

The Secret World of Red Wolves: The Fight to Save North America's *Other* Wolf
by T. Delene Beeland.

The University of North Carolina Press, 2013.

Like many, I suspect, until I picked up this book I was unaware of the fact that there is a discrete population of wolves living in restricted parts of the United States of America who are not gray but red. In T. Delene Beeland's wonderful telling of the Red Wolf's story, we learn that these wolves were once common across America but that from the 1800s onwards the population went into decline, partly through habitat loss, partly through hunting, and partly through inter-breeding with coyotes, a not uncommon occurrence where the two species co-exist.

The Secret World of Red Wolves is inspired, as much as anything, by the Red Wolf Recovery Program, particularly on North Carolina's Albermarle Peninsular. Beeland divides the book into three parts: The Red Wolf Today; The Red Wolf Yesterday; The Red Wolf Tomorrow. It is a story of endurance, survival against the odds, and a determination to succeed that is shared by the wolves and those scientists working to preserve the species.

Red Wolves may not be as iconic as their larger gray cousins, but they are an ancient sub-species whose ongoing survival is an important part of the biodiversity of the USA. In The Secret of Red Wolves, T. Delene Beeland has created an engaging introduction to a barely known species, as well as telling a powerful story of the energy expended by those fighting to save them.

Superb!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh