



# Species Are Sacred

## A Stó:lō world view on Species At Risk in S'ólh Téméxw (Fraser Valley)

### Sméq'w'o [Smehkw-uh ] Great Blue Heron



*The people were living around Sumas lake (Semá:th). Mink was having trouble finding himself a girl and made up his mind to get one. There were wild vegetables growing at Semá:th. A lot of people were digging roots that grew in big patches. Everyone staked out where they were going to dig. A lot of people were digging and Mink spied a girl he'd like to become acquainted with. He hung around where this girl, Blue crane, was digging. Blue Crane's habit was to get a basketful and bring it home in the evening.*

*Mink made up his mind and went up to her to propose. Blue Crane was a nice looking girl. When asked, she refused his proposal and said, "You'd freeze to death if I accepted you". (Mink is known to be crazy like Raven.) Mink told her that it didn't matter because he loved her and wanted her for his wife. Since he was agreeable and he didn't think he'd freeze, she accepted his offer.*

*Mink and Blue Crane were married and continued digging their vegetables. Each day they'd go out to dig some more so they'd have it stored away for winter. He would go out with her when she went out digging, but she would do the digging and he would just sit down. It was late in the Fall and she was digging while he was sitting back looking on, when the North wind began to blow.*

*After Blue Crane's bag was full they went back to Crane's fall house, where she was staying while she was digging vegetables. The next day when they went out, Mink tagging along, it was a nice day and the sun was shining.*

*That day the North wind began to blow very hard and Blue Crane said, "Mink, you are shivering." Mink said that he wasn't, even though he was. (Mink always thinks he's the boss and he can say anything.) Blue Crane wasn't cold because she was working and digging. Blue Crane said, "Why don't you work so you won't get cold." The North wind blew harder and Mink's teeth were chattering, but Mink said "I'm just whistling through my teeth." Blue Crane knew that the big cold was coming and that it was going to freeze.*

*When she knew the freezing weather was coming, Blue Crane flew away to the south and left mink. As she started to fly, Mink told her he was cold. He was shivering cold, but she was already on her way and the North wind blew her South. Mink stayed where Blue Crane left him and froze.*

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