

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816145503321
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Titolo	Henry Dresser and Victorian ornithology : Birds, books and business // Henry A. McGhie
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Manchester, [England] : , : Manchester University Press, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	1-5261-1602-2 1-5261-3230-3 1-5261-1601-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (341 pages, 8 unnumbered pages of plates) : color illustrations, photographs, tables
Disciplina	598.092
Soggetti	Ornithology Ornithologists Birds - Collection and preservation Birds SCIENCE - Life Sciences - Zoology - General Birds - Great Britain Birds - Europe Ornithology - Great Britain - History - 19th century Ornithologists - Great Britain Biographies. Terminology Records and correspondence History Field guides. Diaries. Classification Catalogs and collections. Biography Great Britain Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia

Nota di bibliografia

"Bibliography of Henry Dresser": pages 319-327.

Includes bibliographical references (pages 285-318) and indexes.

Nota di contenuto

1. Family background and early life -- 2. Texas : the big adventure -- 3. Settling down to business -- 4. Early exploits in ornithological society -- 5. Collecting -- 6. Discovering the birds of Europe. I -- 7. Discovering the birds of Europe. II -- 8. Making The birds of Europe -- 9. A central figure : society life in the 1870s -- 10. The 1880s : the rise of rivalry -- 11. The 1890s : the continuing rise of the British Museum (Natural History) -- 12. Working independently, 1900-5 -- 13. The grand finale : producing Eggs of the birds of Europe -- 14. Time for a change -- 15. Legacies -- Appendix 1. Birds mentioned in the text -- Appendix 2. Birds named by Henry Dresser -- Appendix 3. Birds named after Henry Dresser -- Appendix 4. Publications based on Henry Dresser's collections, 1985-2017.

Sommario/riassunto

This book explores the life of Henry Dresser (1838–1915), one of the most productive British ornithologists of the mid-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and is largely based on previously unpublished archival material. Dresser travelled widely and spent time in Texas during the American Civil War. He built enormous collections of skins and eggs of birds from Europe, North America and Asia, which formed the basis of over 100 publications, including some of the finest bird books of the late nineteenth century. Dresser was a leading figure in scientific society and in the early bird conservation movement; his correspondence and diaries reveal the inner workings, motivations, personal relationships and rivalries that existed among the leading ornithologists.