

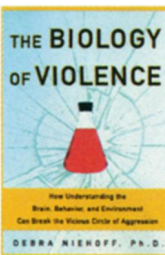
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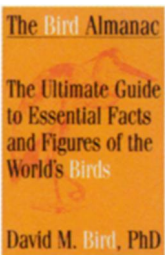


**The 20-Minute Vegetable Gardener: Gourmet Gardening for the Rest of Us**—Tom Christopher and Marty Asher. The authors of *The 20-Minute Gardener* now apply their zeal for unpretentious gardening to growing produce. If time is a constraint, then one should reduce expectations and return to old-fashioned horticulture.

This means giving up uniformity both in the final product and in the presentation of a vegetable patch. Using an organic approach, Christopher and Asher shun modern hybrids in favor of heirloom plants and crops more conducive to a lazy-man's garden: cucumbers, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, etc. A plan of action and many quick projects such as growing potatoes in old tires or cultivating peanuts are imparted in an irreverent style. RH, 1999, 284 p., illus., hardcover, \$19.95.



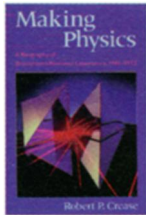
**The Biology of Violence: How Understanding the Brain, Behavior, and Environment Can Break the Vicious Circle of Aggression**—Debra Nihoff. Traditionally, violence in adulthood has been attributed to poor nurturing or trauma in childhood. However, strides in molecular biology point to what used to be called nature as the key to violent tendencies, according to Nihoff. It seems some individuals possess an innate predilection toward violence triggered by circumstance. One's genetic blueprint is acted upon throughout a lifetime by outside stimuli. In essence, the brain and the environment modify each other. Nihoff believes that once a physiological foundation is accepted, a plan of violence circumvention can be formulated and incarceration avoided. Her thoroughgoing overview of brain physiology relevant to these tendencies concludes with such a plan. Free Pr, 1999, 353 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$25.00.



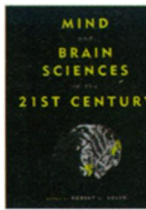
**The Bird Almanac: The Ultimate Guide to Essential Facts and Figures of the World's Birds**—David M. Bird. The author's ornithological expertise lives up to his name. Not an identification guide, but a data bank of basic information, this book lists species worldwide and then concentrates on avian biology overall: anatomy, reproduction, and mortality. Birders can find a bevy of useful information in the final third of the book, including itemizations of bird-watching organizations, relevant publications, videos, audio recordings, Internet sites, birding festivals, and tours. Firefly, 1999, 460 p., illus., paperback, \$19.95.

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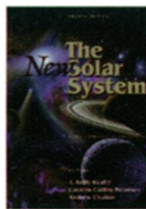


**Making Physics: A Biography of Brookhaven National Laboratory, 1946-1972**—Robert P. Crease. Brookhaven's historian recounts the legacy of one of the best examples of "big science." Like other national institutions such as Argonne and Oak Ridge, Brookhaven's role is to centralize public funds and resources too cumbersome for university research facilities. Unlike those other two, however, Brookhaven was "conceived, constructed, and managed" from its inception as a civilian institution geared toward basic research. As Congress becomes less generous, Crease recalls how we got to this stage, describing the fruits of Brookhaven and those who fueled its greatest achievements. U Ch Pr, 1999, 434 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$38.00.



**Mind and Brain Sciences in the 21st Century**—Robert L. Solso, ed. These essays tap the minds of those who study minds, depicting the strides that researchers in neurocognition, cognitive science, and psychology hope to make. Contributors and contributions

vary widely: Jerome Kagan ponders new techniques that will enable psychologists to study the private, emotional lives of their subjects, while Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan contemplate the slender partition between the cognitive lives of humans and other Earthly creatures. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. MIT Pr, 1999, 354 p., illus., paperback, \$20.00.



**The New Solar System: Fourth Edition**—J. Kelly Beatty, Carolyn Collins Petersen, and Andrew Chaikin, eds. In the 10 years since the last edition of this publication, its bulk has grown by a third in response to rapid changes in solar and planetary astronomy. Robotic eyes and high-powered telescopes have greatly modified our perspective of the solar system and beyond. Thirty of the most distinguished planetary scientists draft a summary of the current state of knowledge. No group this diverse could provide a universal viewpoint. As their chapters unfold, one garners a sense of the most pressing conflicts. The abundant imagery allows readers to share the astronomer's eye. Cambridge U Pr, 1999, 421 p., b&w/color photos/illus., paperback, \$39.95.



**When Things Start to Think**—Neil Gershenfeld. Gershenfeld, head of MIT's Media Lab, and his colleagues test-drive the digital paraphernalia of our future. In their world, personal computers are the equivalent of ENIAC. Unlike some of his counterparts, however, Gershenfeld strives to make machines beholden to humans, not vice versa. Thus, the technology brewing at his Media Lab serves people's needs and works with ease. Electronic ink, for instance, enables electronic books to change their contents in an instant. Eventually, data will be exchanged by a handshake through a computer that fits in a shoe and is powered by walking. And encryption systems will allow absolutely secure financial transactions. Henry Holt Co, 1999, 225 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

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