

## Books

**Books** is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print, please remit retail price, plus \$2.00 postage and handling charge for each book, to **SCIENCE NEWS BOOKS**, 1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. All books sent postpaid. Domestic orders only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

**Eye to Eye: How People Interact**—Peter Marsh, Ed. Twenty-six psychologists from Britain, Canada and the United States explain the sociological and psychological complexities of human interaction and relationships. The book combines photographs, sidebars, charts and text in a lively and readable analysis of human interaction—making eye contact, marking territory, assessing appearances, reacting to a smile; and of relationships—sibling to sibling, humans to pets, husband to wife, co-worker to co-worker. Salem Hse Pubs, 1988, 256 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

**Ideas and Information: Managing in a Hi-Tech World**—Arno Penzias. A positive and readable account of computers and people—how each depends on the other—for the general reader and technical expert as well. This Nobel laureate uses insightful examples and personal anecdotes to chronicle the computer's origins, working applications, limitations, artificial intelligence, management and super capabilities of the future. He extols the virtues of the machine and is obviously a computer convert, but stresses "that the world's most powerful information tool will continue to be the human mind." Norton, 1989, 224 p., hardcover, \$17.95.

**Let Newton Be! A New Perspective on His Life and Works**—John Fauvel et al., Eds. This group of mathematics and science historians edits 12 chapters written for the general reader on topics ranging from the origins of Newton's *Principia* to his tenure as a civil servant. The contributors scrutinize Britain's greatest scientist and answer these questions: What kind of scientist was he? What connected his diverse areas of research? Why were his contemporaries in awe of him? Who are his critics? How has his work affected our understanding of the world? Oxford U Pr, 1988, 271 p., illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

**The Living Earth: The Coevolution of the Planet and Life**—Jon Erickson. Starting with a survey of the major theories of the origin of the universe, and moving on to today's extinctions, ozone depletion and global warming, the author takes the general reader through the geological and biological occurrences that produced Earth and its life forms. Well illustrated with many simple diagrams. TAB Bks, 1989, 200 p., color/b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

**Mosses, Lichens & Ferns of Northwest North America**—Dale H. Vitt, Janet E. Marsh and Robin B. Bovey. More than 370 species of mosses, lichen, liverworts and ferns are described here and shown in full-color. Gives distribution maps and habitats for each species in the geographic area extending from Alaska to southern Oregon and from the Pacific Ocean to Montana and Saskatchewan. The authors are a biologist, a lichenologist and a writer/photographer. U of Wash Pr, 1988, 288 p., color/b&w illus., paperback, \$17.50.

**On Watching Birds**—Lawrence Kilham. Foreword by John K. Terres. "What I seek in this book . . . is not to hand beginners cut flowers but to give them tips on growing their own; not to provide accounts applicable to only a few birds, but to give pointers on how to go about observing any bird anywhere," writes Kilham in the preface. Thus begins this enchanting autobiographical foray into Kilham's life as an observer of nature. Each chapter is full of behavioral findings about birds and encouragement to the amateur to observe all birds, even the most commonplace, for unusual behaviors. He questions the value of competitive birding and birding "hotspots" while praising the familiar backyard or the walk to work as nature's best laboratories for prolonged research. Beautiful double-page pencil drawings complement the bizarre bird facts Kilham describes, such as the courtship habits of sandhill cranes, the sudden massing of thousands of tree swallows and why blue jays eat sand. Chelsea Green Pub, 1988, 187 p., illus., hardcover, \$17.95.

**State of the World 1989**—Lester R. Brown et al. The conclusion to this year's report calls for the '90s to be a "turnaround decade" because so many of the challenges covered in the book—world food supply, the ozone layer, AIDS, global security—"have so much momentum that unless action begins now to reverse them, they will inevitably lead to paralyzingly costly economic consequences and the collapse of social and political institutions." Brown reports that more people and countries are becoming involved with changing the state of the environment, but that even more need to do so in the future. Norton, 1989, 256 p., charts & graphs, paperback, \$9.95.

# There is No Zoo in Zoology . . . and other beastly mispronunciations

By Charles Harrington Elster

Do you pronounce the arctic "AHRK-tik" or "AHR-tik"? Is it "ca-PRISH-us" or "ca-PREE-shus"? "Cari-BEE-an" or "Ca-RIB-ee-an"? According to Charles Harrington Elster's "Opinionated Guide for the Well-Spoken," these are just a few of the many common words "that are frequently and flagrantly mispronounced—not only by John Doe but by a great number of well-educated, well-read, professional and prominent people as well." **THERE IS NO ZOO IN ZOOLOGY** is an informative pronunciation guide to over 400 of those words. Arranged alphabetically, each entry offers an enlightening discourse on how the word has been spoken since its appearance in the English language. Drawing upon dozens of sources, both historic and current, Elster offers an informed consensus of how a word should be pronounced and why it should be pronounced in that manner.

The book includes a "literal" pronunciation key, without confusing diacritical marks. Here are a few examples:

Science News Books  
1719 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *There is No Zoo in Zoology and Other Beastly Mispronunciations*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$7.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$9.95) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

RB1031

- **Finis:** FIN-is. Occasionally, FY-nis. Fee-NEE is wrong.

Finis means the end. It comes through Middle English from the Latin finis (Latin pronunciation FEE-nis or FY-nis). Finis is often mistakenly thought to be French, which is why so many mispronounce it fee-NEE.

- **Victuals:** VIT-ulz.

You can take your cue on this word from Jed Clampitt and the other Beverly Hillbillies: VIT-ulz is the only standard pronunciation. Victuals dates back to 1300. The C is left over from the Latin root, victualis, pertaining to food; it was dropped in the Middle English vitaille, provisions, and reinstated in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The spelling pronunciation VIK-choo-ulz, which is sometime heard in educated speech, is nonstandard and not countenanced by dictionaries. Pronounce victuals to rhyme with whiffles.

Macmillan/Collier, 1989, 182 pages, 8 1/4" x 5 1/2", paperback, \$7.95. ISBN 0-02-031830-8