

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.

July 2 (PBS) Wild America — "Fascinating Fishes" (R) A look at the variations of the largest "living fossils," from the prehistoric alligator gar to the darter.

July 4 (PBS) Innovation — "Nothing to Sneeze At" (R) Reports on research at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where teams of "cold doctors" are testing a new generation of agents that promise to stop cold bugs in their tracks.

July 5 (PBS) Nature — "Aspen: Dancer on the Wind" (R) Examines the aspen, the most widely distributed tree in North America, which plays a part in the ecosystems of various regions.

July 5 (PBS) The Electric Valley Documents both the successes and the failures of the Tennessee Valley Authority and examines the political and economic factors that contributed to its evolution.

July 7 (PBS) Nova — "Stephen Jay Gould: This View of Life" (R) A profile of this internationally renowned paleontologist and evolutionary theorist.

July 9 (PBS) Wild America — "Wild Refuge" (R) Explores America's wildlife refuges, from the first and smallest created on Florida's three-acre Pelican Island to 8,900,000 acres of Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge.

July 11 (PBS) Innovation — "Dinosaur Chic" (R) Recent research shows that just about everything we grew up learning about dinosaurs is wrong. Two leading experts on dinosaurs tell us how they actually were.

July 12 (PBS) Granby's Primates: A Captive Life Explores five species of primates at the Granby Zoo in Quebec.

July 12 (PBS) Man and the Animals Looks at human-animal relationships in three very different contexts: Viewers meet a lion trainer, learn about research programs focusing on the therapeutic effects of human-animal bonds and look at the current effort to promote rabbit meat as a regular part of the American diet.

July 12 (PBS) National Audubon Society Special — "Galápagos: My Fragile World" (R) Offers insights into the animal life of the Galápagos islands and the fight to preserve threatened species, including Darwin's finches, the last Pinta Island giant tortoise, blue-footed boobies, frigate birds and marine iguanas.

July 14 (PBS) Nova — "Jaws: The True Story" (R) Takes viewers beneath the waves to explore the fact and fiction surrounding the great white shark.

July 16 (PBS) Wild America — "Fishers in the Family, Part I" (R) A look at this slender, cat-sized member of the weasel family.

July 18 (PBS) Innovation — "A Matter of Fat" (R) Investigates new theories — both biochemical and genetic — concerning the causes and treatment of obesity.

July 19 (PBS) National Audubon Society Special — "The Mysterious Black-Footed Ferret" (R) Features rare film footage of ferrets in the wild, which were, until recently, thought to be extinct.

July 21 (PBS) Nova — "Edgerton and His Incredible Seeing Machines" (R) Explores the world of Harold Edgerton, electronics wizard and inventor extraordinaire, whose invention of the electronic strobe has enabled the human eye to see the unseen.

July 23 (PBS) Wild America — "Fishers in the Family, Part II" (R) The growing fishers learn more about surviving on their own before they are released into the wild.

July 25 (PBS) Innovation — "Can We Live in Space?" (R) Examines research efforts at NASA's Ames Research Center outside San Francisco and the Johnson Spaceflight Center in Houston to understand the physiological challenges of prolonged spaceflight.

July 26 (PBS) National Audubon Society Special — "Condor" (R) Looks at the painstaking efforts to save the California condor from extinction, including captive breeding and release of young condors into the wild.

July 28 (PBS) Nova — "The Search for the Disappeared" (R) Joins scientists in Argentina as they help locate kidnaped children and identify thousands of dead in the aftermath of a military reign of terror.

July 29 (PBS) National Geographic Special — "Realm of the Alligator" (R) Visits the black waters of the Okefenokee Swamp, home to a wide variety of creatures including the alligator.

July 30 (PBS) Wild America — "Photographing Wildlife" (R) Shows viewers the secrets of wildlife photography, and the frustrations and exhilaration of filming the difficult and often dangerous scenes for Wild America.

Books

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Blueprint for a Green Planet: Your Practical Guide to Restoring the World's Environment — John Seymour and Herbert Girardet. A plea for reversing the environmental damage that is being inflicted on our planet. Looks at life in the home to identify how it affects the world beyond the front door, and points the way to alternatives that can help individuals reduce environmental damage. Prentice Hall Pr, 1987, 192 p., illus. by Ian Penney, \$25.95, paper, \$17.95.

The Care of Reptiles and Amphibians in Captivity — Chris Mattison. Shows how to get started keeping reptiles and amphibians. Describes appropriate accommodations, temperature and feeding. Discusses handling, breeding and diseases. Continues with detailed information on the specific care of more than 200 species of reptiles and amphibians from around the world. Well illustrated. Blandford Pr (Sterling), rev. ed., 1987, 317 p., color/b&w illus., \$17.95.

Fast Forward: Hollywood, the Japanese, and the Onslaught of the VCR — James Lardner. Videocassette recorders can now be found, according to the foreword, in roughly one out of every three American homes. This book traces the development of the VCR from conception to birth to maturity. Follows its consequences as they have rippled out from one realm of activity to another. Chronicles the experiences of a few of the people whose lives have been changed by the VCR. "Technological history," says the author, "is a constant struggle between pioneers and protectionists — between those who are trying to introduce new devices and those who are trying to guard and exploit existing ones." Norton, 1987, 344 p., \$18.95.

Low Vision — Helen Neal, introduction by August Colenbrander. Describes the treatments and aids that have been developed to help those with limited sight use and, in some cases, enhance their remaining vision. Discusses the major causes of low vision and how to cope with this problem. Suggests ways of adapting personal environments as vision deteriorates. Lists sources of catalogues, products, services and support groups and tells how to locate low vision clinics. S&S, 1987, 269 p., illus., \$16.95.

Scientific and Technical Information Sources, 2nd ed. — Ching-Chih Chen. A one-volume reference guide to information sources in science and technology. Includes citations for bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks and guides to the literature in various fields of science and technology. Technical reports and government documents are discussed and reference tools are cited. Guides to data bases are a part of this revised 2nd edition. MIT Pr, 1987, 824 p., \$55.

Words for the Wild: The Sierra Club Trailside Reader — Ann Ronald, Ed. This collection of essays from some of America's best nature writers is small enough to fit in a backpack. Nature writings, according to the introduction, suggest new ways of thinking about and responding to the world in which we live. Sierra, 1987, 365 p., paper, \$10.95.