

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

May 22, 1999
Vol. 155, No. 21
Pages 321-336

**Stepping up
to a New World**



**Order by phone
for faster service!**

**1-800-266-5766
dept. 1494**

**Visa, MasterCard, or
American Express**

BooksNow The Virtual Bookstore™

348 East 6400 South, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of
The Jungles of Randomness. I include
a check payable to Books Now for
\$14.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling
for the first book (total \$19.90). Add
\$2.50 for postage and handling for each
additional book.

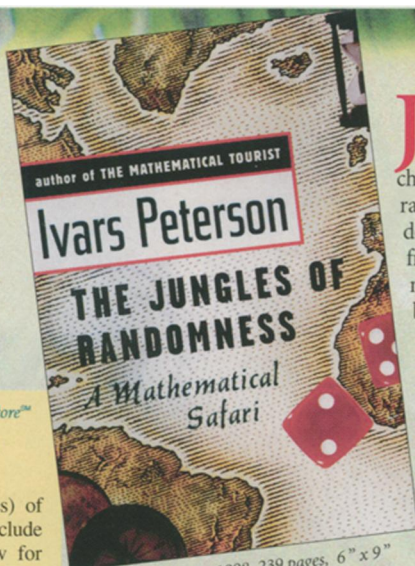
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____
(used only for problems with order)



John Wiley & Sons, 1998, 239 pages, 6" x 9"
paperback, \$14.95

Join acclaimed **SCIENCE NEWS** writer **Ivars Peterson** on an adventurous trek through an exotic world of weird dice, fractal drums, firefly rhythms, and chaotic amusement park rides, as he explores the wilds of randomness. A tricky, intriguing, even elusive concept, randomness affects our lives in an astonishing range of ways—from the fun of games we play and the noise that spoils the music we hear to the ways viruses grow and atoms combine. Hidden rules and secret patterns lurk within apparently random events and chance encounters.

An eye-opening discovery awaits at every turn, from the simple secret behind winning a game of Chutes and Ladders to the reason why any group of six people must include at least three mutual acquaintances or three strangers, and why you can scratch a compact disk and still get flawless sound. We learn how a game of darts can provide a remarkably good estimate of the value of π , how pacemaker cells in the heart begin to beat in synchrony, and how carefully designed chaos translates into the thrilling ride of a Tilt-A-Whirl.

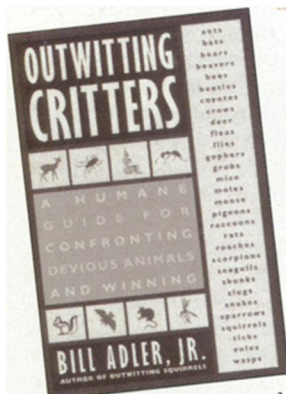
Along the way, we also meet a host of characters, both charming and eccentric, who either made striking discoveries about randomness or were profoundly affected by it. Like the case of Williard Longcor, a man gripped with a passion for throwing dice, who meticulously records the outcomes of millions of tosses and helps correct the theory of the distribution of runs.

The Jungles of Randomness offers a delightful journey into the exciting world of mathematical discovery and imparts a rare vision of the fundamental playfulness of mathematics in our lives.

—from John Wiley & Sons

A service of Science News Books

See our web site at www.sciencenewsbooks.org



Outwitting Critters is the definitive book on coping with the nettlesome side of nature. All those who have had deer nibbling their carrots, ants in the kitchen sink, and mice in the sock drawer, or who have battled invasion by bats, snakes, gophers, raccoons, and any number of other pests, will find solace and solutions in this book. Bill Adler Jr. gives humane and effective advice and provides information on the motivation behind the often incomprehensible actions of our animal friends and foes. Also included are helpful lists of resources and deterrent products. This book is a must for anyone who has ever been outwitted by a critter.

— from Lyons & Burford

Find out how to get the better of backyard animals that get the best of you!

**Order by phone for faster service!
1-800-266-5766 ext. 1494**

Visa, MasterCard, American Express

According to *The New York Times*, people in the United States spend \$17 million on bird books and buy 1.2 million tons of birdseed, only to have feeders raided by marauding rodents with brains no larger than walnuts. Since 1988, Bill Adler Jr. has helped tens of thousands of bird lovers stop squirrels from pilaging their bird feeders.

Outwitting Squirrels contains advice on how to stop squirrels from digging in flowerbeds, advanced antisquirrel stratagems, and homemade antisquirrel devices. From spooker poles and Perrier bottles to water bombs and cayenne pepper, Adler has tried every conceivable method of ridding his backyard of these fluffy, gluttonous rodents. In **Outwitting Squirrels**, he shares his top strategies, plus countless stories and anecdotes about his ongoing war with the squirrel.

— from Chicago Review Press



BooksNow The Virtual Bookstore™ 348 East 6400 South, Suite 220, Salt Lake City, UT 84107
Please send the book(s) marked below. I include a check payable to Science News Books for the price of the book(s) plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book and \$2.50 postage and handling for each additional book. Domestic orders only.

_____ **Outwitting Critters**, \$12.95 _____ **Outwitting Squirrels**, \$11.95 _____ **Set of both only \$19.95**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____
(used only for problems with order)

Outwitting Critters
Lyons & Burford, 1997
5½" x 8¼"
paperback, \$12.95

Outwitting Squirrels
Chicago Review
Press, 1996
188 pages
5½" x 8½"
paperback, \$11.95