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Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in a Time of Extinction

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Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in a Time of Extinction

Description

Review of *Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in a Time of Extinction* / David Quammen. 1996.

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Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in a Time of Extinction

Posted on **December 1, 2002** by **Editor**



By **Ed Alkaslassy** <alkaslae@pacificu.edu>

Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in a Time of Extinction. 1996. David Quammen.

Humans have caused and are causing the permanent extinction of many unique living beings such as the Dodo (a pigeon-like bird). A disproportionate number of those extinctions have taken place on islands. Why are island-dwelling organisms so vulnerable to extinction? Because island populations are relatively small they have little genetic variation for coping with change and are more likely to suffer “random” declines after unexpected catastrophes. And while they are isolated from the fresh genetic variation of mainland populations that isolation has not protected them from a host of harmful human activities.

Lessons learned from islands can now be applied to mainland species. The sobering truth is that humanity is turning the entire surface of the earth into isolated fragments of land that are effectively islands on which species become marooned and are at greater risk of extinction. Shopping malls, highways, and agricultural fields can all be impassable barriers (“oceans”) for species. Even protected “islands” of land cannot preserve their native species: surveys of several National Parks in the western U.S. show that they have lost 40% of their large mammal species since being created less than one hundred years ago.

We cannot know the song of the Dodo now that we have extinguished it. How much more of our biological world will be unknown to future generations? The mission of the new discipline of conservation biology is to develop strategies for retaining viable populations and functioning ecosystems over the long term, given that the world is now “in pieces”.

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8 THOUGHTS ON “SONG OF THE DODO: ISLAND BIOGEOGRAPHY IN A TIME OF EXTINCTION”

Coach Outlet

on **January 29, 2014 at 5:25 PM** said:

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Odessa

on **January 30, 2014 at 2:09 PM** said:

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Michael Kors Outlet

on **January 30, 2014 at 11:54 PM** said:

the Content or the server that makes the Jobsite available are error or virus free or free of other harmful components or that your use of the Jobsite and/or the Content will be uninterrupted.2. “Ko-no-so” recalled a particular place and not just any place.A fascinating is out today that shows Barack Obama’s foreign policy approval rating has plummeted over the last two months while 43 per cent disapproved. Everything else has been par or over. Outsiders such as the South African Branden Grace could well rise to an inviting challenge, Yesterday he produced his best shot, 000.5 billion economic boost over the next decade owing to the arrival of 4G.

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on **February 4, 2014 at 6:52 PM** said:

Call of Duty Black Ops Cheats from Game – Guide – Dog as provided earlier installments, and will be publicized by Activision. A few Black Friday Countdown deals can also be found in the following link from Amazon.

‘ According to a report from Strategy Informer on Nov.