

In *Darwin's Finches*, Kathleen Donohue excerpts, collects, and discusses the most illuminating and scientifically significant writings on the finches of the Galapagos to teach the fundamental principles of evolutionary theory and provide a historical record of scientific debate. Beginning with fragments of Darwin's field notes and subsequent correspondence, and moving through the contemporary writings on the finches, this collection demonstrates how scientific processes have changed over time, how different branches of biology relate to one another, and what they reveal of evolution. As Donohue notes, practicing science today is like entering a conversation that has been in progress for a long, long time; her book provides the history of that conversation and an invitation to join in.

"Darwin's finches are famous for what they have revealed about evolution. Understanding of how, when, and why they evolved has increased enormously since Darwin's visit to the Galapagos in 1835. Kathleen Donohue has creatively helped the reader to learn how this happened by assembling an extensive and fascinating collection of writings spanning more than 150 years. The result is a treasure, a stimulating history for the biologist and biology for the historian."

B. Rosemary Grant, Princeton University

"The finches of the Galapagos are an iconic example of evolution in action, even more important to the research of scientists today than they were to the development of Darwin's ideas. Kathleen Donohue has done a wonderful job in bringing together historical documents on the finches with contemporary papers from the cutting edge of research, illustrating how science progresses and how modern evolutionary biology is a synthetic, interdisciplinary field. Interspersed with her own insightful commentary, Donohue has provided a great service to both students and scholars."

Jonathan Losos, Harvard University

"This anthology provides a fascinating record of how a small assemblage of innocuous birds living on a remote island chain became the cornerstone for studies of adaptation and the origin of species. The papers Donohue has compiled, together with her descriptions of their biological and historical importance, give us an unusually clear picture of the evolution of species and of science itself."

Douglas W. Schamske, Michigan State University

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