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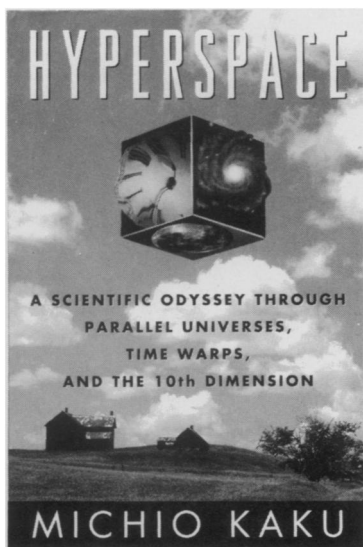
The Crystal Desert: Summers in Antarctica — David G. Campbell. This look at Antarctica's wildlife, climate, land, and history tells of the explorers who discovered it, the whalers and sealers who despoiled it, and the scientists working there today. The author spent three summers at the Brazilian Antarctic Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula and describes the events of the summer, when for 3 months the sun travels around the northern horizon and sets only briefly. He tells of penguins, seabirds, seals, and whales, of the evolution of life in Antarctica, and of the evolution of the continent itself from the landmass known as Gondwana. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. HM, 1994, 308 p., paperback, \$10.95.

Ferns for American Gardens: The Definitive Guide to Selecting and Growing More than 500 Kinds of Hardy Ferns — John Mickel. Listed alphabetically by genus, virtually every fern found in the United States is chronicled, along with pertinent data about frond size, color, hardiness zones, ease of cultivation, and suggestions for use and propagation in the garden. Glorious color photographs enhance detailed entries for these often overlooked plants. A source list concludes this compendium. Macmillan, 1994, 370 p., b&w illus. and color photos, hardcover, \$60.00.

The Next Great Thing: The Sun, the Stirling Engine, and the Drive to Change the World — Mark Shelton. William Beale has spent the last 20 years planning and building what he believes is the answer to fossil fuels: his own, ultimate Stirling engine, which uses the sun and the principles of external combustion to produce energy. Shelton documents the life and work of Beale and his counterparts at Sunpower, Inc., in Athens, Ohio, as they toil to fund and create a 170-acre complex of Stirling engines that Beale contends can produce enough pollution-free energy for the entire United States. Norton, 1994, 272 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

The Sex Imperative: An Evolutionary Tale of Sexual Survival — Kenneth Maxwell. Even viruses have their own kind of sex, reports Maxwell in this survey of the sexual habits and attributes of living creatures on Earth. Beginning with the evolution of sex and the activity that takes place in single-cell organisms, the author systematically explores the sexual characteristics of numerous species, thereby illuminating nature's amazing sexual adaptability to various and changing environments. Many bizarre, fascinating revelations present themselves along the way, as the reader discovers that female fireflies flash mating codes and that many male birds do not have penises and therefore have a somewhat different mating ritual. Plenum, 1994, 324 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

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