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Biology Bestsellers for 1998

Francoise Crowell

Yankee Book Peddler, Inc., fcrowell@ybp.com

Bob Nardini

Yankee Book Pedler, Inc., rnardini@YBP.com

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Biology Bestsellers for 1998

by Françoise Crowell (Bibliographer, YBP)
<FCrowell@YBP.com>



Column Editor: **Bob Nardini** (Regional Vice President, Collection Management Services, YBP; ph.: 800-258-3774x3251; fax: 603-746-5628) <rnardini@ybp.com>

Frankenstein's Footsteps. Land of the Tiger. Alien Invasion. Life Out of Bounds. What is this, the lineup for a B-movie festival? No, nothing like that at all. Those are four of the titles on YBP's list of bestselling titles in Biology (subclass QH) treated on approval during calendar year 1998.

The most striking thing about our list is how few pure "science" titles appear on it. While *Frankenstein's Footsteps: Science, Genetics, and Popular Culture* (#4 on our list, from Yale University Press) has sold 109 copies to date to YBP customers, the first more or less hard science title on the list is our #28, *Marine Biodiversity* (Cambridge), which we've shipped out 73 times. Crossover science titles dominate the field, with entries in history, ethics, and policy sprinkled throughout the list, side-by-side with popularizations in natural history and other fields. Biology, among all of the sciences, seems to have captured the attention of general readers; or at least has captured the attention of the publishers attempting to reach those general readers. We hope our latest best seller list captures the attention of many *ATG* readers as well, and proves useful in identifying a few valuable titles.

Eldredge, Niles. *Life in the Balance: Humanity and the BioDiversity Crisis*. Princeton Univ Press. 1998. \$24.95. Cloth 0691001251

Fortey, Richard A. *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth*. Alfred A. Knopf. 1997. \$29.50. Cloth 0375401199

Stewart, Ian. *Life's Other Secret: The New Mathematics of the Living World*. John Wiley. 1998. \$24.95. Cloth 0471158453

Turney, Jon. *Frankenstein's Footsteps: Science, Genetics and Popular Culture*. Yale Univ Press. 1998. \$30.00. Cloth 0300074174

Thapar, Valmik. *Land of the Tiger: A Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent*. Univ of California. 1997. \$29.95. Cloth 0520214706

Zimmer, Carl, 1966- *At The Water's Edge: Macroevolution and the Transformation of Life*. Free Press. 1998. \$24.50. Cloth 0684834901

Avise, John C. *Genetic Gods: Evolution and Belief in Human Affairs*. Harvard Univ Press. 1998. \$29.95. Cloth 0674346254

Kass, Leon. *Ethics of Human Cloning*. AEI Press. 1998. \$16.95. Cloth 0844740500

Clones and Clones: Facts and Fantasies about Human Cloning; Ed. by Martha C. Nussbaum. W.W. Norton. 1998. \$26.95. Cloth. 0393046486

Wright, William, 1930- *Born That Way: Genes, Behavior, Personality* Alfred A. Knopf. 1998. \$27.00. Cloth. 0679430288

Rose, Michael R. (Michael Robertson), 1955- *Darwin's Spectre: Evolutionary Biology in the Modern World*. Princeton Univ Press. 1998. \$27.95. Cloth. 0691012172

Vogel, Steven, 1940- *Cats' Paws and Catapults: Mechanical Worlds of Nature and People*. W.W. Norton. 1998. \$27.50. Cloth 0393046419

Rose, Steven Peter Russell, 1938- *Life-lines: Biology Beyond Determinism*. Oxford Univ Press. 1998. \$30.00. Cloth 0195120353

Drury, William Holland. *Chance and Change: Ecology for Conservationists*; Ed. by John G.T. Anderson. Univ of California. 1998. \$24.95. Cloth 0520211553

Devine, Robert, 1951- *Alien Invasion: America's Battle With Non-Native Animals and Plants*. Natl Geographic. 1998. \$24.00. Cloth 0792273729

Gibbons, Whit, 1939- *Ecoviews: Snakes, Snails, and Environmental Tales* Univ of Alabama. 1998. \$16.95. Paper 0817309195

Central America: A Natural and Cultural History; Ed. by Anthony G. Coates. Yale Univ Press. 1997. \$35.00. Cloth 0300068298

Becher, Anne. *Biodiversity: A Reference Handbook*. ABC-CLIO. 1998. \$39.50. Cloth 0874369231

Appleyard, Bryan. *Brave New Worlds: Staying Human in the Genetic Future*. Viking. 1998. \$23.95. Cloth 0670869899

Morange, Michel. *History of Molecular Biology*. Harvard Univ Press 1998. \$39.95. Cloth 0674398556

McPherson, Guy R. (Guy Randall), 1960- *Ecology and Management of North American Savannas*. Univ of Arizona Pr. 1997. \$35.00. Cloth 0816516243

Margulis, Lynn, 1938- *Symbiotic Planet: A New Look at Evolution*. Basic Books. 1998. \$21.00. Cloth 0465072712

Davidson, Osha Gray. *Enchanted Braid: Coming to Terms with Nature on the Coral Reef*. John Wiley 1998. \$24.95. Cloth 047117727x

Gross, Michael. *Life on the Edge: Amazing Creatures Thriving in Extreme Environments*. Plenum 1998. \$25.95. Cloth 0306457865

Berra, Tim M., 1943- *Natural History of Australia*. Academic. 1998. \$44.95. Cloth. 0120931559

Gehring, Walter J., 1939- *Master Control Genes in Development and Evolution: The Homeobox Story*. Yale Univ Press. 1998. \$35.00. Cloth. 0300074093

Jacob, Francois, 1920- *Of Flies, Mice, and Men*. Harvard Univ Press. 1998. \$24.00. Cloth 0674631110

Bright, Chris. *Life out of Bounds: BioInvasion In A Borderless World*. W.W. Norton. 1998. \$13.00. Paper 0393318141

Margulis, Lynn, 1938- *Five Kingdoms: An Illustrated Guide to the Phyla of Life on Earth*. W.H. Freeman. 1998. \$39.95. Cloth 071673026x

Marine BioDiversity: Patterns and Processes; Ed. by Rupert F.G. Ormond. Cambridge Univ Pr. 1997. \$80.00. Cloth 0521552222

Rothman, Barbara Katz. *Genetic Maps and Human Imaginations: The Limits of Science in Understanding Who We Are*. W.W. Norton. 1998. \$24.95. Cloth 0393047032

Goodenough, Ursula. *Sacred Depths of Nature*. Oxford Univ Press. 1998. \$24.00. Cloth 0195126130

Hawley, R. Scott. *Human Genome: A User's Guide*. Academic. 1999. \$39.95. Paper 0123334608

Longhurst, Alan. *Ecological Geography of the Sea*. Academic 1998. \$79.95. Cloth 0124555586

Carson, Rachel, 1907-1964. *Lost Words: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson*; Ed. by Linda Lear. Beacon. 1998. \$24.00. Cloth 0807085464

Baldi, Pierre F. *Bioinformatics: The Machine Learning Approach*. MIT Press 1998. \$44.00. Cloth 026202442x

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On the Street
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comparison shop across dealers to get what you want for the price you want." (Emily's choices on the Web are **BiblioFind** and **Advanced Book Finder**.) **Bernard Helms** of **Andrews University** also backed up Emily when he said, "Now with the Web I get 80% of the titles I'm looking for and GOOD Prices." (Bernard uses **Interloc** and **Bibliocity**.)

Our fourth question asked: "If payment for the service is required, excluding the cost of the title itself, how is that payment made?" It seems libraries are not asked for any fee except for the cost of the work if it is found. I understand the usual cost of Web site information is paid for by the vendors whose wares are listed at the site. Generally librarians have not had to make a payment for service beyond the cost of the title sought. As for the payment for the successful searches, some librarians prefer to send a purchase order and pay from an invoice. If prepayment is required, librarians find it convenient to pay by credit card to avoid the delay of writing a check, mailing it, etc. Internally, the department ordering the title is charged accordingly.

When a vendor reports a successful search, **Helen Mack** at **Lehigh** says she checks with the requester regarding price and if that is too high, the request becomes one for an Interlibrary Loan rather than OP. **David Fisher** at **UC, San Diego** states, "We do not use vendors who charge up front for searches."

In our fifth and last question, we asked for other comments on this topic and got some interesting responses. At **Dartmouth**, **Barbara Sterling** responded, "the Web sources are useful but time-consuming. It is a title by title search." (Does anyone have advice on how to overcome this?) **Meg Cairo** at **New York State Library, Albany** says "Web has changed everything, made finding OP part of regular search streams."


Only one librarian commented on the condition of OP titles. "Reading copy condition books" are acceptable. **Marilyn Ng** at **UC, Berkeley** wrote, "Science titles and conference proceedings have always been difficult to locate in the OP market. We find that going direct to the author/editor of a book can be rather successful with the needed book being donated to the collection."



Another accolade for the Web. **Laurie Anderson** of **Maryland Institute. College of Art** says: "Web searching is the only way this one-person acquisitions department would ever have time to search for OP titles regularly." At **Baruch College**, **Doug Duchin** commented that the Web, "works well for us and is much cheaper. The problem is that some OP vendors want credit card payments, which means we cannot use them at all."

Dan Evans at **Lafayette College** said: "The biggest problem we have encountered are smaller dealers who refuse to give their ss numbers, as required by law, to our controller's office." **Steve Johnson**, **Clemson University**, summed up his comments this way: "The Web has revolutionized the out-of-print business. Now we can obtain many more titles, for much less hassle, much faster, and at a lower price."

In summary, I see several major findings, probably not news to all of us, but noteworthy:

1. The Web technology has changed OP searching.
 2. More institutions are resorting to credit card purchases.
 3. Some state institutions have difficult-to-implement policies.
 4. U.S. titles are easier to find than foreign works.
- Thanks to all who found the time to contribute to this column! We couldn't do it without you. 

Biology Bestsellers
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Moynihan, M. *Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals*. Smithsonian Inst. 1998. \$27.50. Cloth 156098788x

Liebes, Sidney. *Walk through Time: From Stardust to Us: The Evolution of Life on Earth*. John Wiley. 1998. \$29.95. Cloth 0471317004

Frohn, Robert C. *Remote Sensing for Landscape Ecology: New Metric Indicators for Monitoring, Modeling, and Assessment of Ecosystems*. Lewis. 1998. \$69.95. Cloth 1566702755

Helmreich, Stefan, 1966- *Silicon Second Nature: Culturing Artificial Life in A Digital World*. Univ of California. 1998. \$29.95. Cloth. 0520207998

Lincoln, Roger J. *Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*. Cambridge Univ Press 1998 \$29.95 Paper 052143842x

Welch, Margaret, 1961- *Book of Nature: Natural History in The United States, 1825-1875*. Northeastern Univ. 1998. \$50.00. Cloth 1555533426

Biodiversity Dynamics: Turnover of Populations, Taxa, and Communi-

ties, Ed. by Michael L. McKinney. Columbia Univ Press. 1998. \$59.95. Cloth. 0231104146

Gaston, Kevin J. *Biodiversity: An Introduction*. Blackwell Science. 1998. \$24.95. Paper 0632049537


Michod, Richard E. *Darwinian Dynamics: Evolutionary Transitions in Fitness and Individuality*. Princeton Univ Press. 1999. \$45.00. Cloth 0691026998

Restoration Ecology and Sustainable Development, Ed. by Krystyna M. Urbanska. Cambridge Univ Press. 1997. \$80.00. Cloth 0521581605

Mehlman, Maxwell J. *Access to the Genome: The Challenge to Equality*. Georgetown Univ. 1998. \$39.95. Cloth 0878406778

Dewey, Thomas Gregory, 1952- *Fractals in Molecular Biophysics*. Oxford Univ Press. 1997. \$65.00. Cloth 0195084470

Gayon, Jean. *Darwinism's Struggle for Survival: Heredity and the Hypothesis of Natural Selection*. Cambridge Univ Press. 1998. \$95.00. Cloth 0521562503

Warren, Leonard, 1924- *Joseph Leidy: The Last Man Who Knew Everything*. Yale Univ Press. 1998. \$35.00. Cloth 0300073593 

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Send ideas by **June 30, 1999**, to:

Katina Strauch
College of Charleston Libraries
Charleston, SC 29424
843-953-8020 (phone)
843-953-8019 (fax)
Internet: <strauchk@cofc.edu>

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