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Titolo	Birds and berries : a study of an ecological interaction // by Barbara and David Snow ; illustrated by John Busby
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [253]-260) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Introduction; Acknowledgements; 1 THE FRUITS; 2 THE FRUIT-EATERS; 3 INTERPRETATION; Appendices; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	"The book's subtitle - A study of an ecological interaction - properly reflects the author's theme but may tend to hide the fact that the relationships between birds and berries can be much more than the simple, mutually advantageous systems ('eat my fruits, spread my seeds') they may seem at first to be. Therein lies the core of the book - the less obvious intricacies and implications of plant/ bird associations, the coevolution of species in some cases and the adaptations of a species (bird or plant) to further its own advantage. To complicate the scene, too, there are the 'exploiters', the pulp-predators and seed-predators that feed at the plant's expense. In Part 1 of the book the authors provide accounts by species of the trees and shrubs they observed over many years in their study area of southern England; similarly, Part 2 records the bird species they watched feeding, or attempting to feed, or preventing other birds from feeding, on the

fruits. Part 3 ranges widely and is not confined to Britain and Europe. It investigates the strategies and adaptations evolved and employed by plants to ensure their success, and their attempts at defence against the bird 'predators'. It looks at the birds themselves, their foraging techniques and fruit preferences, the limitations of a fruit diet and adaptations to it, the time and energy budgets of fruit-eaters and, finally, the intriguing question of coevolution of plants and birds. This thought-provoking text offers many insights not generally perceived by ornithologist or botanist and is illustrated in masterly fashion by John Busby's lively drawings. Jacket paintings by John Busby."--Bloomsbury Publishing.

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