Wild Things: Life as We Know It
Vanishing dinosaurs, breeding birds, redback spiders and more

Nature's Waterproofing

Water beads and rolls off lotus leaves so nicely the phenomenon is called the lotus effect. Duke University scientists failed to get a leaf to repel water condensation in the lab—until they put it on a loudspeaker. The vibrations caused droplets to form, suggesting that wind, falling rain and other disturbances that jostle lotuses help them stay dry.