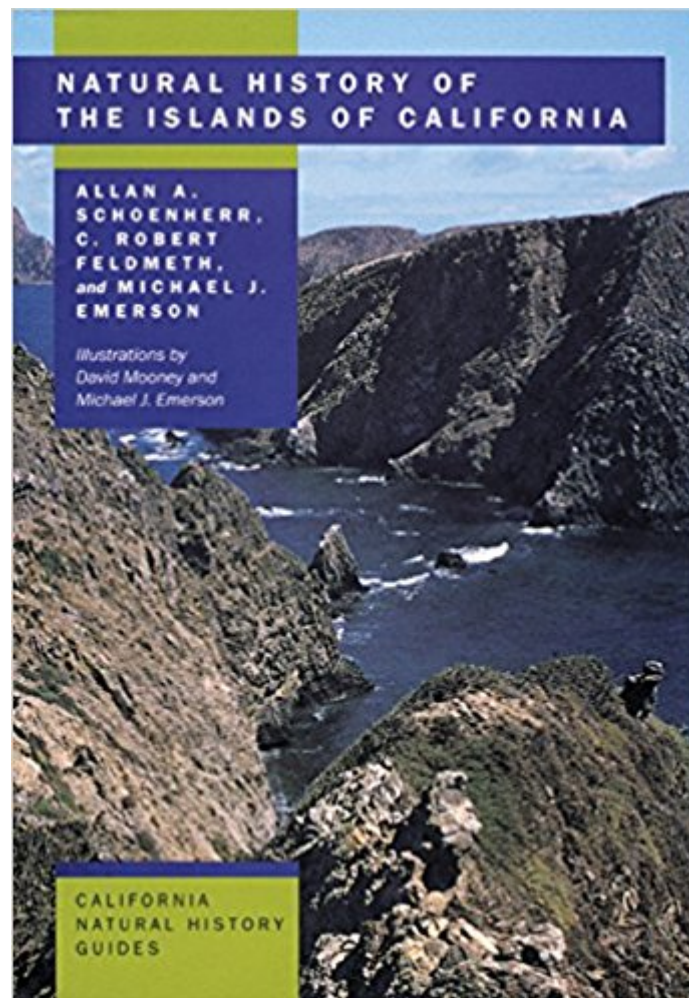




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# Natural History Of The Islands Of California (California Natural History Guides)



## Synopsis

Islands have always been fascinating places, their separateness evoking a sense of mystery and inspiring a yearning for exploration. California's islands are unique evolutionary laboratories, places where plants and animals have grown and interacted in isolation for millions of years. This comprehensive book discusses both the human and the natural history of the islands of California, including all eight Channel Islands, Año Nuevo, the Farallons, and the islands of San Francisco Bay. It is also useful as a field guide for visitors, and details on reaching the islands are contained in the first chapter. The authors explore the formation of the islands; discuss the history of human habitation, beginning with the Native Americans who first visited the islands 12,000 years ago; and provide a thorough introduction to the marine and terrestrial biotas of the islands. The authors also discuss past damage and ongoing threats to island ecosystems, including devastation caused by the introduction of non-native animals and plants. Large herbivorous animals in particular have caused considerable damage, since island plants evolved in the absence of herbivores and therefore have no defenses against them. At present all of California's islands are managed by conservancies and public agencies such as the National Park Service and State Park system, and various environmental organizations are working with them to return the islands to their original condition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An excellent book."--"Orange County Register

"This is a rich slice of information about California's islands and so complete that it includes the less-well-known Farallon and San Francisco Bay islands. The authors' well-chosen language, style, approach, organization, and illustrations combine to carry one along like a raft passenger on a fast-moving river. I highly recommend it."—Michael G. Barbour, author of *California's Changing Landscapes*"Rich in biological fact and historical anecdote, this book takes us into worlds that are made dynamic by geological, evolutionary, and human events. It shows how lively and eventful California's natural landscapes really are."—Peter Steinhart, author of *The Company of Wolves*"This book is the best source easily available to those interested in the California islands' natural history. It gives a good overview for beginning students and the uninitiated, and enough details for more advanced audiences."—Lyndal Laughrin, Director, Santa Cruz Island Reserve, University of California

The book does a very thorough job of covering the geology, botany, and wildlife of the Channel Islands. No other book is so complete. The only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is that its somewhat light on the human history of the islands. That said, if you are planning a trip to any of the islands off the California coast, this is a great reference book.

This highly scientific but delightful book describes how the complex interplay of the geology, weather, and ocean currents determine the development of the flora and fauna of these islands. Of particular interest is the complex interaction between the presence of human activity and the introduction of domesticated animals had on native vegetation and land and marine animal populations.

A lot of fascinating information, thorough and very readable. I bought this to prepare for a return trip to Channel Islands National Park and I think it is perfect. It's a well told 400 page portrait.

This past year, I have been volunteering for Channel Islands Restoration on the Channel Islands. Book is an excellent source for information and understanding of the amazing ecosystems on these islands.

Has everything in detail on ALL the islands. Lots of information, and over 300 pages. Highly recommended!

This is the real deal if you want a serious comprehensive overview of the natural history of the region.

great

More like a college text book. Poorly organized as a reference book. Pretty dry stuff for an exciting subject.

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