

## Books

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**The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds** — Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye. Designed for use as a companion to field identification guides, this book describes the habits and habitats of 660 bird species that regularly breed north of Mexico. Supplies such information as where and how each species builds its nests, eating and mating habits, the number of eggs laid, rearing of young, range and behavior. Supplementing the species information are more than 200 essays covering a wide range of ornithological topics. Includes an extensive bibliography. S&S, 1988, 785 p., illus., \$24.95, paper, \$14.95.

**The Breakthrough: The Race for the Superconductor** — Robert M. Hazen. The author was part of Paul Chu's team that was involved in the race to isolate, identify and characterize the new material Chu had discovered following the January 1986 announcement of the copper-bearing oxide superconductor. This, the author says, "is an insider's view of the scientific process, spiced with the inevitable foibles of intense personalities and the machinations spawned of rivalry. . . . The book focuses primarily on the intensive research efforts." S&S, 1988, 271 p., illus., \$18.95.

**The Dreams of Reason: The Computer and the Rise of the Sciences of Complexity** — Heinz R. Pagels. The sciences of complexity involve the study of complex systems, such as the body and its organs, the economy, population and evolutionary systems, animal behavior and large molecules. Some of these systems can be simulated on computers and can be easily modeled; others cannot be simulated by anything simpler than the system itself. This book focuses on three themes: the rise of the sciences of complexity; the role of the computer as a research instrument and the reordering of knowledge it implies; and, finally, the philosophy of science. The author believes that the new sciences of complexity will bring closer together the thinking about and the doing of science. S&S, 1988, 352 p., \$18.95.

**Flanagan's Version: A Spectator's Guide to Science on the Eve of the 21st Century** — Dennis Flanagan. A founder and editor for 37 years of *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN* shows here how all of modern science "hangs together, how all modern scientists are traveling towards . . . a unified understanding of the universe, including ourselves." Flanagan accomplishes this by focusing on "tales" of physics, astronomy, geology and biology for the general reader, describing recent advances and some background in each of these disciplines. Discusses technology as an evolutionary and historical process and goes on to consider the irrational. Knopf, 1988, 272 p., \$18.95.

**Race to Mars: The Mars Flight Atlas** — Frank Miles and Nicholas Booth, Eds. The Soviet Union and the United States are both talking about plans for a manned flight to Mars. The round-trip flight will be 300 million miles and could take three years. The unmanned Soviet probes just launched to the Martian moons are the first missions sent to Mars in 13 years, although U.S. Viking instruments continued to collect data until November 1982. This beautifully illustrated book describes what we know about Mars and tells of the preparation necessary for the voyage, explaining each stage. The British authors compare the U.S. and Soviet approaches to the problems of a flight to Mars. Har-Row, 1988, 192 p., color/b&w illus., \$19.95.

**Waterfowl: An Identification Guide to the Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World** — Steve Madge and Hilary Burn, foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. These birds, according to the foreword, have always been held in special fascination by the human race. They are the most frequently depicted birds in ancient art, have always been hunted and have thrived under domestication for many centuries. This field guide contains color plates covering the major world species of wildfowl, distribution maps for each species and short text that highlights points to concentrate on or features not apparent from the illustrations. More detailed species accounts describe each wildfowl species and summarize aspects of their life histories that may be useful for field identification. HM, 1988, 298 p., color illus., \$35.

## Games for Math

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By Peggy Kaye

These witty, imaginative and entertaining math games offer a welcome improvement over the counting drills and fill-in-the-blank workbooks that have bored children for generations. When children play a clapping game to learn about counting or a dice game to learn about multiplication, and bake brownies to learn about metrics, chances are good they'll develop mathophilia rather than mathophobia.

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— from the publisher

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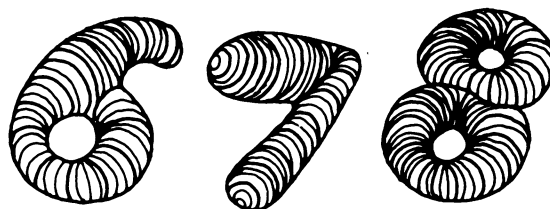
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Pantheon Books, 1988, 236 pages, 7 1/2" x 8 1/2", paperback, \$8.95  
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