

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778111503321
Autore	Carlson Douglas <1943->
Titolo	Roger Tory Peterson [[electronic resource]] : a biography / / by Douglas Carlson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2007
ISBN	0-292-79477-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (309 p.)
Collana	Mildred Wyatt-Wold series in ornithology
Disciplina	598.092
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Soggetti	Ornithologists - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 279-285) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1908-1926. Jamestown, New York -- 1926-1934. New York City and Boston -- 1934. The Field Guide, First Edition -- 1934-1942. New York City -- 1942-1953. Washington, D.C. -- 1954-1974. Old Lyme, Connecticut -- 1974-1980. Old Lyme -- 1980-1996. Old Lyme -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Beginning with his 1934 Field Guide to the Birds, Roger Tory Peterson introduced literally millions of people to the pleasures of observing birds in the wild. His field guide, which has gone through five editions and sold more than four million copies, fostered an appreciation for the natural world that set the stage for the contemporary environmental movement. When Rachel Carson's Silent Spring sounded a warning about the threat to birds and their habitats in the 1960s, the Peterson field guides had already prepared the public and the scientific community to heed the warning and fight to save habitat and protect endangered species—a result that Peterson wholeheartedly approved. In this authoritative, highly readable biography of Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996), Douglas Carlson creates a fascinating portrait of the complex, often conflicted man behind the brand name. He describes how Peterson's obsession with birds began in boyhood and continued throughout a multifaceted career as a painter, writer, educator, environmentalist, and photographer. Carlson traces Peterson's long struggle to become both an accomplished bird artist and a scientific

naturalist—competing goals that drove Peterson to work to the point of exhaustion and that also deprived him of many aspects of a normal personal life. Carlson also records Peterson's many lasting achievements, from the phenomenal success of the field guides, to the bird paintings that brought him renown as "the twentieth century's Audubon," to the establishment of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute to carry on his work in conservation and education.
