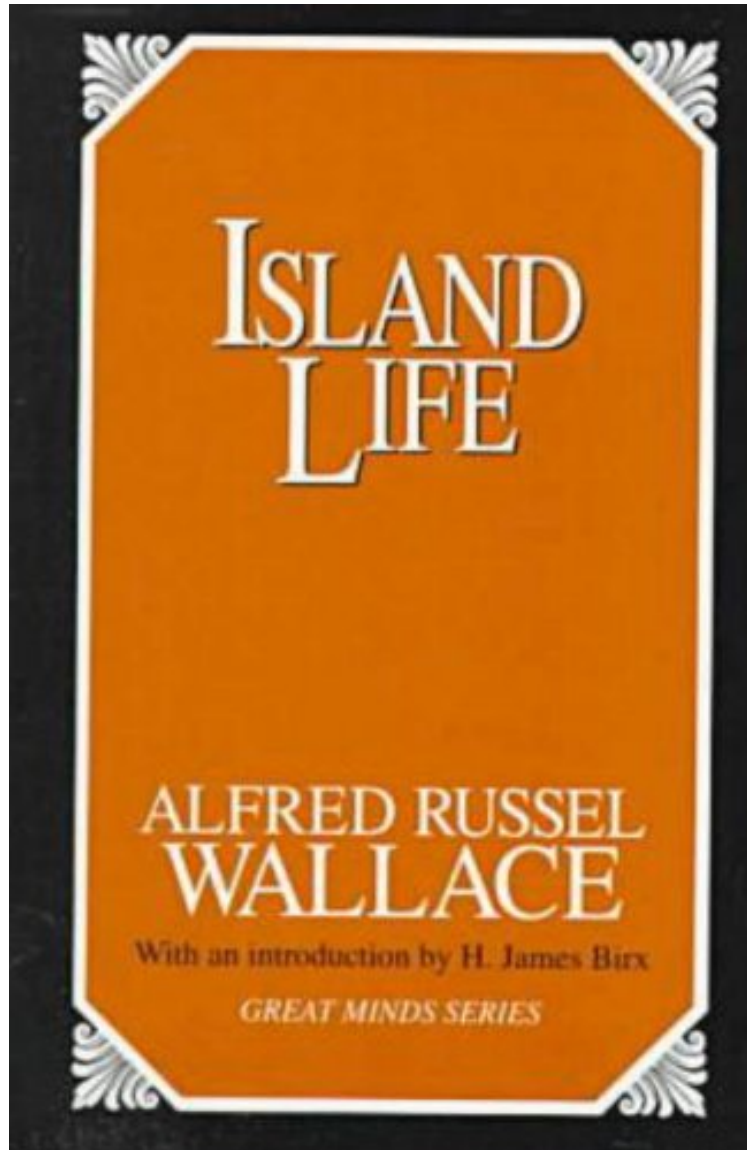


[Library ebook] Island Life (Great Minds Series)

Island Life (Great Minds Series)

Alfred Russel Wallace

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#4499856 in Books Prometheus Books 1997-12-01 1997-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x 1.22 x 5.391, 1.29 #File Name: 1573921777522 pages | File size: 48.Mb

Alfred Russel Wallace : Island Life (Great Minds Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Island Life (Great Minds Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A simpler time, before the garbage society we are now suffering. By IdahoWell written, fascinating 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, must read for the Evolution lover By Sergio A. Salazar Lozano Alfred Russel Wallace was a great naturalist of the nineteenth century, (codiscoverer of the evolutionary theory by means of natural selection with Darwin) he wrote several classics in

science literature. Two things operated against him, his belief in the occult and the great prestige Darwin already had when he was just a young naturalist making great discoveries in Darwin's own line of investigation. This particular book was written when Wallace was a mature scientist and had already a prestigious career. He used his experience and previous works to theorize in *Species Distribution through Islands* all over the world. He personally made lots of field work (a marked difference with Darwin, since the latter suffered most of his life with bad health) and by then personally knew most of the elite scientists of that epoch. All this ingredients and many more make this a must read book for the science historian or anyone interested in the evolution of thought in the evolution theory. This reading is particularly interesting too, because all this was previous to the theory of continental drift and plate tectonics in 1915, so Wallace had to deal with the species distribution problem in islands without this knowledge. A must read book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. one of Wallace's enduring classics

By C. H. Smith
Wallace is most remembered for his independent discovery of the theory of natural selection, but he was also the father of the modern approach to biogeographical studies, and history's foremost tropical naturalist--and he made many important contributions beyond biology as well. "Island Life" is one of his most important works. In it he extends studies begun in another of his classic publications, the two-volumed "The Geographical Distribution of Animals," to two subjects: the influence of the glacial epochs on organismal distribution patterns, and the characteristics of island biogeography. Many students of Wallace's career consider this book his finest scientific effort, both for its joining of theory and empiricism, and for his attention to detail and breadth of study. Included is a full working out of history's first theory of continental glaciation based on a combination of geographical and astronomical causes, a discussion of island classification, and a survey of worldwide island faunas and floras. I give it a "4" rating here only because *now* it is primarily of interest to historians of science and those environmentalists who might want information on the late nineteenth century state of island biotas around the world; still, as a major study by one of the period's great minds, it arguably demands attention on its own terms.

As the co-formulator with Charles Darwin of the theory of biological evolution via natural selection, naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) argued that plant and animal species develop throughout organic history. Wallace focused special attention on the diversity of tropical life forms and became acutely aware of the adaptive relationship between each species and its particular environment: an ongoing relationship that is necessary for survival and reproduction. After amassing empirical evidence from the Malay Archipelago, Wallace wrote *Island Life* (1881) in order to document the dynamic relationship between organisms and their climatic habitats. Anticipating our present concern with both endangered species and vanishing environments, Wallace's ecological studies helped substantiate the fact of evolution. This book is an excellent example of long-term research and the far-reaching insights such scientific projects hold for understanding and appreciating the evolving life on Earth.

About the Author
Jane R. Camerini is a faculty associate in the department of the History of Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. H. James Birx is professor of anthropology at Canisius College, distinguished research scholar at the State University of New York at Geneseo, and distinguished visiting professor in the Faculty of Philology at the University of Belgrade. He has been an invited scholar at the University of Cambridge and twice at Harvard University. His publications include authoring the award-winning "Theories of Evolution" and editing the award-winning "Encyclopedia of Anthropology," as well as 400 published reviews, articles, chapters, and encyclopedia entries. Dr. Birx has given invited presentations at prestigious universities and academic institutes from Australia, New Zealand and Mexico to Egypt, Germany and Russia. He has done research at the Galapagos Islands and Koobi Fora in Kenya, Africa (among many other sites). His interests include topics in evolutionary biology and process philosophy. Dr. Birx is presently teaching biological anthropology, forensic anthropology, anthropology and evolution, and theories in anthropology. He has contributed six new ideas to philosophical anthropology: dynamic integrity, will to evolve, emerging teleology, Homo futurensis, exoevolution, and cosmic over beings. Dr. Birx's cultural interests include movies, music (especially opera), reading novels and global traveling. This year, he has contributed essays to these two forthcoming books: "Wagner Nietzsche" (Cambridge University Press) and "Humanism, Transhumanism, Posthumanism" (Peter Lang Verlag).