

Ecocritical Theory and Practice

Series Editor: Douglas A. Vakoch, California Institute of Integral Studies, USA

“The authors of this timely collection engage both canonical and underrepresented environmental writers to combine fresh approaches to lucid and provocative readings. Chapters reveal early strains of our modern crisis and explore such diverse bioregions as Dickinson’s swamps, the New England landscapes of the Concord Writers, Muir’s idea of Wild Gardens, and others. The authors interrogate the boundaries of environmental criticism and argue for a more inclusive, holistic vision of the roots of American environmental theory. This collection helps us understand not only the environmental consciousness of our literary predecessors but also the ongoing exigence of our current state.”

—**Lee Rozelle**, University of Montevallo

“This important collection fills a gap in our understanding of the nineteenth-century sources of current ideas about the natural world. Environmentalists, naturalists, and scholars—as well as students—of environmental literature will benefit from this wide-ranging assessment of the origins of contemporary ecological and ecocritical thought.”

—**Ashton Nichols**, Dickinson College

“We, in the era of Terry Tempest Williams and Bill McKibben, did not invent the idea of ‘ecological awareness.’ *Writing the Environment* reminds us where many of our contemporary passions and concerns come from. Although Emerson and Thoreau are touchstones for this new collection, their ideas are not presented reductively as a starting point; they are instead placed within the broader context of eco-awareness that includes their predecessors as well as their contemporaries and successors. This engaging collection shows us the many varieties of awareness in pre-twentieth-century American environmental culture.”

—**Scott Slovic**, editor of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

Writing the Environment in Nineteenth-Century American Literature brings together numerous explorations of environmentally-aware writing by canonical and forgotten writers, men and women, pioneers and conservationists, to offer a fresh perspective on the roots of environmental literature in America.

Contributors

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Petersheim
and Jones

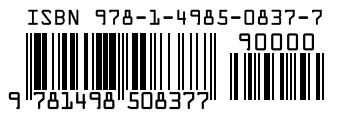
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The Ecological Awareness
of Early Scribes of Nature



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edited by
**Steven Petersheim
and Madison P. Jones IV**