

And he start doctoring with that, and up till today, anybody's got a Waterbird--they ain't going to handle it and treat it rough--they goint to take care of it. They have a box for it--they put it in there and they keep it. And anybody's sick--all the peoples that got feathers, they all in the tipi towards morning they take them out and then they all fan each other with their feathers. The Waterbird, you might say it's got a power, it's got a medicine in that feather that coould get that people well. You fan them with it. That Waterbirds like that. And you know, it's scarce. Anybody have Waterbird right now..anybody see it, they give them two or three hundred dollars for that..just the tail..just to have that feather at their home because that feather was blessed to the Indians. And they go in and sing and drum in the tipi when anybody's got that Waterbird, he just goes around and fans all those people that are sick and they get well. That's the way those old people used to think about that bird. They think it's a wonderful bird, you know..cure anybody. That's the way they look at that bird.

(Do they pray to it in the peyote meeting?)

No, they don't pray for it. They just sing and fan ahemselves with it. They don't pray for it.

(How did it get the power in it's feathers to cure people?)

I don't even know how they got that. But me, I got an eagle feather, because I haven't got no Waterbird.

(Does anybody around here have a Waterbird?)

I don't even know. There's lot of it in Florida. They just like magpie. Just think up there and the people that live down there just kill them and through them away on the road. Just kill them out because it's too thick up there. They ruin their crops or things like that. Go and pick on their peaches or oranges like that. And the people down there, they don't like it. They kill them birds. But when an Indian kill that bird --go through a lot of things to have that bird keep it--pray