

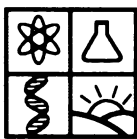
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Complexification: Explaining a Paradoxical World Through the Science of Surprise — John L. Casti. In a thought-provoking and accessible manner, Casti demonstrates the intricacies and fundamental principles of complex systems as he applies them to predictions in such varied areas as the stock market and unexpected occurrences of traffic jams on enlarged highways. Clearly, time-tested rules of common sense tend to differ, as Casti explains by delineating five reasons for counterintuitive behavior: catastrophes, chaos, computability, irreducibility, and emergence. However, he thinks that the possibility of creating a science approximating surprise looms in the future. HarperCollins, 1994, 320 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

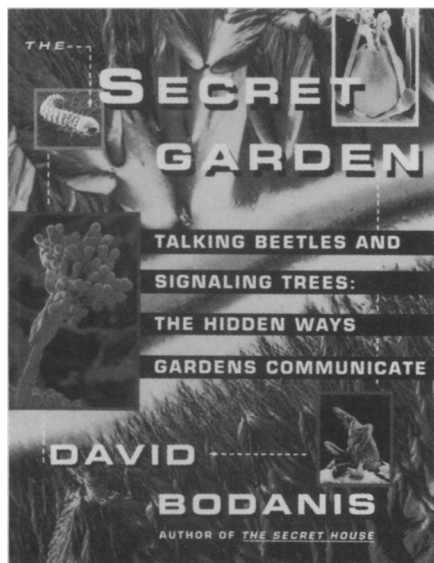
Groundwork: A Gardener's Ecology — Roger B. Swain. Environmentalism begins in the garden, exclaims Swain, host of the PBS show THE VICTORY GARDEN and author of this collection of 10 essays. Swain passes along his experiences in his own garden, exemplifying his role and that of others in sustaining an ecologically sound garden and Earth. Topics discussed include soil nutrients, water conservation, noise pollution, animal rights, and erosion. HM, 1994, 162 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$18.95.

The Outer Reaches of Life — John Postgate. Microbes are virtually indistinguishable without the use of a high-powered microscope, yet they are perhaps the most significant forms of life. In 18 essays, the author of MICROBES AND MAN reveals how some microbes display the extraordinary ability to flourish in extreme circumstances — without air, among poisons, and at the highest and lowest atmospheric pressures. Each essay explores a different aspect of microbe survival and specifies the importance of their resilience. For instance, one shows how microbes thrive deep in the sea and links that knowledge to the evolution of terrestrial life. Cambridge U Pr, 1994, 276 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

Secrets of the Nest: The Family Life of North American Birds — Joan Dunning. Eagles build nests weighing nearly 2 tons, sometimes killing the trees that hold them; an oriole looks for the fork of the tallest elm twig to construct its home. These fascinating types of nests, in addition to ground, platform, burrow, cavity, cup, and pendulous ones, are examined in depth to make it easy to identify them and ascertain why birds have such diverse and peculiar nesting habits. First-hand accounts of breeding habits and home protection methods for a variety of birds are also detailed and are further enhanced by remarkable drawings. HM, 1994, 198 p., b&w and color illus., hardcover, \$27.50.

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Every day in the hours between dawn and dusk, in gardens and backyards everywhere, a curious invisible world comes to life around us and beneath our feet. In *The Secret Garden*, David Bodanis takes us on an eye-opening journey through this mysterious domain where plants and insects engage daily in a Darwinian epic of survival.

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David Bodanis guides us through the terrain of the familiar yet unseen world around us and brilliantly transforms it. Written with a witty style that *The Washington Post* called "marvelously captivating" and illustrated throughout with state-of-the-art microphotographs, *The Secret Garden* is an astonishing book that will fascinate and delight anyone who has ever set foot in a garden. —from *Simon & Schuster*



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