

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 and dates. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

March 1 (PBS) Nature — "The Bird of Happiness" Explores the world of the crane, whose numbers in the wild have dwindled to a handful.

March 2 (PBS) Planet Earth — "Fate of the Earth" (R) Examines how living organisms shape our planet and its future.

March 3 (PBS) Nova — "Confessions of a Weaponeer" Carl Sagan talks with George Kistiakowsky about his work in designing the atomic bomb and his role as science adviser to President Eisenhower.

March 5 (PBS) Wild America — "Otters of the Adirondacks" A portrait of the river otter is set against the backdrop of the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

March 7, 14, 21, 28 (PBS) Knowzone — Tailored to the 10- to 14-year-old viewer, these episodes respectively examine homicides, bird songs, Henry Ford and the sale of exotic animals.

March 7, 14, 21, 28 (PBS) Newton's Apple — Host Ira Flatow answers science questions from television viewers and the studio audience on this weekly show.

March 7 (PBS) Bodywatch — "The Knowing Nose" Documents the often-unacknowledged but crucial role our sense of smell plays in establishing relationships.

March 8 (PBS) Nature — "Long Live the Turtles" Focuses on the loggerhead turtle, important in Japanese culture and the center of an environmental controversy.

March 10 (PBS) Nova — "The Mystery of Yellow Rain" (R) Traces the controversy surrounding the use of chemical warfare in Southeast Asia, weighing arguments claiming chemicals are being dropped from planes against reports that swarms of bees are responsible for the "yellow rain."



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March 11 (PBS) National Geographic Special — "The Grizzlies" Tracks these magnificent and misunderstood animals and interviews the scientists who are trying to save the grizzly from extinction.

March 12 (PBS) Wild America — "Growing Up Wild" Examines the parallels between the development of animal young and human children.

March 14 (PBS) Bodywatch — "Skin Deep" Details the structure and function behind the body's largest organ.

March 15 (PBS) Nature — "America's Wild Horses" An insightful view of the American mustang, a living metaphor of the settling of North America.

March 19 (PBS) Wild America — "Animal Oddities" (R) Investigates how the peculiar characteristics of dancing birds, diving spiders and other creatures are important means of survival.

March 21 (PBS) Bodywatch — "The Whole Truth Diet" Teaches viewers how to distinguish sound nutritional advice from harmful fads.

March 22 (PBS) Nature — "The Plant Hunters" (R) Profiles the history of plant hunting from the 16th century to the present.



Earth Scenes/Mike Andrews

March 24 (PBS) Nova — "Will the World Starve?" How mismanagement of the earth's land and water resources has created a crisis in many parts of the world.

March 26 (PBS) Wild America — "Born to Run" (R) Visits the western prairies of North America in search of the continent's fastest land animal, the pronghorn.

March 27 (PBS) Native Land: Nomads of the Dawn (R) — Chronicles the cultural history of native Americans from 65,000 B.C. through the rise of several highly developed civilizations.

March 28 (PBS) Bodywatch — "You're Smarter Than You Think" Looks at new attitudes concerning intelligence.

March 29 (PBS) Nature — "Kalahari: Wilderness Without Water" (R) How a rich and diverse community of plants and animals has adapted to life in this South African desert.

March 31 (PBS) Nova — "The Desert Doesn't Bloom Here Anymore" — Examines irrigation policies and their effects on soil quality.

Books

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Big and Bright: A History of the McDonald Observatory — David S. Evans and J. Derral Mulholland. Recounts the origins of this observatory, which began as a joint venture of the University of Texas and the University of Chicago. Tells of its successes and the growing self-sufficiency of Texas astronomy. U of Tex Pr, 1986, 186 p., illus., \$19.95, paper, \$9.95.

Kidney Disease: The Facts — Stewart Cameron. This is the revised edition of a 1981 book that describes the variety of kidney diseases, both mild and potentially fatal, and the treatments available. Discusses dialysis, kidney transplantation and the changes that may occur in the near future in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease. Oxford U Pr, 2nd ed., 1986, 265 p., illus., \$18.95.

Life Pulse: Episodes from the Story of the Fossil Record — Niles Eldredge. Long periods of evolutionary stability interrupted occasionally by periods of relatively rapid evolutionary change form the basis of the theory called punctuated equilibria, proposed by this paleontologist and Stephen Jay Gould. Here, Eldredge presents evidence for this theory by taking the reader on a fascinating trip through geologic time beginning with the Precambrian epoch. On the journey he concentrates on the turning points in the earth's evolution. Facts on File, 1987, 246 p., illus., \$19.95.

An Odd Bestiary: Or, a Compendium of Instructive and Entertaining Descriptions of Animals, Culled from Five Centuries of Travelers' Accounts, Natural Histories, Zoologies, Etc. by Authors Famous and Obscure, Arranged as an Abecedarium — Alan James Robinson and Laurie Block. Entries for the 26 animals, both real and mythical, are arranged alphabetically and, together with the travelers' descriptions, include a beautiful woodcut and a line drawing for each. According to the introduction, the travelers' accounts, ranging over five centuries, tell the story of how people came to view the animate world as a reality with its own unique history, integrity and order. U of Ill Pr, 1986, 160 p., illus., \$29.95.

When a Doctor Hates a Patient: And Other Chapters in a Young Physician's Life — Richard E. Peschel and Enid Rhodes Peschel. It has been recognized, says the introduction, that something is missing in the training and education of the modern physician. This book links actual case histories from radiologist Richard Peschel's experience with examples from literature treating related themes or ideas. Each chapter concludes with a discussion of how the literary parallels illuminate and amplify the medical case or cases. U of Cal Pr, 1986, 189 p., \$16.95.

Winston Churchill's Afternoon Nap: A Wide-Awake Inquiry into the Human Nature of Time — Jeremy Campbell. Explores the subject of time as it relates to the intricacies of the human mind and body. Reports the recent discoveries in this fascinating area of biology. Explains how many daily activities and routines are actually controlled by inborn biological clocks, hence Churchill's need for a nap. Tells how we can be physically affected, as in jet lag, when these clocks are thrown off schedule. S&S, 1986, 432 p., \$18.95.