

The American Medical Association

FAMILY MEDICAL GUIDE

Revised and Updated
Edited by
Jeffrey R. M. Kunz and
Asher J. Finkel



Random House, 1987, 832 pages,
7 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$29.95

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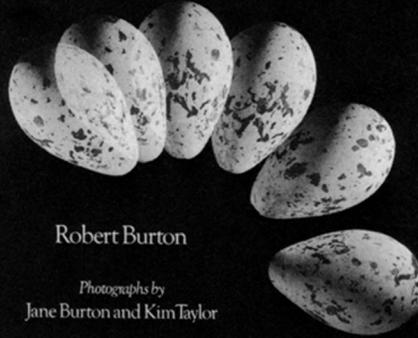
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EGGS

NATURE'S PERFECT PACKAGE



Robert Burton

Photographs by
Jane Burton and Kim Taylor

This lavishly illustrated book explores and explains the staggering variety of strategies employed by animals in producing, fertilizing, laying and caring for their eggs, and the wonderful diversity of their form — from the tiny sculptured button of a butterfly egg to the perfect oval of a bird's egg. The author describes the physiology of the egg, defining each part and the role it plays, and tells the story of its evolution, from the 'pre-egg' era — when reproduction was by simple division or budding — to beyond the egg, when a new strategy appeared on the evolutionary scene: that of giving birth to live young. The author describes the ecology of the egg — the myriad ways in which fishes, reptiles, birds, insects and other animals try to ensure the success of their eggs in a particular environment, even when the eggs are destined to hatch long after the parents have died. Together, text and photographs demonstrate how the peak of egg development — the hard-shelled egg — made life on dry land possible, by providing a tiny, enclosed, watery world in which a young animal could develop in safety and security. — from the publisher

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