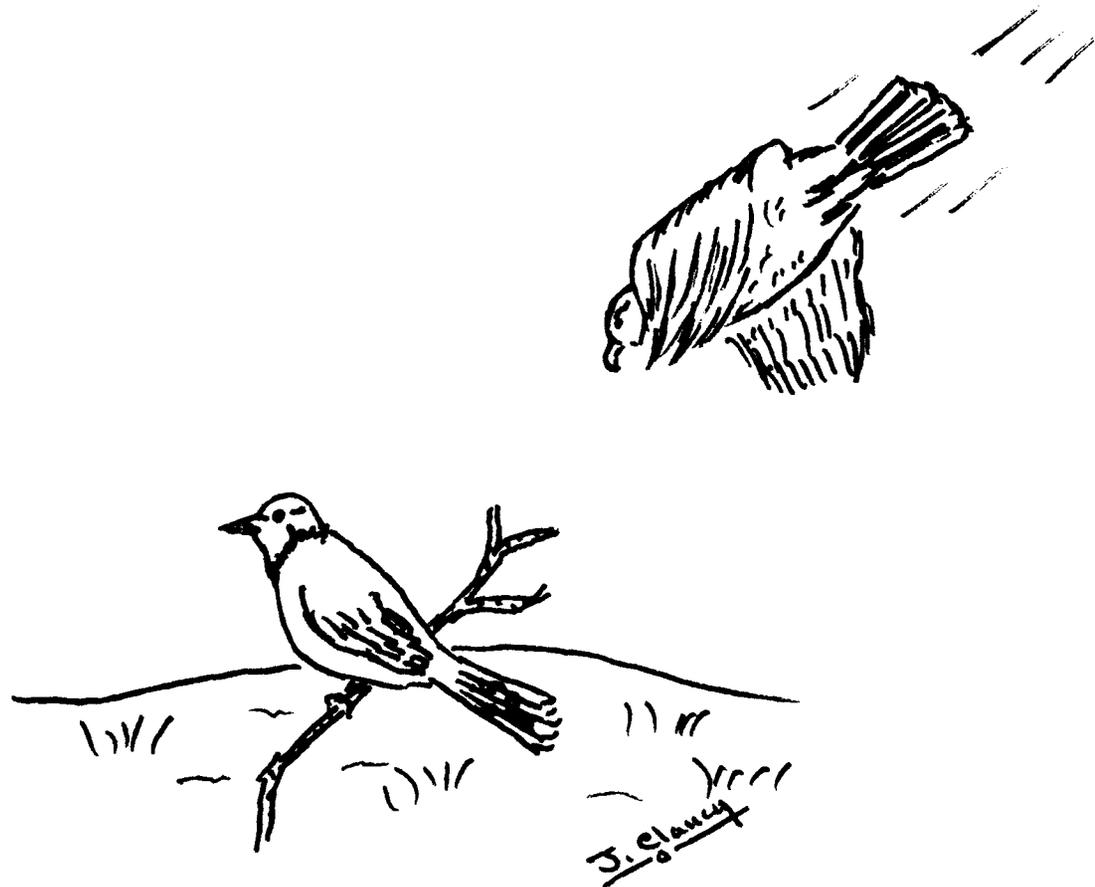
The other birds tried to talk to him,
but he wouldn't pay any attention to them.



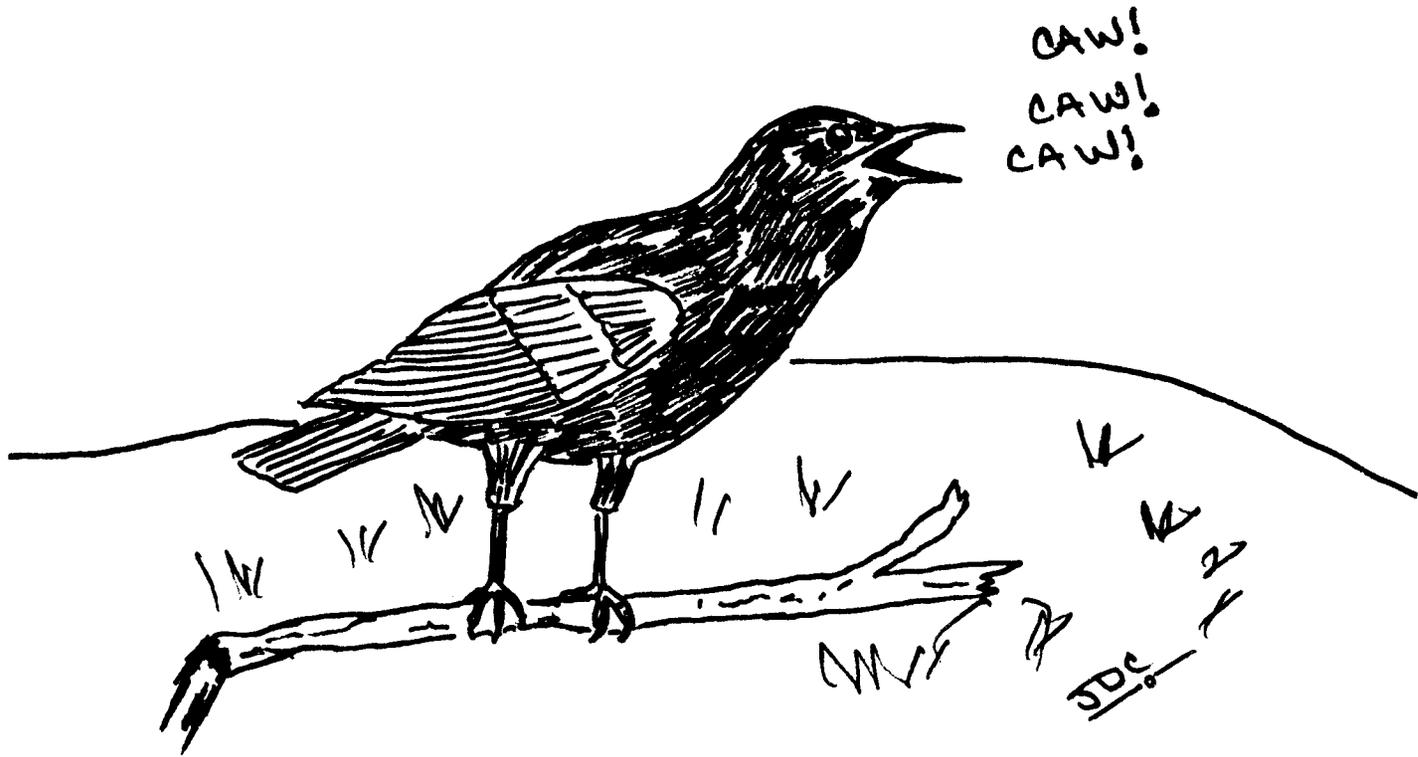
One day, Inkdomi, in the form of Eagle,
wanted to say something to Crow.
But Crow wouldn't have anything to do with him.



That made Eagle angry at Crow.
Eagle said, "I will take away your beautiful voice
and change the color of your feathers."



Eagle flew high into the air
and then flew down towards Crow.
As Eagle came close to Crow, Crow's feathers turned black
and he lost his beautiful voice.



To this day, the crow is black and its voice sounds funny.



JEROME FOURSTAR

Jerome Fourstar is an Assiniboine Indian who was born and raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. He attended elementary school in Frazer, Montana, and received his G.E.D. from Glasgow High School. He served in the Montana National Guard and for many years worked as a carpenter and supervisor of electrical, plumbing and construction work. After taking college coursework in bilingual education, he served as a bilingual teacher at Wolf Point (Montana) High School. For the past five years he has taught Indian culture and religion in the Wolf Point public schools. He has served as a cultural and spiritual leader for both on-reservation and urban Indian groups and for Morning Star, Inc., which trains rehabilitated alcoholics. He also taught youth and served as a spiritual and cultural leader at an ecumenical conference of medicine men in Murley, Alberta, and each summer he is director of a youth camp in Billings.



RICHARD BLUE TALK

Richard Blue Talk is an Assiniboine Indian who was born and raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Northern Montana. His hobby is reading and he is a storyteller. He is 63 years old.



EUNICE BIRTHMARK

Eunice Birthmark is a Sioux Indian who was raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. She spends much of her time teaching Indian singing, dancing and culture, and serves on the Plains Area Curriculum Development Committee for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program. For three years she also worked as a bilingual teacher in Brockton Public School, in Poplar, Montana.



JOSEPH CLANCY, SR.

Joseph Clancy, Sr., is an Assiniboine Indian from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. He was born and raised in Wolf Point and graduated from Frazer High School. He attended Northern Montana College in Havre. He has done professional artwork and is skilled in freehand drawing and lettering. He likes to hunt and fish, does bead work and makes war bonnets and dance bustles. He also likes Indian singing and fancy dancing.

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- | | |
|---|---|
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