Red-Tails in Love: A Wildlife Drama in Central Park, By Marie Winn

Reviewed by Lucy Quintilliano

This is a fun book for anyone with an interest in birding, from the novice to the professional ornithologist. It is generally light and upbeat, but, like the real world of nature, it has its heartbreaking moments. It is very easy reading.

Any birder will relate to the “Regulars”, who, like many of us, are out there every day monitoring the bird activity in their neighborhood. It’s just that their neighborhood includes Central Park, and the Regulars include some unusual characters, including Wall Street executives, book publishers, playwrights, and our very own Sharon Freedman, who relocated to Charlotte from NYC.

The author, who lives in Manhattan and is one of the Regulars, writes a nature and bird watching column for the Wall Street Journal and does a great job of incorporating enough technical information to maintain the interest of the experienced birder without overwhelming beginners. There is a wealth of information about birding hot spots in Central Park, including a map entitled The Birders View of THE RAMBLE. You’ll be tempted to take your binoculars with you on your next trip to NYC.

To quote the experts:

“A delightful read, blessed with a lovable cast of characters, feathered and otherwise.” USA TODAY

“An amazing drama, as good as any soap opera and all the more remarkable since it is a true wildlife story”. BIRDING

Check it out. You won’t be disappointed!

Children’s version of the book:

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City, by Janet Schulman.

Pale Male: A True Story, by Jeanette Winter