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The Dancing Universe: From Creation Myths to the Big Bang—Marcelo Gleiser. Tackling the sticky subject of the connection between spirituality and modern cosmology is Dartmouth physics professor Gleiser. He skillfully shows how the religious beliefs and convictions of Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, and Einstein influenced their work and how those elements overlap in the advancement of concepts such as quantum mechanics and particle physics. By classifying different creation concepts according to whether they assume a beginning in time or instead focus on an eternal universe, he traces links between ancient philosophies, Hinduism, and the like and modern cosmology. Dutton, 1997, 338 p., hardcover, \$27.95.

Gardening with Nature—James van Sweden. The author and his partner, Wolfgang Oehme, have built something of a reputation in the United States as renegade landscapers who have rejected the traditional English-inspired gardens in favor of those dominated by native plants. Van Sweden expands on his philosophy and then takes a whirlwind tour of his work in backyards, gardens, parks, and even parking garages. Each element is then mapped out, thus showing the reader how to build such landscapes. RH, 1997, 207 p., color photos/b&w illus., hardcover, \$45.00.

The Monkey's Bridge: Mysteries of Evolution in Central America—David Rains Wallace. Truly a land of earthly delights, Central America has experienced a one-of-a-kind evolutionary history. This land bridge continues, as it has for millions of years, to allow porcupines to travel as far as Canada and squirrels to find their way to the jungle, creating what paleontologists call the Great American Biotic Interchange. Wallace's fascination with this relatively uncharted region has led him on numerous journeys to study the broad range of biological specimens harbored there. His reflections here take readers to the depths of volcanoes, jungles, and coral reefs as he reviews what we know about the evolution of this part of the world. Sierra Club Bks, 1997, 277 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

The Night Is Large: Collected Essays, 1938-1995—Martin Gardner. Spanning the range of Gardner's expertise in philosophy, literature, science, and mathematics, this collection is representative of his venerable career and most significant work. Gardner taps a wealth of knowledge in discussing the role of quantum mechanics in understanding consciousness, the existence of God, and even the subject of "nothing," among many others. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. St Martin Griffin, 1997, 586 p., paperback, \$17.95.

Songbirds: Celebrating Nature's Voices—Ronald Orenstein. Presented in a large format and laden with big, brilliant photographs, this book thoroughly covers the habits and unique qualities of songbirds. Orenstein details every aspect of their diverse existence, from what they eat and where they live to why they sing and why some species are in danger. Sierra Club Bks, 1997, 224 p., color photos, hardcover, \$35.00.

The Truth of Science: Physical Theories and Reality—Roger G. Newton. Physicist Newton argues on behalf of scientists under attack by a variety of critics who assert that there is no such thing as verifiable objective truth. He points to the popular conception of what science is—where the focus is more on the "fruits" rather than the plant—as a misunderstanding that can generate a climate of hostility that directly influences scientific research and the credibility of such pursuits. By way of systematically recounting and establishing the "intellectual structure of the physical sciences," Newton's argument is based on discussion of the power of mathematics, conventionalism, analogies and metaphors, causality, and determinism. HUP, 1997, 260 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$27.00.

The Yale University School of Medicine Patient's Guide to Medical Tests: Detailed Descriptions of the Most Common Diagnostic Procedures—Barry L. Zaret, Peter I. Jatlow, and Lee D. Katz, eds. Suppose your doctor orders a transcutaneous oxygen measurement or a radioallergosorbent test: You might not know what to expect. This book aims to remove the element of surprise from hundreds of medical tests. Every detail of a test—how it works, where and how it is administered, how quickly results are available, risks, possible complications, and costs—is imparted. HM, 1997, 620 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$40.00.

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