

NEW RELEASE FROM THE BRIT PRESS

JIM RILEY AND EDITORS. 2023. **Plant Guide: Geology, Archaeology, Tide Pools, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals, Channel Islands, California.** Sida, Bot. Misc. 61. (ISSN: 0883-1475; ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-70-6, flex-binding). Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press, 1700 University Dr, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A. (**Orders:** shopbritpress.org, orders@brit.org, 817.546.1847). \$55 US, 290 pp., color throughout, index, 7"×10".

From the Publisher: The Channel Islands of California are spectacular in every sense of the word, yet they are our least visited coastlines. The remoteness and difficulty of access make visiting these islands particularly rewarding. They are truly the only coastlines in California where one can explore a pre-Columbian habitat in solitude.

This is a plant guide first and foremost, but it has sketches of the geology, archaeology, tide pools, reptiles, birds, and mammals of the islands. It has been written to showcase and promote the impressive and staggering beauty, diversity, and uniqueness of these islands for all who visit them. Knowledge of the natural history of the Channel Islands and their evolutionary relationships offers not just a delight, but a deeper understanding, connection, and awe of our natural world.

About the author:

Jim Riley is a co-founder of Jardín Botánico de San Quintín, A.C. (www.jardinbotanicosq.com) which owns and manages the only vernal pool natural reserves in Mexico. He is the author of *Plant Guide Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico*, *Vernal Pools and their Plants, Northwest Baja California*, and co-author of *Mammals, Reserva Natural Valle Tranquilo & Reserva Natural Punta Mazo, Baja California*. Jim came to environmental advocacy after retiring from business and has now dedicated himself to conservation of native habitats in northwest Baja California. Jim surfed and hiked extensively on Santa Cruz Island during once-a-year trips during the 1980s and 90s. Enchanted with the landscapes but wholly uninformed on the biology, geology and history, in 2017 he began to read and study more about the islands. This volume is a product of that study.

BOOK NOTICE

DOUG ALLSHORE AND DAVID L. NELSON. FORWARD BY JAKE SIGG, 2022. **San Bruno Mountain: A Guide to the Flora and Fauna.** (ISBN 978-1-5971-4583-1, pbk). Heyday, P.O Box 9145, Berkeley, California 94709, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.heydaybooks.com). \$55.00 US, 512 pp., includes bibliographical references, Illustrations, and photographs; 7"×10".

From the Publisher: San Bruno Mountain, located in the center of the San Francisco Bay Area, is a four-square-mile global treasure—a natural preserve touted by biologist E. O. Wilson as one of the world's rare biodiversity hot spots. Bathed in fog and wind and preserved from destruction by the fierce work of local conservationists, this mountain offers visitors a glimpse of what San Francisco looked like before colonization. Drawing on years of visits, observations, and research to offer a comprehensive flora of San Bruno Mountain and its endangered species, conservationists Doug Allshouse and David L. Nelson help us understand this unique and precious place from the point of view of the plants in this one-of-a-kind field guide. Detailing a total of 528 plant species (among them 316 natives), the authors also delve into the history of this living, changing habitat at the southern edge of San Francisco. The birds, butterflies, reptiles, geology, climate, dynamic changes, and political history of the preserve also feature in San Bruno Mountain. Even locals who have enjoyed hiking and viewing the mountain for years will be astonished at this book's revelations about the diversity and importance of this wild place.