

LEGEND
OF
WESAKAYJACK
AND THE LOON



With Text

by Byron Apetagon

Dedicated to the Storytellers of Norway House

WESAKAYJACK AND THE LOON

as told by the Norway House elders,
written and illustrated by Byron Apetagon,
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One day Wesakayjack was walking along a river.
He was getting hungry and wondering what
he could have for supper.



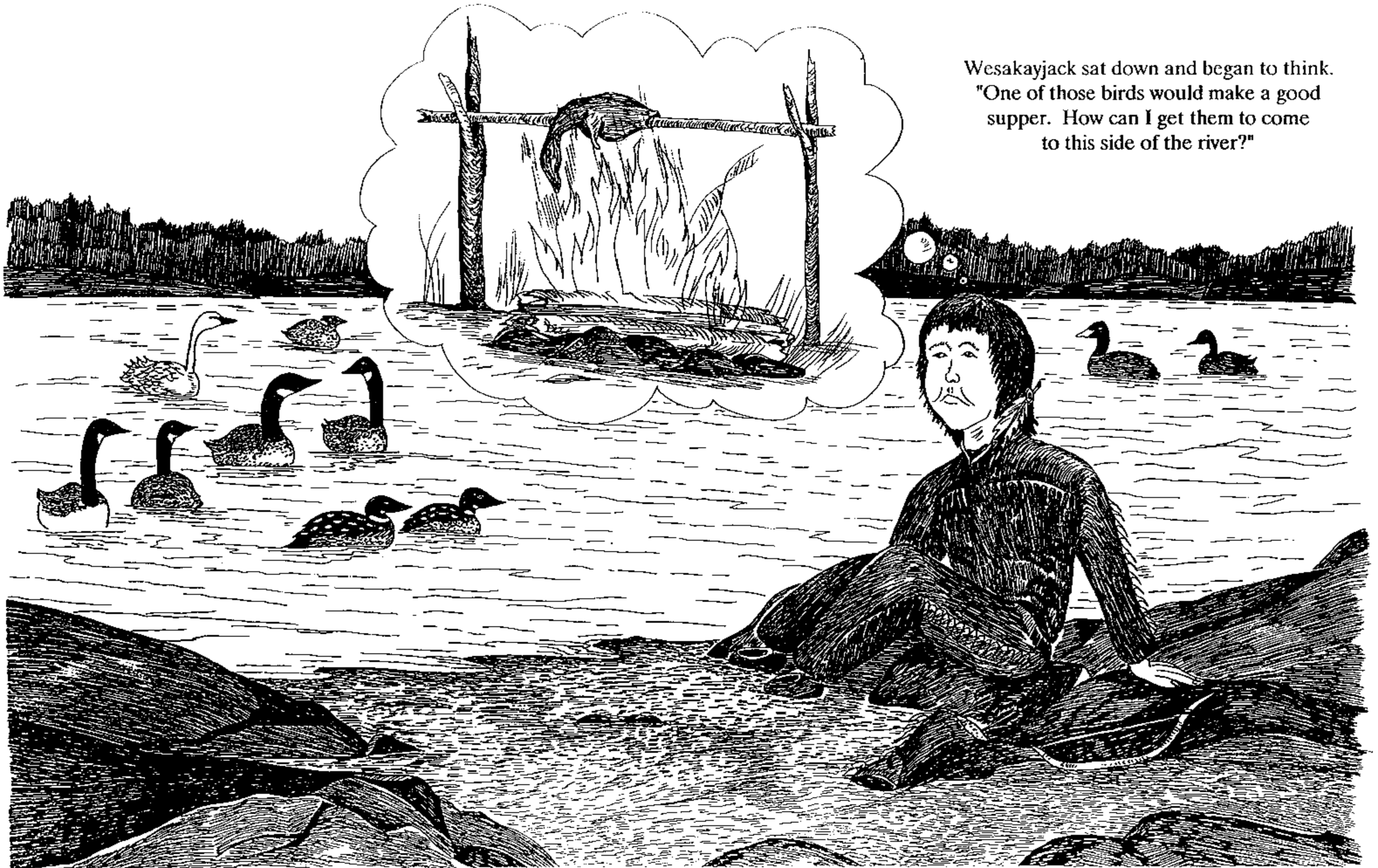
Suddenly he saw some birds swimming in the river.
There were ducks and geese, and loons.



They were on the other side of the river
- too far away for Wesakayjack to shoot them
with his bow and arrow.



Wesakayjack sat down and began to think.
"One of those birds would make a good
supper. How can I get them to come
to this side of the river?"

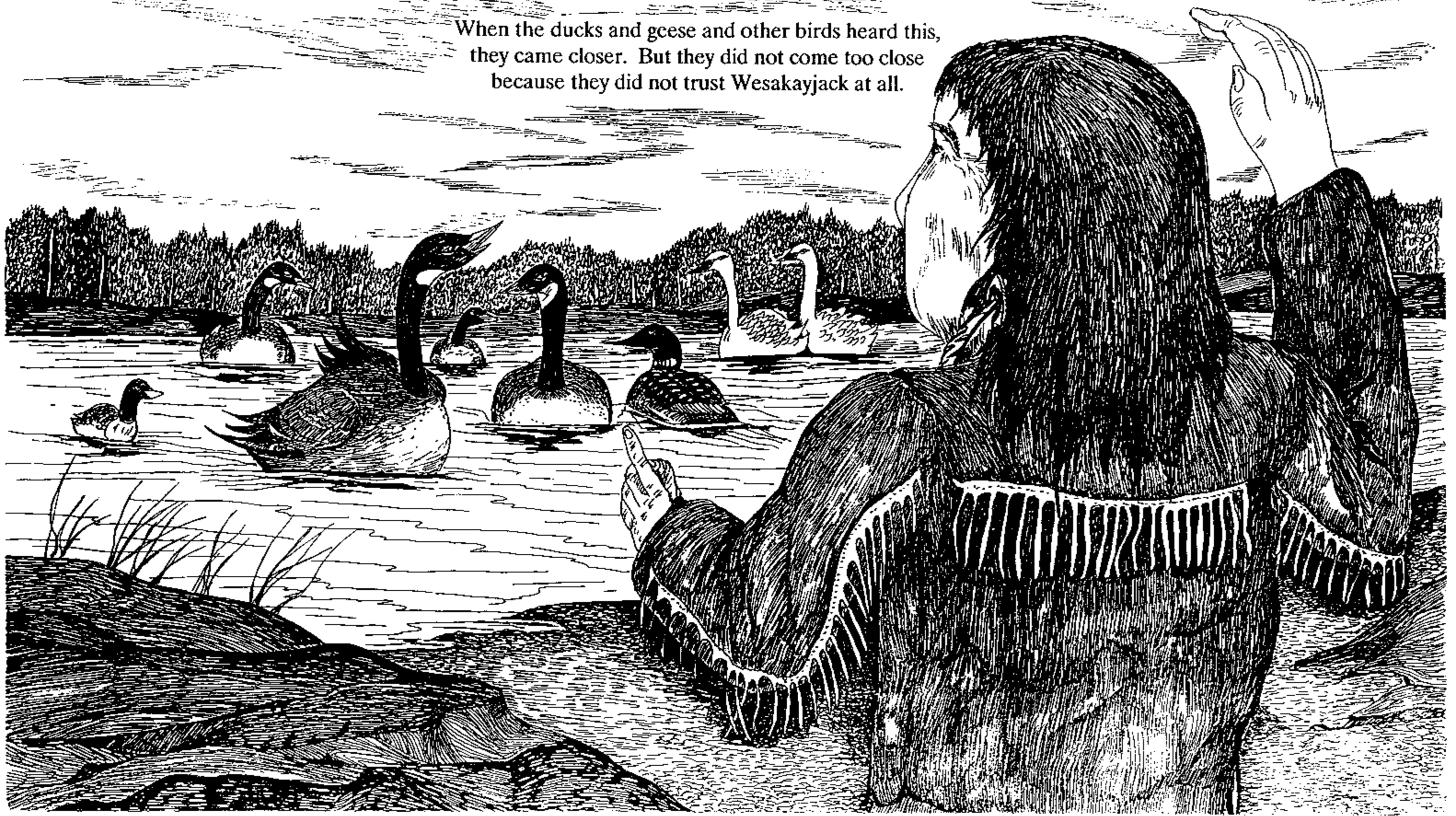


While he was sitting there, Wesakayjack had an idea.
"I'll call them over," he thought,
"and show them a new dance."



"Brothers and sisters," he called.
"Listen. Come over to this side.
I want to show you something."

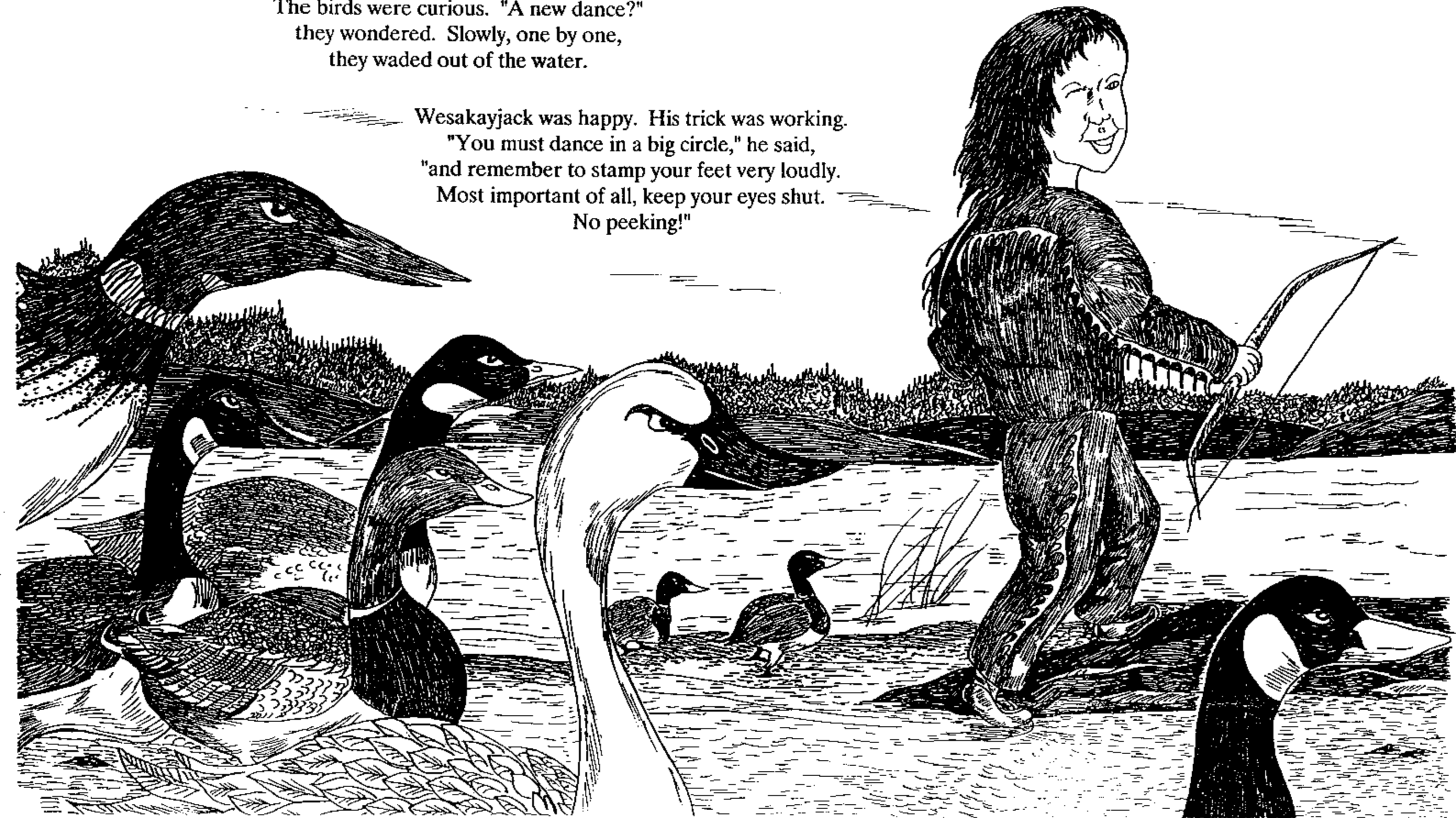
When the ducks and geese and other birds heard this,
they came closer. But they did not come too close
because they did not trust Wesakayjack at all.



"Come closer," said Wesakayjack, "I won't hurt you.
I just want to show you a new dance."

The birds were curious. "A new dance?"
they wondered. Slowly, one by one,
they waded out of the water.

Wesakayjack was happy. His trick was working.
"You must dance in a big circle," he said,
"and remember to stamp your feet very loudly.
Most important of all, keep your eyes shut.
No peeking!"



And so the dance began.
The birds stamped around in
a big circle. They all kept
their eyes tightly shut.
What a noise they made!



Knowing that the dancing birds could not hear or see him, Wesakayjack began wringing necks. He grabbed a duck and then a goose.

Loon had a funny feeling. He peeked and saw what was happening. "Wesakayjack is killing us!" Loon cried.





The ducks and geese and other birds flew into the air. But loon's body was heavy and his wings narrow. He could not get into the air fast enough, so he ran towards the river. Wesakayjack chased loon but could not grab him. This made him so angry that he gave loon a hard kick in the rear end. Ka-poom!



Poor loon! His rear end was never the same.

And to this day, all loons find it hard to walk. That is why they spend most of their time on the water.