

Ikaika 'Io perches atop the tallest branch of an 'ōhi'a tree.

He looks around seeing the forest for all its parts.



From the pilo to the hapu'u to the ho'awa and 'ōhelo, the forest is green, healthy, and in fruit. The forest birds are chirping, flying from one lehua to another and landing momentarily to skip along the branches searching the liko for insects. The ferns and mossy rocks are still dripping with the morning dew.

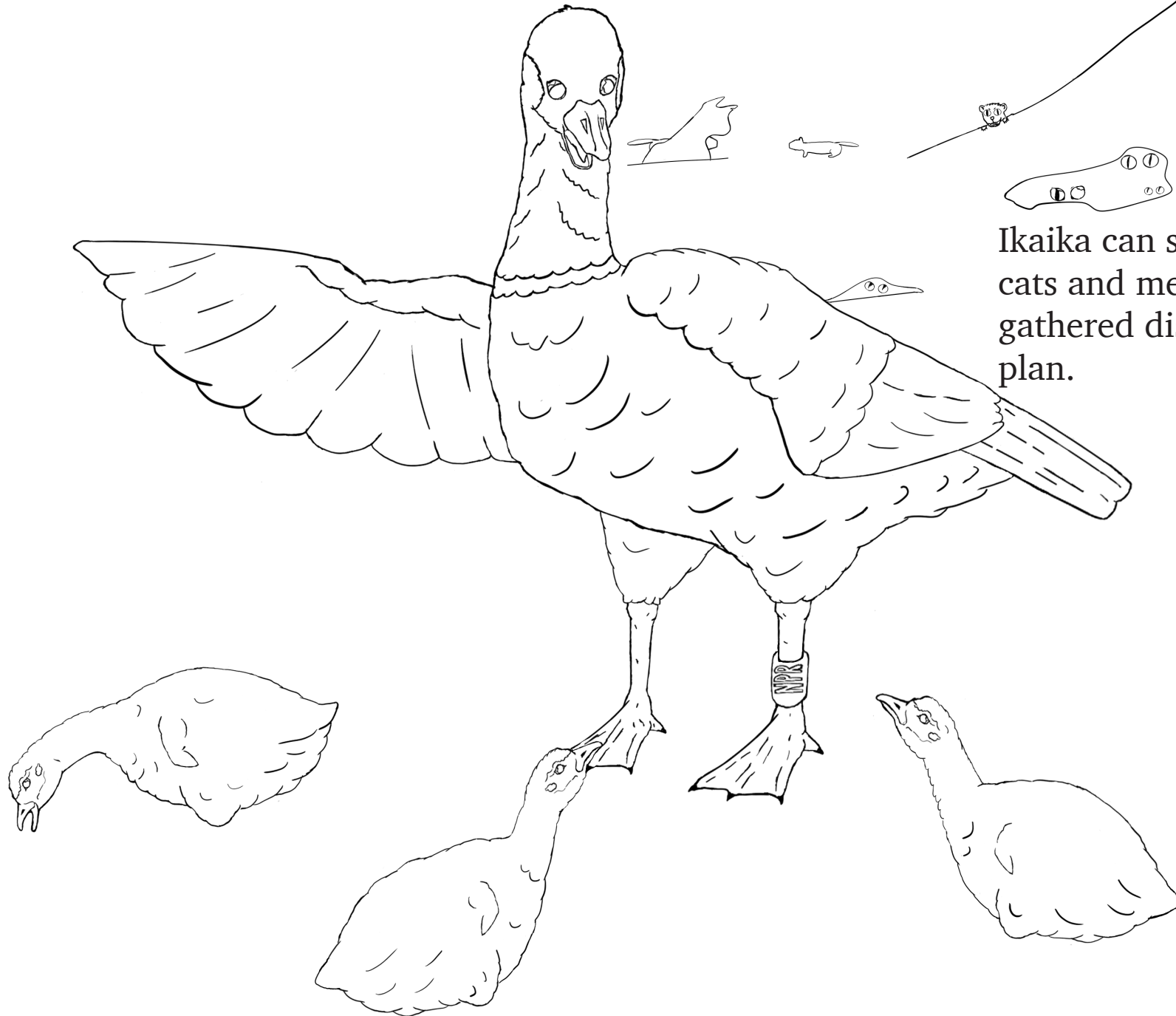
Olopua Oma‘o has hopped from the pūkiawe shrubs and pāhoehoe flow toward the pilo on a mission this morning, croaking all the way. As Olopua finds the forest edge, she uses the pilo to hop to an ‘ōlapa and upwards toward Ikaika’s ‘ōhi‘a perch. She’s nervous to approach Ikaika, but needs to deliver a message.



“Ikaika ‘Io, I’ve come a long way. Nanea and her goslings need your help! The cranky cats and meany mongoose are working on a plan. Please help! Can you see what’s happening now?”

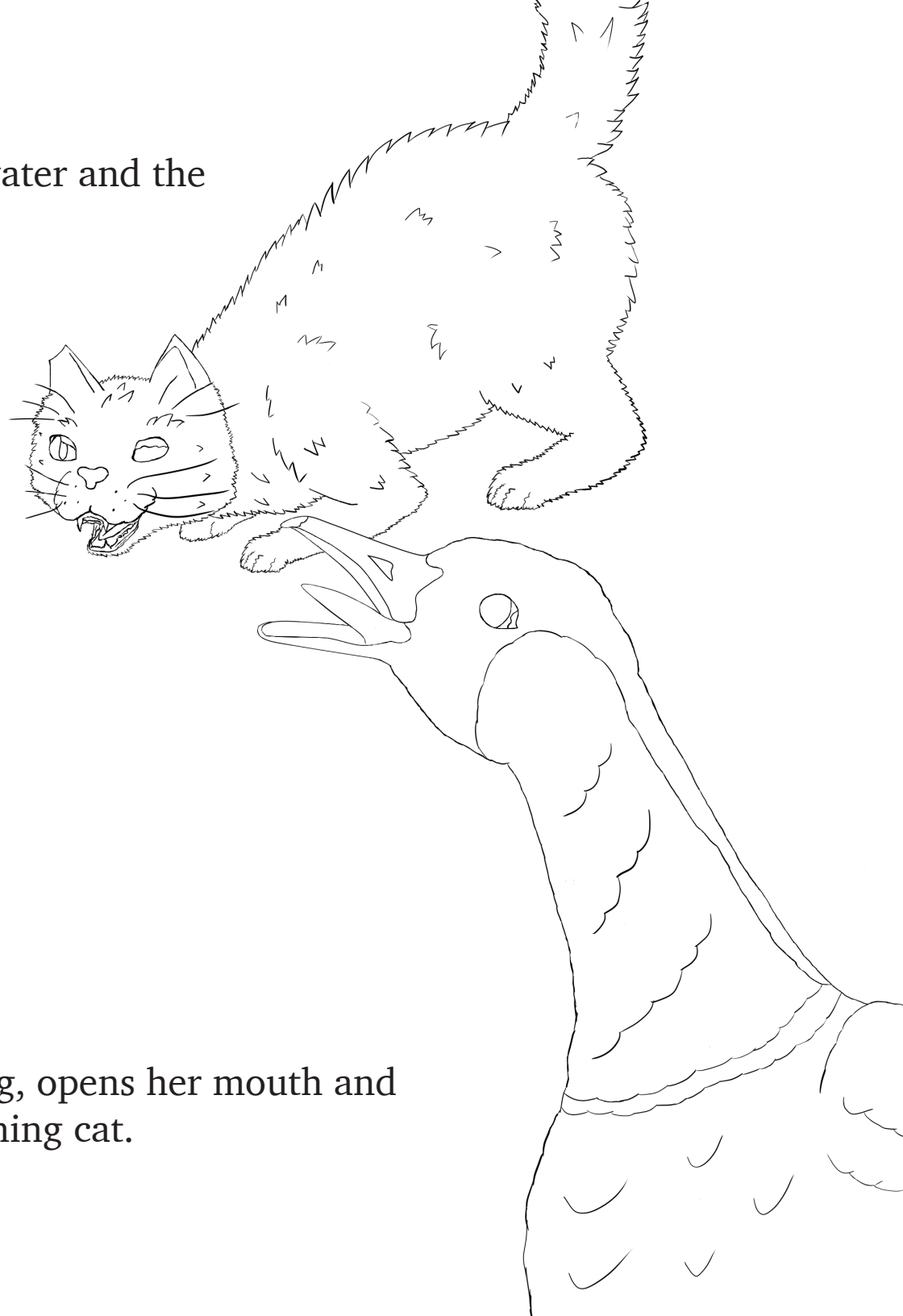


Ikaika sees Nanea nēnē teaching her goslings about the grasses and sedges. She is coaching her goslings to eat and become strong.



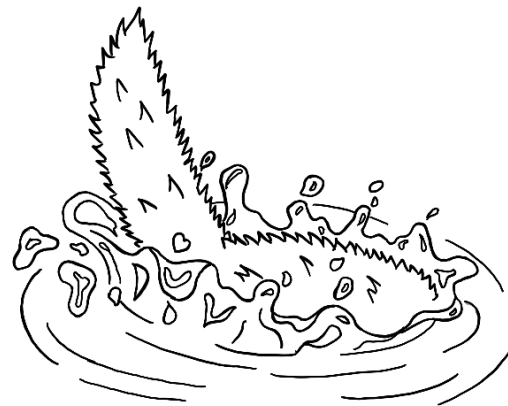
Ikaika can see the cranky cats and meany mongoose gathered discussing their plan.

Nanea nēnē coaxes her goslings into the water and the crankiest cat becomes bold.



Nanea turns her body to protect her gosling, opens her mouth and sticks out her tongue to hiss at the threatening cat.

Crankiest cat is scooped up by Ikaika 'Io and taken into the clouds, feeling scared and wondering what will happen next. Ikaika dives. Crankiest cat howls, and before he knows it, he's plopped down in the deepest water. Crankiest cat's punishment is to swim his way to shore.



Nanea nēnē gathers her goslings in the shallows. She explains to them that cats and mongoose are their biggest threat in public places like the park.

She looks to the sky and is grateful to see Ikaika still there.

All together Nanea and her goslings say, “Thank you, Ikaika ‘Io,” and they begin to waddle.



Read and hear the full story of Ikaika 'Io at [birdfesthawaii.org](http://birdfesthawaii.org)

Special MAHALO to illustrator Liz Lough