



# **Spirits of the Air: Birds and American Indians in the South (Environmental History and the American South)**

*Shepard Krech III*

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Before the massive environmental change wrought by the European colonization of the South, hundreds of species of birds filled the region's flyways in immeasurable numbers. Before disease, war, and displacement altered the South's earliest human landscape, Native Americans hunted and ate birds and made tools and weapons from their beaks, bones, and talons. More significant to Shepard Krech III, Indians adorned themselves with feathers, invoked avian powers in ceremonies and dances, and incorporated bird imagery on pottery, carvings, and jewelry.

Krech, a renowned authority on Native American interactions with nature, reveals as never before the omnipresence of birds in Native American life. From the time of the earliest known renderings of winged creatures in stone and earthworks through the nineteenth century, when Native southerners took part in decimating bird species with highly valued, fashionable plumage, *Spirits of the Air* examines the complex and changeable influences of birds on the Native American worldview.

We learn of birds for which places and people were named; birds common in iconography and oral traditions; birds important in ritual and healing; and birds feared for their links to witches and other malevolent forces. Still other birds had no meaning for Native Americans. Krech shows us these invisible animals too, enriching our understanding of both the Indian-bird dynamic and the incredible diversity of winged life once found in the South. A crowning work drawing on Krech's distinguished career in anthropology and natural history, *Spirits of the Air* recovers vanished worlds and shows us our own anew.

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Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled *Spirits of the Air: Birds and American Indians in the South (Environmental History and the American South)* can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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