

The Natural History of the USSR

By Algirdas Knystautas

Although some of the plants and animals will be familiar to European and American readers, the Soviet Union contains a tremendous diversity of wildlife, with a rich heritage of scarce and endemic species. The 796 species of birds include the rare Red-breasted Goose and Siberian White Crane, the Great and Little Bustards, and several species of snowcock; among the 321 species of mammals are the bizarre Russian Desman, an aquatic relative of the moles with a long, trumpet-like snout, and the Snow Leopard; there are exotic species of reptiles, too, such as the Desert Monitor, up to five feet long, and the little-known Kopet-Dag Gecko, a host of brightly colored butterflies and giant silk moths; and unique plants, from the Giant Fennel and Caucasian Lily to the superb Greig's Tulip.

This book provides an up-to-date account in English of this fascinating natural panorama. It will appeal to nature lovers, from bird-watchers to botanists, and to everyone with a spirit of adventure and a yearning for wild places.

—from the publisher



McGraw-Hill, 1987, 11 1/4" x 8 1/4", 224 pages, hardcover, \$29.95 ISBN 0-07-035409-X

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Please send _____ copy(ies) of *The Natural History of the USSR*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$29.95 plus \$1.00 handling (total \$30.95) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

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THE SECRET HOUSE

David Bodanis

“From the alarm clock a spherical shock wave traveling at Mach 1 starts growing outward, spreading and spreading until it hits the wall. Some of the energy it carries causes the curtains over the windows to heat up from the friction of the onslaught; much of the rest rebounds back, enters the ears of two sleepers and finally rouses them awake.”

The Secret House uncovers the astounding physical and biological events that go on while we sleep, eat or brush our teeth; the little hidden dramas happening around us all the time. Much of what is described is invisible to the naked eye or inaudible to the average ear.

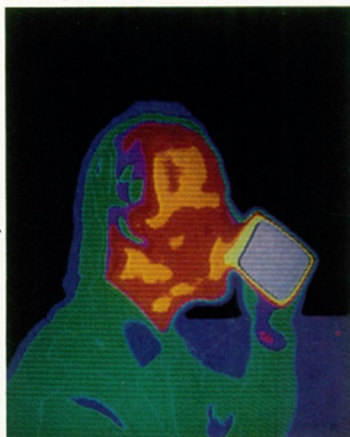
Eighty stunning photographs, many especially commissioned for this book, employing techniques such as electron micrographs, thermographs and computer-enhanced X-rays, reveal the true physical nature of your house. This fascinating and highly original book will make it impossible to look at a house in the same way again.

— from the publisher



Macro photograph of a Velcro strip.

Thermograph of heat variation in the face of a man drinking hot coffee.



Photos: Science Photo Library, Ltd.

- Eggs are quietly breathing in the refrigerator.
- Floorboards engage in splendid harmonious rhythms after you've left the room.
- There is a hidden microscopic war going on in the garden.
- Electric force fields are curling out from the circuitry in the walls.
- Every glass pane in the house is dripping slowly downward.
- In the upstairs closet the hangers are sagging and giving off rumbling low-frequency groans. . . .
- In other words, it's a perfectly ordinary night.

Simon & Schuster, 1986, 9 1/4" x 7 1/4", 223 pages, hardcover, \$19.95

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