

Science on the Air

Check your local listings for exact times and dates.
(R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

Jan. 2 (PBS) Nova — “Countdown to the Invisible Universe” (R) Profiles the IRAS satellite — a craft launched in January 1986 and capable of “seeing” the infrared spectrum, which is invisible to the human eye.

Jan. 3 (PBS) Discover: The World of Science Travels to Great Britain to visit a leech farm and a hospital for hedgehogs and foxes, and shows how computers help drivers navigate London traffic.

Jan. 6 (CNN) Future Watch Explores global threats — environmental, ecological and technological — and the search for solutions. Saturdays.

Jan. 6 (CNN) Healthweek/Science and Technology Week Cover the latest medical, health, science and technology news. Saturdays.

Jan. 7 (PBS) Against All Odds: Inside Statistics Presents the concept of data analysis, focusing on the practical, everyday uses of statistics. Sundays.

Jan. 7 (PBS) Nature — “Gran Paradiso” Looks at the wildlife and park management problems of Gran Paradiso National Park, a wilderness in the corner of the Alps that ranges from rock, snow and ice to woodland and meadow.

Jan. 9 (PBS) Nova — “Poison in the Rockies” Reports on the 100-year-old legacy of pollution from mining that has poisoned the once pristine waters of the Rocky Mountain states and on the more recent problems of acid rain and land development.

Jan. 10 (PBS) National Geographic Special — “Amazon: Land of the Flooded Forest” Focuses on the wide variety of species inhabiting Amazonia and how they respond to the bizarre rhythms and cycles of the rain forest.



Jan. 14 (PBS) Nature — “Under the Emerald Sea” (R) Explores the waters of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Jan. 15 (PBS) The Miracle Planet — “The Third Planet” Examines Earth's evolution and the series of events that allowed life to emerge on the planet.

Jan. 16 (PBS) Nova — “Why Planes Crash” (R) Investigates factors contributing to pilot error — which causes most crashes of commercial planes — and whether airlines can better prepare their pilots and planes to avoid fatal human mistakes.

Jan. 19 (PBS) The Addicted Brain (R) Tours the most prolific drug manufacturer in existence — the human brain.

Jan. 21 (PBS) Nature — “Cranes of the Grey Wind” Follows America's sandhill cranes from the prairies of Nebraska to the Northwest Territories of Canada and the Arctic coasts of Alaska and Siberia.

Jan. 21 (PBS) Near Death Profiles four patients in a Boston hospital's intensive care unit, portraying the physical, psychological and ethical challenges they, their families and the attending medical professionals face in making decisions about life-sustaining treatment.

Jan. 22 (PBS) The Miracle Planet — “The Heat Within” Reveals how Earth vents its internal heat, examining how this process has affected continental structure and determined the location of the world's great mineral deposits.

Jan. 23 (PBS) Nova — “Race for the Top” Focuses on the race between U.S. and European physicists to discover the top quark — one of the smallest objects in nature.

Jan. 23 (PBS) The Time of Our Lives Looks at the conflict between our biological clocks and the schedule dictated by society, exploring current research on how the internal clock can be adjusted.

Jan. 24 (PBS) Smithsonian World — “Zoo” Visits the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., on its 100th anniversary and unveils plans and hopes for the park's future.

Jan. 28 (PBS) Nature — “Beyond Timbuktu” (R) Surveys the arid lands of Mali and the birds that make their home there.

Jan. 29 (PBS) The Miracle Planet — “Life from the Sea” Explains how ancient marine organisms may have created an atmospheric balance that permitted life to develop on land.

Jan. 30 (PBS) Nova — “Children of Eve” (R) Investigates recent genetic studies that raise several controversial questions about human origins.

Jan. 31 (PBS) The AIDS Quarterly Explains the latest research results on two experimental AIDS drugs and examines the financing of AIDS research and treatment.

Books

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3-D Star Maps — Richard Monkhouse and John Cox. Offers 33 detailed star maps grouped according to three categories: bright stars (visible to the naked eye), near stars (closer than bright stars, yet visible only with a telescope) and galaxies (massive star groupings too distant to detect without a telescope). Each map is shown in 3-D with details identified in an adjacent black-and-white map. Book includes two pairs of viewing glasses and an introductory section describing the life and death of stars, their constituents and classifications, and how astronomers measure their distances in space. Har-Row, 1989, 96 p., color illus., hardcover, \$15.95.

Cantor's Dilemma — Carl Djerassi. A novel, written by a renowned chemist, about the controversy surrounding a scientist and his research assistant whose findings come under question after they win a Nobel Prize for cancer research. Doubleday, 1989, 228 p., hardcover, \$18.95.

The Female Animal — Irene Elia, introduction by Ashley Montagu. Explores female behavior in the animal kingdom, revealing the commanding powers of the female animal in many diverse species. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. H Holt & Co, 1989, 318 p., paperback, illus., \$12.95.

Kitchen Science: A Guide to Knowing the Hows and Whys for Fun and Success in the Kitchen, Revised Edition — Howard Hillman. More than 150 new or revised questions and answers have been added to this 1981 classic that explains the science behind such kitchen queries as why freezing affects the texture of meat and why saturated fat is unhealthy. H-M, 1989, 322 p., paperback, \$8.95.

Predatory Dinosaurs of the World: A Complete Illustrated Guide — Gregory S. Paul. A “field guide” to carnivorous dinosaurs that roamed the Earth from 235 million to 65 million years ago. Delightfully and authoritatively written and illustrated by this working paleontologist, the book describes the pack-hunting techniques used by the big dinosaurs, speculates on how birds began to fly and rejects the idea of extinction by asteroid impact. The second half of the book is a catalog of facts about these ancient creatures, including skeletal restorations for many species. A New York Academy of Sciences Book. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. S&S, 1989, 464 p., illus., paperback, \$12.95.

Save the Birds — Rudolf L. Schreiber, Antony W. Diamond, Roger Tory Peterson, Walter Cronkite. A beautifully illustrated book about international efforts to protect endangered bird species and conserve their habitats. Describes the major ecosystems of the Earth, the roles birds play in them and how humans affect these ecosystems. Peterson and Cronkite prepared the section on American bird life for this U.S. edition of the book. Part of the proceeds from the book go toward bird and habitat conservation. H-M, 1989, 384 p., color illus., hardcover, \$39.95.