

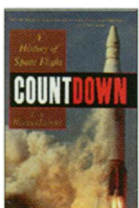
# SCIENCE NEWS BOOKS

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**The Complexity Advantage: How the Science of Complexity Can Help Your Business Achieve Peak Performance**—Susanne Kelly and Mary Ann Allison. In the natural world, complexity theory applies to the ways in which seemingly unrelated, complex systems create order from chaos.

A butterfly affecting the weather in Texas by flapping its wings in Brazil is a well-known example. The ever-changing global marketplace and advancing technologies create the same chaos for businesses. By implementing the science of complexity theory in the management of business, Kelly and Allison contend, an organization can continuously redefine itself and maintain a competitive edge. Citibank has already implemented the plan depicted here. McGraw-Hill, 1999, 261 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

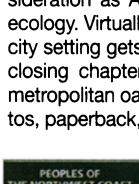


**Countdown: A History of Space Flight**—T.A. Heppenheimer. With the unveiling of classified Soviet and CIA documents, the whole story of the space programs can now be told. It includes feats of both military and space prowess, from the work of the first rocket scientists in wine-cellar laboratories to the walks of men on the moon.

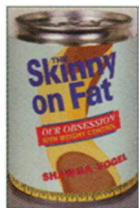
The politics of these endeavors reveal interesting agendas. Nikita Khrushchev began his program in order to convince underdeveloped countries of Soviet technological strength. Kennedy countered with a push to the moon facilitated by the CIA and Air Force. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Wiley, 1999, 398 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$17.95.



**The New City Gardener: Natural Techniques and Necessary Skills for a Successful Urban Garden**—Judith Adam. The obstacles before a city horticulturist include poor soil and the shade of tall buildings. These issues receive due consideration as Adam relates the basics of garden ecology. Virtually every kind of plant adaptable to a city setting gets attention in three core chapters. A closing chapter offers tips for maintaining one's metropolitan oasis. Firefly, 1999, 224 p., color photos, paperback, \$24.95.

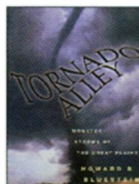


**Peoples of the Northwest Coast: Their Archaeology and Prehistory**—Kenneth M. Ames and Herbert D.G. Maschner. Two scholars with firsthand experience in excavations of the territory between Alaska and Northern California survey the 11,000-year history of the region. Best known for their elaborate carvings of totems and masks, the native peoples there were fundamentally hunter-gatherers. Their ways, however, break from most traditional notions about this lifestyle, which Ames and Maschner assess. The study encompasses warfare, subsistence, art, and changes in the land itself over time. Thames Hudson, 1999, 288 p., b&w plates/illus., hardcover, \$45.00.



**The Skinny on Fat: Our Obsession with Weight Control**—Shawna Vogel. After attending a national scientific meeting on obesity research, Vogel began to scrutinize what is a fairly novel pursuit in research labs: determining the molecular and genetic basis of weight. Through careful

research, she reports on these elements and the so-called obesity gene. Vogel also covers the ways in which our bodies respond to diet and exercise and the pharmacological means available for controlling weight. The book counterbalances science by discussing cultural trends and assessing the future of weight control. WH Freeman, 1999, 264 p., hardcover, \$22.95.



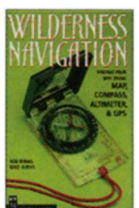
**Tornado Alley: Monster Storms of the Great Plains**—Howard B. Bluestein. Long before Hollywood and hobbyists took interest, Bluestein chased tornadoes with primitive instruments. Being a professor of meteorology at the University of Oklahoma,

Bluestein has been logistically and professionally at the vortex of a large number of tornadoes. He has experienced as many as nine in one day. His historical account of relevant research includes up-to-date computer modeling and Doppler radar data—the most useful predictor of tornadoes so far. Bluestein's look inside the physical construction of tornadoes is further illuminated by his amazing up-close photographs. OUP, 1999, 180 p., color/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$35.00.



**Trogon, Laughing Falcons, and Other Neotropical Birds**—Alexander F. Skutch. A distinguished ornithologist for the better part of his 95 years,

Skutch's latest effort represents an assortment of his essays depicting the behavior of his favorite specimens. Based in Costa Rica, Skutch's main fascination centers on neotropical birds. His vignettes, therefore, include soaring kites that catch insects with their feet and not their beaks; the beautiful stubby-beaked trogons, which nest in tree trunks despite their inability to dig very far into wood; and the laughing falcon, which feasts on the snakes that devour the eggs of smaller birds. Texas A&M Pr, 1999, 222 p., hardcover, \$29.95.



**Wilderness Navigation: Finding Your Way Using Map, Compass, Altimeter, and GPS**—Bob Burns and Mike Burns. For hikers, bikers, and cross-country skiers, Bob and Mike Burns offer a course in plotting your way both the old-fashioned way with a compass and with the newer technology of the Global Positioning System. Explanations of how to read maps and use a compass lead to instructions for accurately using clinometers and altimeters. A chapter titled "Lost" will help when the other lessons in the book fail. Mountaineers, 1999, 125 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$9.95.

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