

It was the understanding from the beginning that the birds of prey, game and water birds were barred from this council.

Finally the day for the big council came. They met at one of the prettiest groves known in the Black Hills. Trees and various shrubbery in their beautiful foliage, the bloom of the wild flowers, especially the wild rose and the green grass-covered ground, the running stream of water, sounding like a lot of jolly children laughing, were the natural attractions of the gathering. The birds of various colors, sizes and their respective songs and habits came pouring in by air lines. Jay Birds and magpies were assigned as ushers. The birds were seated in regular order. Ground birds, birds of meadows and marshes, birds of conspicuous perches, birds of low trees or lower part of trees, birds of tree trunk and large limbs, birds of the upper half of trees, birds of pines and other evergreens and the birds of the air. When all were seated, Wagonka, the red-headed wood pecker gave a few knocks on the tree, calling the council to order. Hinhan, the owl, was proclaimed the chief of the council, that is to say, the presiding officer. He was escorted by the Swallow Tribe to a shady bough of a box-elder tree from whence he presided.

Hinhan, having his proper place called upon the Black Bird Tribe to sing the opening selection. They responded quickly and the rest of the birds proclaimed that the Black Bird Tribe was the only one of the Bird Kingdom that could sing in harmony and in concert at length. Hinhan complimented them by saying Hun! Hun! meaning Well! Well!

Since the Tashiyagnonpa, the meadow-lark was recognized as the only bird that could understand and speak any bird language whatever, was selected by acclamation as official interpreter. Having qualified for the office