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The Artful Universe—John D. Barrow. Although science has generally left art to be admired rather than explained, Barrow posits that the elements that make up the universe, such as its environments and its astronomical appearance, have had a deep-seated effect on our senses and sensibilities. He carefully builds his case by beginning with broad arguments that show which features of Earth influence the structure and behavior of living things and how our interpretation of the stars and the sky influenced our concepts of time and determinism. He goes on to ask and answer questions such as Why do we appreciate landscapes? Is computer art really art? Why do natural colors originate? and How does music influence human emotions? OUP, 1995, 274 p., color plates and b&w illus., hardcover, \$27.50.

Bird Song: Biological Themes and Variations—C.K. Catchpole and P.J.B. Slater. Surveying numerous texts on the subject of bird songs, the authors present the advances made by neurobiologists in understanding the neural circuitry of sound production, hearing, and perception; the development of song in individual birds; the problems of sound transmission; why birds sing when they do; the role of song in sexual selection; and the possibility of dialect in song. Cambridge U Pr, 1995, 248 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$32.95.

Conquering Heart Disease: New Ways to Live Well Without Drugs or Surgery—Harvey B. Simon. A cardiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and a founder of the Harvard Cardiovascular Health Center, Simon himself suffers from heart disease. This guidebook to maintaining a healthy heart, divided into three sections, first explains the biology of atherosclerosis and methods for assessing one's risk of it. Section two presents a 15-point lifestyle plan to conquer heart disease. Part three teaches about major tests and treatments for heart disease. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Little, 1995, 412 p., paperback, \$13.95.

Einstein's Greatest Blunder? The Cosmological Constant and Other Fudge Factors in the Physics of the Universe—Donald Goldsmith. For those who don't know much about the existence of the cosmos before the time of the dinosaurs or beyond the stars outside their window, Goldsmith provides a guided tour pointing out the greatest sites and what is known about each. By the end of this tour he hopes to impart the best known answers to the four most frequently asked astrophysical questions: How did the universe manage to form such large structures during its relatively short life? Will the universe continue to expand? What does the universe consist of? How strong is the evidence for a nonzero cosmological constant? HUP, 1995, 216 p., color plates and b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

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Hidden Order: How Adaptation Builds Complexity—John H. Holland. There is no central food distribution center in the city, yet New Yorkers are able to find virtually any kind of food they want at any time without disastrous shortages or glut. The human immune system comprises myriad antibodies that adapt and adjust as needed, despite the system's protean nature. Both of these systems are referred to as complex adaptive systems. Holland, a pioneer in the field, explains their basic properties and how they behave. He shares data compiled at the Santa Fe Institute by researchers who, like him, strive to find out how our intuitions about complex adaptive systems can be applied to other areas, such as sustainability. Addison-Wesley, 1995, 185 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.00.

Stairway to the Mind: The Controversial New Science of Consciousness—Alwyn Scott. A specialist in nonlinear dynamics argues that dualism and materialism coexist in order to form consciousness. Scott proposes that mental organization is much like a stairway. The lowest steps represent atoms, the next molecules, then nerve impulses, neurons, the brain, and so on. Each of these steps relies on the next, suggesting that consciousness is an emergent phenomenon. Scott uses ideas from many fields, such as mathematics, physics, and philosophy, to bolster his argument. Along the way, he presents a diverse group of viewpoints from the likes of William James and Francis Crick. Copernicus, 1995, 229p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$25.00.



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