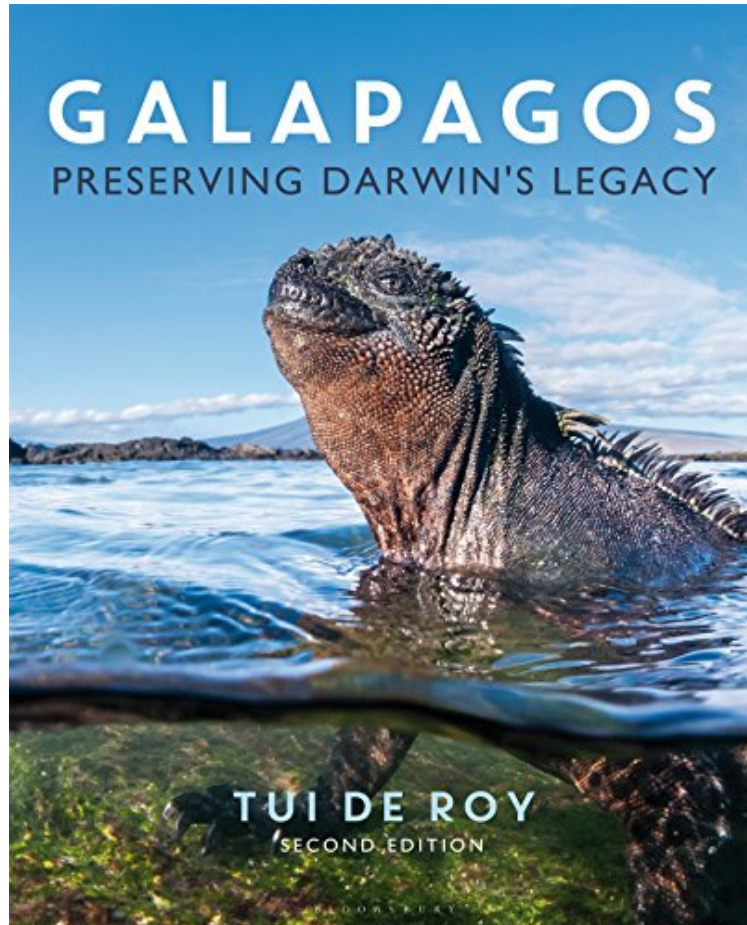


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Galapagos: Preserving Darwin's legacy

Tui de Roy

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#764163 in Books Tui De Roy 2016-09-13 2016-09-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 301.50 x 1.09 x 9.611, .0 #File Name: 1472928598240 pages Galapagos Preserving Darwin s legacy | File size: 45.Mb

Tui de Roy : Galapagos: Preserving Darwin's legacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Galapagos: Preserving Darwin's legacy:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It is a very beautiful book. I have a few by the same ...By MargaretIt is a very beautiful book. I have a few by the same author and the photographs are really as fantastic as usual. I also like the way the book is written around different themes, like Penguins on the Equator : hamging on by a thread or Land iguanas : emergence of a new species. You learn a lot about the actual situation of those gorgeous islands. It is highly recommended.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent and beautiful overview of Galapagos scienceBy David J. WilsonMs. de Roy has organized a fascinating collection of articles on the Galapagos Islands by scientists who have been at the cutting edge of research in this strange and wondrous group of islands; then she adorned and illustrated the collection with her own well-known trademark--photographs that are simply stunning. Definitely a must-have for anyone who wants insight into the ways in which the plants and animals of these islands, together with their unique and challenging environment, have given us insight into how biology works.2 of 2 people

found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy BoggetteStunning photography and commentary by world renowned scholars.

This sumptuous large-format book was first produced in 2009 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Charles Darwin Foundation on Galapagos. The book comprises a series of invited essays under the editorship of world-renowned photographer and long-term Galapagos resident, Tui de Roy, who has also provided most of the photographs. The authoritative essays cover the entire spectrum of Galapagos wildlife including the marine environment, unique vegetation such as sunflower trees as well as wildlife including giant tortoises, marine iguanas, sea lions, and the Galapagos finches that inspired Darwin's theory of evolution. This new edition has significant updates to a number of chapters including brand new photography and information about scientific developments elsewhere, and a new jacket.

"This remarkable book . . . is itself cause for celebration. This book is essential for any deeper understanding of the islands." BBC Wildlife "This is a spectacular book--if you want to give yourself (or anyone even remotely interested in conservation) a present then look no further. It is beautifully produced, a really good read and inspiring." Seabird "It is the ideal book for the environmentally conscious armchair traveller." Good Book Guide About the Author Tui de Roy is an internationally acclaimed photographer with many bestselling titles to her credit. She has lived for more than 40 years on the Galapagos, writing extensively about its wildlife and taking many iconic images of its landscapes, flora, and fauna. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Prologue: A World Flagship of Inspiration Tui De Roy HALF A CENTURY AGO a bold vision was born: to celebrate 100 years since the publication of Charles Darwin's revolutionary book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, the world would join forces to preserve the islands that had helped formulate his ideas, and which in turn had changed scientific thinking forever. In 1959, the government of Ecuador declared the Galapagos Archipelago its first national park, while scientists and naturalists from around the world created the international Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). Thus, 97% of all land areas, excluding small enclaves already colonized by a few hundred settlers, would be preserved forever, and a permanent research station would gather the knowledge needed to support the government in the wise administration of the islands. Thanks to this unique collaboration between Ecuador and the world, many aspects of the Galapagos ecosystem are in better condition today than they were back then. Endemic species on the brink of extinction have been bred back to healthy numbers, and destructive introduced animals have been removed from many of the islands, returning them to a near-pristine state in several cases. Numerous scientific discoveries have also come to light -- and continue to do so at an astonishing pace -- including a bevy of new species and the rediscovery of some plants and animals once believed extinct. Together, these accomplishments have earned the Galapagos Islands the reputation as a world flagship of conservation. Nowadays the pace of the work has vastly accelerated, with ever more ambitious projects undertaken, and formidable new challenges emerging and multiplying. As the CDF and the Galapagos National Park (GNP) pull together to tackle increasingly demanding tasks, it is time to pause and celebrate. On the occasion of four combined anniversaries -- the 50th year of both the GNP and the CDF, 150 years since the publication of Darwin's tome on evolution, together with Darwin's 200th birthday -- this book aims to illuminate many of those ground breaking accomplishments, along with sobering lessons applicable to the future. Surprisingly perhaps, much of the initial international impetus to conserve Galapagos first emanated from faraway Belgium, which has hosted the permanent legal home of the CDF ever since. From the outset, the Belgian government, with its long tradition of scientific exploration in Africa, Antarctica and beyond, through the CDF established a Belgian scientific mission in Galapagos. A half-century later, it has again provided generous support to make the publication of this book possible. Coincidentally, my own roots, too, originate in Belgium. In part inspired by many of those grandfathers of Galapagos conservation, in 1955 my parents left my birth country, before I was two years old, to join a handful of pioneers already living in the islands. So it is perhaps fitting that my profession has followed a path in conservation photography and writing, much of it focused on Galapagos. When I began to approach long-standing researchers and conservation experts for contributions to this book, I was unprepared for the overwhelmingly positive responses I would receive. These were people who have dedicated their lives to Galapagos -- unraveling its natural mysteries as well as mapping out solutions to the ever-mounting threats looming ahead. Little did I realize that in the subsequent months of editing I would find myself immersed in a wondrous world of discovery about a place I thought I knew so well. Each contributor has written a special essay, revealing in his or her own words their most outstanding contributions to our understanding of -- and ability to care for -- these magical islands. My intimate familiarity with Galapagos enabled me to work very closely with the authors, the resulting email correspondence adding up to more than 2000 messages, many of them fascinating, in-depth exchanges of ideas. In some cases, our daily flurries of communications took on a breathless pace as we bounced questions and answers back and forth, both sides admitting to finding the process itself to be a stimulating and thought-provoking experience. I even had the satisfaction of learning that some of my reasoning helped generate new directions for future research. Chapter after chapter, a myriad facets of Galapagos research and analysis emerged that had not previously been publicized to the lay audience,

beginning with Sarah Darwin's reflections upon a family history of Galpagos research -- from her great-great-grandfather Charles Darwin to her own work on threats to the endemic Galpagos tomatoes. On these pages the reader will travel from the deep inner workings of 'hotspot' volcanoes to how the convolutions of our atmosphere have molded an ecosystem designed around feast-or-famine conditions. We peek into past species' compositions by exploring fossil records in caves, and decipher rainfall records encrypted in lake-floor sediments. We learn of baffling extinctions, whether natural or man-induced, and are enthralled by the recent discovery of hundreds of species new to science, from lichens and mollusks to the enigmatic pink iguana, whose genetic lineage places it at the dawn of Galpagos time scales. For the first time, we can follow the oceanic wanderings of hammerhead sharks, revealing an island-hopping 'golden triangle' across the eastern tropical Pacific, and begin to appreciate the reasons why the majestic waved albatross has recently slid into the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) 'critically endangered' category. We see the evolutionary process remolding species of Darwin's famous finches, even as we mourn the disappearance of an equally diverse product of adaptive radiation in the bulimulid land snails, both processes happening right before our eyes. On the behavioral front, we confront the harsh world of fur seal pups and booby chicks, sacrificing their siblings in their bid for survival, while females rule the roost among both endemic hawks and flightless cormorants. Some mysteries endure, like why albatrosses take their eggs for a wander while incubating, or the storm petrels whose nests have never been found. Inevitably, we encounter some contradictory conclusions between authors, whose very different studies lead to divergent interpretations, for example, climate predictions and whether lost forms of Darwin's finches represent species extinctions or just lost island varieties. These accounts also remind us again and again of the extreme fragility of Galpagos. There are heartrending details about the ravages wrought by alien diseases, climate change and the first-ever oil spill, counterbalanced by the exhilarating story of successfully applied biological warfare. The re-emergence of an endemic mammal believed extinct for nearly a century, and likewise the presence of tortoise hybrids long gone from their original islands, fill us with renewed hope for 'lost' species. The tide turns on ecological devastation when we read about the world's largest successful feral animal eradication project, or the restoration of the Española tortoise, from a mere few survivors to a wild population that is now self-expanding after more than 30 years of captive breeding and repatriation. And finally, we ponder the future, listening to the advice of experts on how to avoid a very plausible biological holocaust due to ever-increasing contact with the rest of the world. This unique collection is an evocative, authoritative anthology to nurture the curious mind and to stretch our imaginations. Above all, it is a glorious celebration of what we have learned about Darwin's famed 'natural laboratory of evolution,' and what it will take to preserve it. Foreword: Galpagos Research A Family Tradition Sarah Darwin I felt very honoured when