

Science on the Air

Science News prints the latest written word of scientific development and noteworthy news. We've set this space aside to inform our readers of programs of scientific interest that are scheduled on television and radio. Check your local listings for exact times. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

Apr. 1 (PBS) Nova—“A is for Atom, B is for Bomb” (R) Edward Teller is known as “the father of the hydrogen bomb.” This program presents an in-depth portrait of this highly controversial figure.

Apr. 3 (PBS) Educational Computing—A weekly report targeted to educators and parents. Thursdays.

Apr. 5 (PBS) Bodywatch—“Fighting Fat” Discusses the dangers of crash diets, the hazards of carrying too much weight and the role of exercise in staying trim.

Apr. 5 (PBS) Cats & Dogs—Examines the causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of a wide variety of common pet ailments. Saturdays.

Apr. 5 (PBS) Newton's Apple (R)—A fun, fast-paced weekly science series that answers viewers' questions with in-studio and on-location demonstrations. Saturdays.

Apr. 5 (PBS) Wild America—“Feathered Jewels” (R) The many species of the exquisite, iridescent hummingbird are seen in an extreme-slow-motion sequence that reveals all of their beauty.

Apr. 6 (PBS) Nature—“Aspen: Dancer on the Wind” Examines the aspen, the most widely distributed tree in North America, which plays an intricate part in the ecosystems of various regions.

Apr. 8 (PBS) Nova—“Child Survival: The Silent Emergency” (R) Examines the progress of the United Nations Children's Fund's program to eliminate curable diseases in the Third World, which take the lives of 7 million children a year.

Apr. 12 (PBS) Bodywatch—“Stress to Your Advantage” Psychologists have found that some people in the highest stress situations live long, happy lives. The development of traits to ward off stress is discussed.

Apr. 12 (PBS) Wild America—“Ring-tailed Rascals” (R) A look at the raccoon, ringtail and coatimundi, three animals that combine in a special way the features of several other animals.

Apr. 13 (PBS) Nature—“Fragments of Eden” (R) Depicts the unique natural communities of wildlife treasures harbored on the tiny group of islands, known as the Seychelles, set far out in the western Indian Ocean.

Apr. 15 (PBS) Nova—“Seeds of Tomorrow” (R) Examines the aggressive agricultural technologies being developed to create tougher crop strains.

Apr. 16 (PBS) National Geographic Special—“Realm of the Alligator” Tells the story of the Okefenokee and the animals and vegetation that have adapted to survive in the swamp.

Apr. 19 (PBS) Bodywatch—“Will to Be Well” A look at the specific evidence linking the mind to the immune system and an exploration of psycho-neuro-immunology research and techniques.

Apr. 19 (PBS) Innovation—“Video Magic” Goes behind the scenes to see how artistry and computer science can be combined to create new, exciting images.

Apr. 19 (PBS) Wild America—“Canyon Creatures” (R) A visit to Monument Valley, the Grand Canyon and the sandstone arches of Utah to learn how these spectacular landscapes exert a powerful influence on the wild creatures that live within their realms.

Apr. 20 (PBS) Nature—“Danube Delta” (R) Visits the Danube river delta on the Black Sea, home of more than 45 species of fish and hundreds of species of birds, which is threatened by industrialization.

Apr. 22 (PBS) Nova—“The Genetic Gamble” (R) Explores the latest research in gene therapy, addressing the ethical issues surrounding this new branch of medicine.

Apr. 22 (PBS) Visions of “Star Wars”: A Nova/Frontline Special Report—This two-hour documentary explores in depth the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Apr. 26 (PBS) Bodywatch—“Building Better Babies” Focuses on the latest information on fetuses and newborns.

Apr. 26 (PBS) Innovation—“Crossing the Silence Barrier” Examines technological advances designed for people who may have hearing disabilities.

Apr. 26 (PBS) Wild America—“Wolverine Country” (R) A visit with the wolverine in the rugged land it shares with the wolf, red fox, deer and snowshoe hare.

Apr. 27 (PBS) Forever Wild—Traces the unique history of the New York State Forest Preserve, which parallels the evolution of the American conservation movement.

Apr. 27 (PBS) Nature—“Masked Monkeys” Examines studies conducted with African forest monkeys.

Books

Books is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print please remit retail price, plus \$1.00 handling charge for each book, to **Book Order Service**, Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. All books sent postpaid. Domestic orders only.

The Amazing Brain—Robert Ornstein and Richard F. Thompson. A visual and intellectual exploration into the evolution, construction and chemical and electrical operation of the brain. The text, written for the general reader by two Stanford University psychologists, and the many drawings provide both an actual and a metaphorical picture of the brain that helps reveal its secrets. Originally published in hardback in 1984. HM, 1986, 213 p., illus. by David Macaulay, paper, \$9.95.

Annual Review of Nuclear and Particle Science, Vol. 35—J.D. Jackson, Ed. Topics of articles in this volume range from nuclear processes at neutron star surfaces to induced weak currents in nuclei. Annual Reviews, 1985, 684 p., illus., \$30.

Blackbirds of the Americas—Gordon H. Orians. Blackbirds, orioles, grackles, cowbirds, meadowlarks, bobolinks and oropendolas are all members of an avian family found only in the New World. An ornithologist and an artist here portray the physical and behavioral traits of this varied family. Blackbirds—some black, some yellow, some red and some brown—range in size from crow-sized oropendolas to sparrow-sized marsh species. They live in nearly every habitat, including grassland, arid deserts and tropical forests. Their behavior is just as varied. The social and physical diversity of these birds is the result of evolution in different environments, and the author describes how the various species have adapted. Beautifully illustrated with striking line drawings. U of Wash Pr, 1985, 163 p., illus. by Tony Angell, \$24.95.

The Complete Book of Cat Care—Leon F. Whitney and George D. Whitney. This comprehensive cat care manual, which was revised in 1980, is now available in paperback. Doubleday, rev. ed., 1985, 274 p., illus., paper, \$8.95.

The Complete Book of Dog Care—Leon F. Whitney and George D. Whitney. A revised edition of this classic book on dog care by two veterinarians is now available in paperback. Doubleday, rev. ed., 1985, 468 p., illus., paper, \$9.95.

Dick Raymond's Gardening Year—Dick Raymond. A step-by-step, month-by-month, beautifully illustrated guide to vegetable gardening. Tells you what to do when in your gardening year; no matter where you live, the growing sequence is the same. Sun Belt gardeners are the exception, with spring and fall gardens; a symbol in the margin alerts gardeners from this region to special information. S&S, 1985, 256 p., color illus., \$24.95, paper, \$17.95.

Infinite Vistas: New Tools for Astronomy—James Cornell and John Carr, Eds. The advance of modern astronomy through the development of new instrumentation now requires, according to the introduction, copious funding, large teams of specialists and many years of careful planning and design. This book describes the astronomical instruments planned for the future, “instruments intended to extend our vision to some of the most distant objects in the cosmos and to enhance our ability to understand the physical processes at work in these sometimes exotic objects.” Scribner, 1985, 302 p., illus., \$18.95.