

circle moving from right to left. The dance is at the full moon or near that time.²⁴ It is a fascinating movement, with the left foot slightly advancing at each step, and with slight giving of the limb so that the body courtesies to the left, while the right foot and limb follows firmly with a bending of the body to the right. And meanwhile the males give the re-echoing prolonged whoop. When they have so danced around a couple of times, they fly into confusion as to mates, with a far resounding noise from the wings, and then remate and continue this until they have mated according to choice. The males seem ready to accept any choice of the females.

The old Indian mating dance is very much like this chicken dance (called by the Indians *siho-waci*; *siho* meaning prairie chicken, and *waci*, dance), at certain parts of the performance; though it begins by a male dancing out alone in the circle until a female is inspired to join him in this dance, and when the two have danced something like the highland fling for a time, though at times with hands extended or slightly touching each other, another female may dance out and try to win the attention of the male, and then another male and so on until all are in the dance; and then the circle is assumed. Not only all the boys and girls of proper age take part in this dance, in which all are supposed to mate, during the May full moon night, but married couples remate, though the remating was nearly always the same pairs that were previously mated. If a married male cannot so dance as to win his former mate, it is a bad omen for him, and this leads married males to favor their wives during the winter and especially so as spring-time approaches. In the prairie chicken dance, just before the con-

fusion starts they are supposed to sing:

"Across the circle flying,
Confusion is reunion;
The winter and the springtime sweet
Make passions for sweet passions
meet."

Another runs:

"All life is long and love is true,
And love and life are old and new,
And there's no veto on her plan
Howe'er ill luck may hit a man."
Her means Mother Earth. This song is to encourage a male forsaken by his mate.

Of the smaller birds the oriole's song is said to be "*Hochunk-ra-haj-rena*" meaning the Winnebagoes have come. The humming bird is called "*dana-kana-kana-kay*," which means feed on tobacco blossoms. In early days, by means of prayer and fasting, warriors often acquired the speed of the humming bird, and a warrior once wore humming birds as ear rings and by this means was transformed into a humming bird and thereby enabled to detect the enemies number and movements at a great distance. The eggs of the humming bird and finch are hard to find and should anyone find the eggs of either of these, some member of the finder's family will surely die.

It is a well know fact that the Indians measured time by the phases of the moon and they had calendar sticks in which they cut a notch for each moon or month. When they are in doubt and some one starts an argument about the date, they examine the chickadee's tongue. They say that in the beginning the task of recording the moons was assigned to the chickadee, and the birds method is to make notches in its tongue; thus, in September its tongue is single pointed; in October, it has two points; in November, three, and so on until February, when it is said that its tongue has six