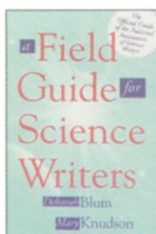


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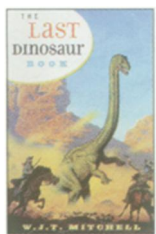
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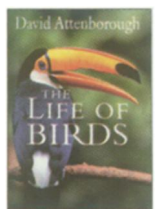
Failure to Connect: How Computers Affect Our Children's Minds—for Better and Worse—Jane M. Healy. Once a strong proponent of educational computing, Healy has studied children and their computer use across the United States. She reacts with newfound caution and skepticism. Her experience leads to this comparative analysis of brain function, emotional development, and styles of learning with and without computers. Among her conclusions are that information does not necessarily make one smarter and that computer time may detract from creative activities. The latter is especially true among very young children, whom Healy believes should refrain from computer use until age 7. S&S, 1998, 350 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



A Field Guide for Science Writers—Deborah Blum and Mary Knudson. In this book, endorsed as the "Official Guide of the National Association of Science Writers," writers such as Julie Ann Miller of SCIENCE NEWS, Boyce Rensberger, Ira Flatow, and Laurie Garrett share the secrets of their trade. These knowledgeable writers and editors point readers to the best sources and stories, discuss investigative reporting, tell how to pitch finished articles to editors, and offer much more. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. OUP, 1998, 287 p., paperback, \$13.95.



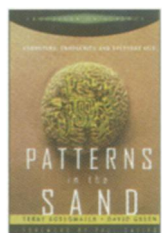
The Last Dinosaur Book—W.J.T. Mitchell. In a stylish and wide ranging consideration of the dinosaur as a cultural icon, Mitchell begins by imagining how aliens may view humans in the distant future. As they unearth our remains, aliens might suspect natural history museums to be places of worship housing dinosaur deities. A similar conclusion may be drawn about libraries and library books. Mitchell aims to set the aliens straight in this review of dinosaur imagery in narratives, toys, models, footprints, and skeletons. U Ch Pr, 1998, 321 p., color/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$35.00.



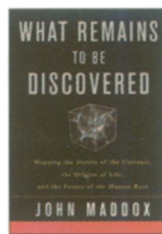
The Life of Birds—David Attenborough. Released in conjunction with a PBS miniseries, the greatest attraction of this survey is the stunning portraiture. Hundreds of avian specimens are spotted in their natural habitats. Attenborough delineates the idiosyncrasies of bird behavior ranging from the sharp memory of a nutcracker, which is able to store and recall the location of up to 100,000 seeds, to the bizarre mating dances of cranes and details of how eagles stamp snakes to death. Initial chapters document the mechanics and strategies of flight. Princeton U Pr, 1998, 320 p., hardcover, \$29.95.



Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds—George W. Hudler. A popular professor of plant pathology at Cornell University reveals how he is able to enthrall students with tales of the life and times of fungi. Hudler reflects on the often peculiar aspects of this 900 million-year-old life form. For instance, one species of fungus, *Sphaerobolus stellatus*, loudly reproduces by spewing its slimy spore packet at speeds of 27 feet per second to distances up to 18 feet. Hudler also quifully discusses the role of fungi during the Great Potato Famine, in fine wines, and in hallucinogenic mushrooms. Princeton U Pr, 1998, 248 p., color plates/b&w photos, hardcover, \$29.95.



Patterns in the Sand: Computers, Complexity, and Everyday Life—Terry Bossomaier and David Green. For centuries, scientists and philosophers have reduced subjects to their building blocks in order to understand their mechanics. However, varying and complex structures—such as clouds, planetary rings, and social trends—discourage this approach. The advent of electronic computers facilitated analysis of patterns prevalent in such complex systems, and a new methodology called complexity was spawned. *Patterns in the Sand* introduces this emerging field and provides examples of its real-world applications, such as understanding the workings of the brain and how ants build nests. Perseus Bks, 1998, 206 p., hardcover, \$23.00.



What Remains to Be Discovered: Mapping the Secrets of the Universe, the Origins of Life, and the Future of the Human Race—John Maddox. As the long-time editor of NATURE, Maddox was a communicator of groundbreaking findings for 3 decades. Here, he defines a scientific agenda for the beginning of the next century. Many advances of this century could not have been predicted in the 1800s, he asserts, and some new findings remain incomplete. For instance, mapping the human genome clarifies the inheritance of traits but does little to explain how life began, and the pursuit of a Theory of Everything will succumb to a "new physics," he believes. Free Pr, 1998, 434 p., hardcover, \$26.00.



Your Feet: Questions You Have, Answers You Need—Sandra Salmans. This zippy guide is published under the umbrella of the People's Medical Society, a consumer health advocacy organization. In a question-and-answer format addressing most common problems, foot physiology and treatments are outlined. One chapter is devoted to feet and athletics and includes facts about sneakers, turf toe, and osteochondritis. People's Medical Society, 1998, 192 p., paperback, \$12.95.

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