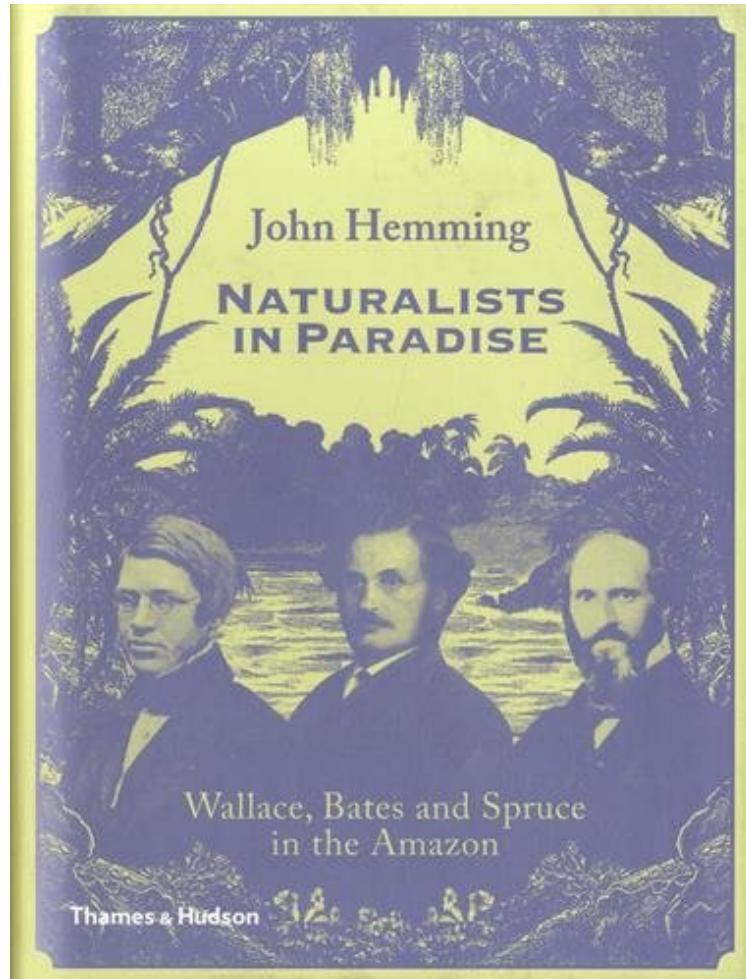


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## Naturalists in Paradise: Wallace, Bates and Spruce in the Amazon

*John Hemming*

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**John Hemming : Naturalists in Paradise: Wallace, Bates and Spruce in the Amazon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Naturalists in Paradise: Wallace, Bates and Spruce in the Amazon:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Should be read by everyone interested in the , ...By Mark PlotkinShould be read by everyone interested in the , tropical travel, field biology and the theory of evolution. Check out my detailed review in the Washington Post: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2015/05/14/ca79319a-d49e-11e4-ab77-9646eea6a4c7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2015/05/14/ca79319a-d49e-11e4-ab77-9646eea6a4c7_story.html)5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This author has a fantastic way with wordsBy Richard HahnThis book is truly outstanding. This author has a fantastic way with words. Let me explain. I have had the good fortune to have been in this area on two different occasions----both as a tourist---about 25 and 30 years ago so as I read this book, I visualize myself as the three men in the story. The time of this book was about year 1850 and I was fascinated by the authors vivid descriptions such as tile on a houses roof as I wasn't sure if

tile was even invented at that time but I guess it was. Also, the part about hiring Indians to paddle the canoes and the first thing that I thought about was our own capitalistic system in which the wealthier people today do similar things. I also noted remarks about different classes and races of people in those days as well as a good deal of intermarriage which takes place today. I have to comment on the foods that were eaten especially Brazilian nuts as I learned some time ago that Brazilian nuts are supposed to be one of the most nutritious foods that we can possibly eat today. Although I am not especially interested in insects and butterflies---this author makes this part so descriptive and interesting that it is hard to put the book down. This Author John Hemming in my opinion has an absolute winner. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hemming By kevin w. wrightsuperb, I loved this book. I read Tree of Rivers also.

The thrilling stories of the three pioneering English naturalists explorations and discoveries in the worlds richest ecosystem One hundred and fifty years ago, the young naturalists Alfred Wallace, Henry Walter Bates, and Richard Spruce were on a journey. Their destination, Amazonia the worlds largest tropical forest with the greatest river system and richest ecosystem was then an almost-undiscovered environment to Western explorers and scientists. In *Naturalists in Paradise*, Amazon expert John Hemming weaves the riveting stories of these three mens experiences in the Amazon and assesses their valuable research that drastically changed our conception of the natural world. Each of the three naturalists is famous for a particular discovery: Wallace is credited, along with Charles Darwin, for developing the theory of evolution; Bates uncovered the phenomenon of protective mimicry among insects; and Spruce transported the quinine-bearing Cinchona tree to India, saving countless lives from malaria. Drawing on the letters and books of the three naturalists, Hemming reaches beyond the well-known narratives, offering unrivaled insight into the often lawless frontier life in South America as seen through the lives of the great pioneers of modern disciplines: anthropology, tribal linguistics, archaeology, and every branch of natural science. 70 illustrations, 20 in color

I cant imagine a better biographer for these three men than John Hemming. . . . [His] most evocative accounts concern the many indigenous peoples that the three explorers met. There is a great tenderness in his descriptions, mixed with an immense respect and appreciation for their customs and traditions. . . . *Naturalists in Paradise* is a story of adventure and tenacious endurance, told by an author who underpins the research with his personal knowledge of the . - *The Wall Street Journal* The author of this most intriguing triography of Bates, Spruce and Wallace is the person best qualified to write it . . . Hemmings crowning achievement is the full integration of the stories of Bates, Spruce and Wallace. Wallace has been the focus of numerous books, while few narratives have concentrated on the great scientific contributions by Bates or Spruce. Hemming makes a very clear and compelling case that the other twos friendship, partnership, conversations, correspondence and research amply influenced Wallaces thinking and his great theory. - *Washington Post* In *Naturalists in Paradise*, John Hemming uses the stories of these three iconic Victorian explorers to show how the experience of being in the field is intensively individual and as idiosyncratic as the people themselves. There is no one better to explore their journeys than Hemming, who not only is a great scholar of the and its people but also has, himself, trodden in the footsteps of these men, a fact that allows him to empathize charmingly with their individual tales. Hemming portrays the personalities of each of these men brilliantly. . . . The most striking theme in Hemmings book is the powerful description of the importance of collaboration in field work and in science in general. . . . Todays scientists working with biodiversity and ecosystem services could take a cue from these Victorian naturalists who explored with both their eyes and minds open. - *Science* About the Author Formerly the Director of the Royal Geographical Society in London, John Hemming has traveled in and written extensively about the region. His previous books include *Tree of Rivers*.