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The Ship and the Sky Hawk: The Bird Image in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*

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Abstract

A tracing of the bird image in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* enriches the novel's climactic vortex scene. Melville's coast and ocean birds, their varied kinds and characteristics, and his use of bird as metaphor prepares the perceptive reader for the Pequod's symbolic helmeting with the savage sky hawk.