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The Backyard Bird-Lover's Guide—Jan Mahnken. For casual bird-watchers who want to acquire more knowledge about the avian creatures that frequent their yards, Mahnken provides a thorough introduction to 135 of the most common species. This encyclopedia provides detailed paintings of each bird, as well as information about nesting habits and methods of making different types of birds at home in the yard by means of gardens, food, birdhouses, and others. Storey Pub Inc, 1996, 310 p., color illus., paperback, \$24.95.

Biotechnology: Science, Engineering, and Ethical Challenges for the 21st Century—Frederick B. Rudolph and Larry V. McIntire, eds. In one volume, all aspects of the field of biotechnology are discussed. In early chapters, experts delineate the finer points of the science behind such advances as gene therapy, biomaterials, and recombinant DNA technology and the applications of each. Three other key issues are addressed, namely, the transfer of this technology from universities to industry, the ethics and behavior involved in its implementation, and the role of government. Joseph Henry Press, 1996, 278 p., b&w illus. and color plates, hardcover, \$34.95.

The Body's Edge: Our Cultural Obsession with Skin—Marc Lappé. As he dissects the various anatomical and biological aspects of the epidermis, such as how it protects us and why it is permeable, Lappé reflects on the ways that people regard their skin. Early chapters tell why humans have skin and how it functions. Lappé then argues that skin does in fact have a primitive system for warding off disease. He goes on to describe a number of ailments that afflict the skin and how both drug and potentially harmful chemicals pass through the skin. He describes in detail the experiments for use of silicone injections to smooth wrinkles from the skin. H Holt & Co, 1996, 242 p., hardcover, \$22.50.

The Case of the Frozen Addicts: Working at the Edge of the Mysteries of the Human Brain—J. William Langston and Jon Palfreman. After injecting themselves with a new synthetic heroin in 1982, several people went to Northern California hospitals in a seemingly frozen state, unable to move their limbs or to communicate. They resembled people with Parkinson's disease, only they were younger. Langston, an attending neurologist at one of the hospitals, made the connection between the addicts and the synthetic heroin. From there, he and others went on to make great strides in Parkinson's research and the chemistry of the brain, which Langston recounts here. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Vin, 1996, 309 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$13.00.

The Company of Wolves—Peter Steinhart. Wolves are either revered or loathed, as Steinhart shows through many interviews with people dedicated to either protecting or eradicating *Canis lupus*. Now, the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park has reignited an old debate about their effects on other species. Steinhart outlines both sides of this debate, but his fondness for wolves shows through as he delves into the complexities of the animals' social organization. According to Steinhart, wolves have many human qualities in the way they share with others and interact with their families. These and many other factoids about wolves, such as why they howl, round out the volume. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Vin, 1996, 374 p., paperback, \$14.00.

Empire of Light: A History of Discovery in Science and Art—Sidney Perkowitz. As a physicist, Perkowitz uses and studies light from many different perspectives. He employs laser light in studying pure crystalline solids, for example, and he observes the "glow" still radiating from the Big Bang. In this book, Perkowitz weaves together science and aesthetics to present a clear understanding of how we perceive light and how we respond to it. He spans history, illuminating findings ranging from the earliest discoveries (and misconceptions) about light to modern theories of light's role in the universe. In this especially well written book, Perkowitz carefully mixes intriguing examples with complex ideas, for example, showing how the architect Etienne Boullée incorporated Sir Isaac Newton's research of light into his structures. H Holt & Co, 1996, 227 p., hardcover, \$27.50.

The Hidden Life of Dogs—Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. An ethnologist reflects on her observations of canine behavior. In an attempt to determine what dogs really want and need, Thomas provided her dogs with food, shelter, and medical care only; she did not train them. The dogs, in turn, displayed behavior closely resembling that of wolves. The younger pups followed the lead of older ones, who even managed to pass along the idea of housebreaking to them. Moreover, says Thomas, the animals seemed to form emotional bonds with each other. An absorbing look at animal behavior and consciousness. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. Pocket, 1996, 148 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$10.00.

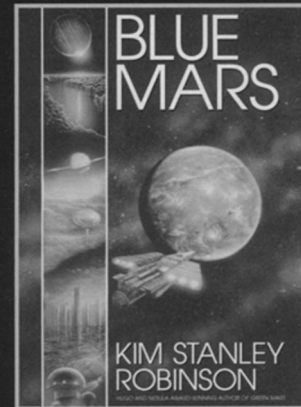
Memory's Ghost: The Nature of Memory and the Strange Tale of Mr. M.—Philip J. Hilts. H.M., or Mr. M as he is known in research circles, is a patient at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's clinical research center, where he has lived since undergoing a brain operation some 40 years ago. That operation, in which part of his brain was removed in an effort to help his severe epilepsy, also caused him to lose his memory. Now, his memory spans no more than 20 minutes at a time. Hilts documents the many unusual aspects of Mr. M's life, as well as researchers' current knowledge of the inner workings of memory, some of which has been gleaned from studies with Mr. M. Originally published in hardcover 1995. Touchstone Bks, 1996, 253 p., paperback, \$12.00.

One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest—Wade Davis. Davis regales readers with tales of searching the most remote regions of South America for botanical treasures. He focuses on his mentor, Harvard ethnobotanist Richard Evans Schultes, who during travels earlier in the century amassed some 20,000 botanical specimens. Schultes, an expert on medicinal, toxic, and especially hallucinogenic plants of the rain forest, discovered natural LSD and magic mushrooms. Davis intertwines reports of his own journeys, with Timothy Plowman as they sought the origins of cocoa. He reports on the efforts of all three men to learn the ways of native shaman and Indian tribes. The impact of outside forces and industrial growth on these regions is chronicled as well, in this wild look at field research. S&S, 1996, 537 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$27.50.

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