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All the Birds of North America—Jack L. Griggs *et al.* This field guide stands apart from other such guides because it is organized by instantly recognizable characteristics of birds. Charts inside the front and back covers present generalized drawings and categorize birds as pelagic waterbirds, which forage over the open ocean; waterbirds, found in and around wetlands; landbirds, such as tree climbers and nocturnal birds; and perching landbirds, typically the songbirds. The reader can then turn to the appropriate page to identify a particular species. A heavy plastic cover and sturdy pages make this a great travel companion. HarpPl, 1997, 172 p., color illus., paperback, \$19.95.

The Axemaker's Gift: Technology's Capture and Control of Our Minds and Culture—James Burke and Robert Ornstein. Two leading authors in history and psychology, respectively, join forces to evaluate the impact of people whose thoughts and inventions have directed and changed the world, our minds, and the values by which we live. Shamans, astronomers, printers, cardinals, engineers, philosophers, and quantum physicists are just some of the axemakers Burke and Ornstein profile as they gracefully evaluate the evolution of society and the perils we face today as a result of these great achievements. In conclusion, they state their confidence in the ability of these axemakers to help us overcome the dilemmas posed by our rapidly changing society. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Tarcher-Putnam, 1997, 348 p., paperback, \$15.95.

Grooming, Gossip, and the Evolution of Language—Robin Dunbar. In defiance of the theory that language evolved among hunters trying to communicate while seeking prey, Dunbar views language as an element of social cohesion. Our primate relatives spend several hours a day grooming one another in order to maintain relationships within the group. According to Dunbar, early hominids found this practice too time-consuming as their tribes grew larger, so humans developed language—conversation or gossip—specifically in order to socialize with many others while carrying on activities. Dunbar imparts information from a variety of fields, including evolutionary psychology and paleoanthropology, to bolster his thesis. HUP, 1997, 230 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

Informed Decisions: The Complete Book of Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment, and Recovery—Gerald P. Murphy, Lois B. Morris, and Dianne Lange. The American Cancer Society tenders this comprehensive encyclopedia to arm patients with the best questions to ask their physician. It helps them understand the risks and enables them to assess the stage of their cancer. Early sections cover common concerns, such as chemotherapy regimes and associated emotional problems. The last section addresses specific types of cancer, detailing who is most at risk, diagnostic tests, treatment, survival, and special needs. Viking, 1997, 689 p., hardcover, \$39.95.

The Mathematical Universe: An Alphabetical Journey Through the Great Proofs, Problems, and Personalities—William Dunham. In an effort to display the great "breadth and depth" of mathematics, Dunham offers this collection of essays. He delves into the seemingly innocuous entries for arithmetic and circles and moves quickly to differential calculus, all replete with theorems, proofs, equations, diagrams, and graphs. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Wiley, 1997, 314 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

The Pony Fish's Glow: And Other Clues to Plan and Purpose in Nature—George C. Williams. Humans should have a third eye for rearview vision. People crave sugar and fat, even though too much is unhealthy. Why haven't these problems been solved as *Homo sapiens* evolved? An evolutionary biologist contends that natural selection plays out in individual organisms independent of the benefits it bestows upon the species as a whole. The pony fish, for example, eludes predators by using its light-producing photophore to illuminate its belly, thereby eradicating its silhouette in the dimly lit ocean waters. Williams explains how organisms are uniquely adapted to survival, sometimes with arbitrary or malfunctioning features. Basic, 1997, 184 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$20.00.

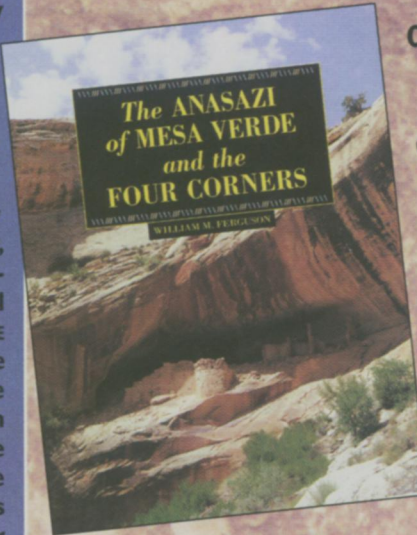
The Work of Nature: How the Diversity of Life Sustains Us—Yvonne Baskin. So what if the fishes of a coral reef die off or dung beetles suddenly vanish from the planet? Baskin systematically details how water, soil, and plants benefit from biologically diverse ecosystems and how all of them, in turn, benefit humans. By inventorying a variety of ecosystems and tracking their interdependence, Baskin is able to assess the cost of our loss. Island Pr, 1997, 263 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

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The spectacular ruins of the U.S. Southwest are the legacy of one of North America's most advanced pre-Columbian civilizations, the Anasazi. Today, nowhere is the Anasazi's presence felt more keenly than in Mesa Verde National Park and the Four Corners region of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, where thousands of ancient cliff dwellings, pueblos, and rock art panels can be found.

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