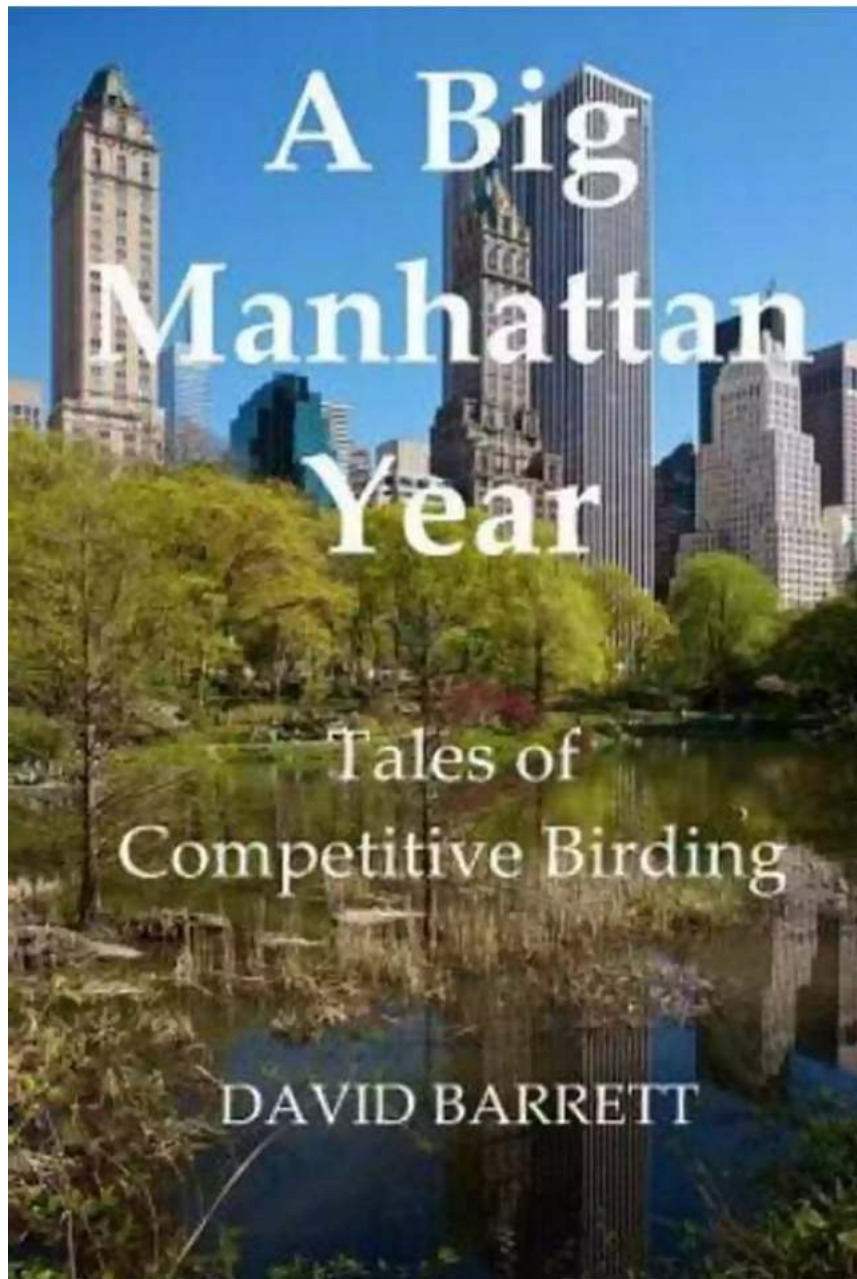


Big Manhattan Year: Tales of Competitive Birding



Birdwatching, a hobby embraced by millions across the globe, has always been an activity that allows individuals to connect with nature, observe beautiful avian species, and learn about their habitats. However, for a group of birders in Manhattan, birdwatching has transformed into a competitive pursuit that tests

their skills, determination, and knowledge of the winged creatures that grace the city's skies.

The Concept of Big Manhattan Year

Big Manhattan Year is an annual event that challenges participants to spot and document as many bird species as possible within the boundaries of Manhattan in a single calendar year. With its diverse habitats, including parks, waterfronts, and gardens, Manhattan offers these avid birders a chance to witness an impressive array of migratory and resident birds.



A Big Manhattan Year: Tales of Competitive Birding by David Barrett (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1871 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 232 pages
Lending : Enabled



Competing with Nature's Flights

The competition attracts individuals from different backgrounds, united by their shared passion for birding. Each participant must rely on their bird identification skills and utilize field guides, binoculars, and cameras to spot and record sightings. The year-long challenge drives birders to explore various locations, waking up early during migration seasons and enduring long walks in search of rare species.

Thrill of the Chase

The Big Manhattan Year often brings surprising encounters. Participants may stumble upon majestic raptors soaring over Central Park or catch glimpses of elusive warblers amidst blooming cherry blossoms. These unexpected moments create unforgettable memories and reinforce the participants' commitment to chasing their avian goals.

The Importance of Citizen Science

Big Manhattan Year not only fosters a sense of friendly competition, but it also plays a crucial role in documenting bird populations and their behavior within an urban environment. The data collected by participants contributes to scientific studies, enabling researchers to better understand bird migration patterns, breeding grounds, and conservation needs.

Building a Birding Community

Aside from the competitive aspect, Big Manhattan Year helps forge strong friendships among fellow bird enthusiasts. Participants often share their knowledge, experiences, and birding hotspots, creating a supportive network. Regular gatherings, workshops, and online forums foster a sense of camaraderie and provide opportunities for both novice and experienced birders to learn and grow together.

Big Manhattan Year Champions

Over the years, several dedicated individuals have achieved remarkable feats during the Big Manhattan Year. From recording over 200 bird species to spotting rare and unexpected visitors, these champions have left an indelible mark on the event's history, inspiring newcomers and setting new benchmarks for future competitions.



The Future of Competitive Birding

The success and popularity of the Big Manhattan Year have inspired similar competitions in other cities around the world. Birders are finding innovative ways to push the limits of their birding skills while respecting the habitats and welfare of the birds they seek.

Join the Flock

Whether you are a seasoned birder or someone new to the world of birdwatching, the Big Manhattan Year offers a unique and thrilling experience. Witnessing the diverse avian species that call Manhattan their home will ignite a deeper appreciation for nature and create lasting memories. So grab your binoculars and become a part of the thrilling chase in the concrete jungle!



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What is it like to spend nearly every day for a year trying to observe as many bird species as possible within the confines of Manhattan? In 2012 I did just that—it's called having a “big year”—and I was not the only one. In this book I tell how I learned to bird and how I went on to become a competitive birder. Then I give a detailed account of my 2012 battle with one of the nation's best, ornithologist Andrew Farnsworth, and others, to have the biggest of big Manhattan years.

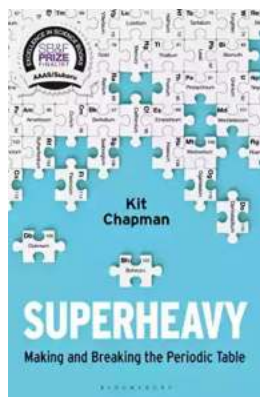
You may be surprised that each year over 200 species of birds reside in or migrate through Manhattan. Observing and accurately identifying them requires special skills. You need to know what they look like, what they sound like, and where and when they are likely to appear. Birding can be a leisurely walk in the park, or it can be something much more challenging. Manhattan is home to a number of talented and obsessive birders for whom birding is a test of brains, logistics, and physical stamina, requiring both an understanding of nature and a knack for technology.

Those new to birding will learn along with me as I begin by exploring one of the world's premier birding locations, the Central Park Ramble. As my own knowledge and experience grow, I introduce the reader to a series of beautiful and rare birds to be found not only in Central Park, but in the many excellent but less well-known parks of Manhattan. Journey with me from the waters of New York Harbor, where Red-breasted Mergansers and Horned Grebes swim, to the top of Inwood Hill Park, where Black Vultures and Great Horned Owls fly.



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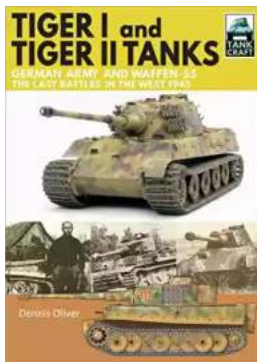
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