

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

December 23 & 30, 1995
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Vol. 148, Nos. 26 & 27
Pages 417-448



Fire and Ice: The Science of Sports

- What warps when you're traveling at warp speed?
- What's the difference between the holodeck and a hologram?
- What happens when you get beamed up?
- What is the difference between a wormhole and a black hole?
- What is antimatter and why does the Enterprise need it?

Discover the answers to these and many other fascinating questions in *The Physics of Star Trek*

Basic Books, 1995, 188 pages, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", hardcover, \$18.50



discuss the forefront of modern physics today. From Newton to Hawking, from Einstein to Feynman, from Kirk to Picard, Krauss leads you on a voyage to the world of physics as we now know it and as it might one day be.

With a foreword by the most renowned Trekker of all (and one-time *Next Generation* bit player), Stephen Hawking, and featuring a section on the top ten physics bloopers and blunders in *Star Trek* as select-

if

YOU ENJOY WATCHING *STAR TREK*, YOU'RE in good company. Some of the most distinguished physicists in the world, from Kip Thorne to Steven Weinberg and Sheldon Glashow, tune in.

How does the *Star Trek* universe stack up against the real universe? Find out what the series creators got right—and wrong—about science in this fascinating guide by a renowned theoretical physicist.

Anyone who has ever wondered, "could this really happen?" will gain useful insights into the *Star Trek* universe (and, incidentally, the real world of physics) in this charming and accessible guide. Lawrence M. Krauss boldly goes where *Star Trek* has gone—and beyond.

He uses the *Star Trek* future as a launching pad to discuss the forefront of modern physics today. From Newton to Hawking, from Einstein to Feynman, from Kirk to Picard, Krauss leads you on a voyage to the world of physics as we now know it and as it might one day be.

With a foreword by the most renowned Trekker of all (and one-time *Next Generation* bit player), Stephen Hawking, and featuring a section on the top ten physics bloopers and blunders in *Star Trek* as selected by Nobel Prize-winning physicists and other dedicated Trekkers, this is a volume that will add a whole new dimension to your enjoyment of the series and to your appreciation of the universe we live in! — from Basic Books

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One might expect that a "scientific conference" devoted to people who have reported being kidnapped by "little green men" would be dismissed out of hand. But the conference was to be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and would have as its chairmen a Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatry professor and a professor of physics from M.I.T.

C.D.B. Bryan attended the conference throughout its five days. He approached the subject with no prior stand, no agenda, and an open (if slightly skeptical) mind.

As the conference progressed, he was astonished by the quality of the stories told by the hundreds of men and women who came forward hesitantly and reluctantly with their utterly amazing—and utterly convincing—accounts of having been abducted.

What most astonished Bryan were the similarities found again and again in these accounts and the consistency of their details. As the Harvard professor John E. Mack asked at the conference, "If what these abductees are saying isn't happening to them, then what is?"

This question—and the possible answers—are at the center of this richly explicit, serious, and riveting book.

Bryan re-creates the conference. He interviews ufology's

most prominent psychiatrists, psychologists, hypnotherapists, researchers, physicists, physicians, and folklorists. He interweaves throughout the testimony of the abductees themselves, who tell us their stories in chilling detail.

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind is a detailed, objective exploration—the most concrete to date—of one of the enduring amazing mysteries of our time. It is a book that will equally fascinate believers and nonbelievers.

— from Knopf

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Alfred A. Knopf,
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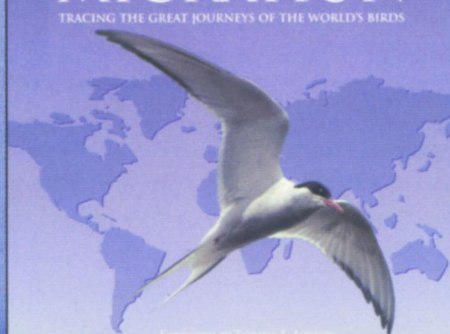
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The *Atlas of Bird Migration* uses specially devised computer-generated maps to trace the migratory journeys of more than 100 significant bird species from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The authors describe each route and how it is determined by the physical and behavioral characteristics of individual species. Fact boxes deliver essential information on size, weight, wingspan, and journey distance, and each migratory bird is clearly illustrated. Since more than ten percent of the world's species are facing extinction, careful attention is given to threats and hazards—from overhead electricity cables and hunting to predators and unstable weather conditions.

The continent-by-continent survey is supplemented by illustrated essays on migration patterns, flight techniques, navigation, staging posts, and worldwide conservation initiatives. A further 500 migratory species are cataloged in the back section, with details of their routes. For the active bird watcher, specific viewing places are profiled, including the best times to watch migrants at these "hot spots."

The *Atlas of Bird Migration* will be enjoyed by all who wish to comprehend the perilous voyages that constitute one of the great wonders of the natural kingdom.
—from Random House

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**ATLAS OF
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TRACING THE GREAT JOURNEYS OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS



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Random House, 1995, 180 pages,
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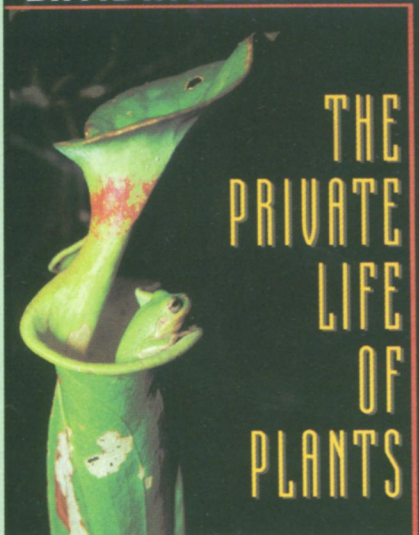
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In *The Private Life of Plants*, which is based on the immensely popular BBC program, writer/filmmaker David Attenborough treks through rainforests, mountain ranges, deserts, beaches, and home gardens to show us things we might never have suspected about the vegetation that surrounds us. With their extraordinary sensibility, plants compete endlessly for survival and interact with animals and insects: they can see, count, communicate, adjust position, strike, and capture. Attenborough makes the plant world a vivid place for readers, who in this book can enjoy the tour at their own pace, taking in the lively descriptions and nearly 300 full-color photos showing plants in fascinating detail.

The author reveals to us the aspects of plants' lives that seem hidden from view. Among the most outstanding examples, the acacia can communicate with other acacias and repel enemies that might eat their leaves; the orchid can impersonate female wasps to attract males and ensure the spreading of its pollen; the Venus flytrap can take other organisms captive and consume them. Covering this remarkable range of information with enthusiasm and clarity, Attenborough has created a book sure to please the plant lover and any other reader interested in exploring the natural world.

—from Princeton University Press

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



Princeton University Press, 1995,
320 pages, 7" x 10", hardcover, \$26.95



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