NEW YORK CITY IS FOR THE BIRDS

From Central Park to Jamaica Bay, New York City boasts some of the very best birding in the United States: over 350 species have been recorded in the five boroughs. The City owes this rich birdlife to a lucky confluence of location and habitat, situated at a pivotal point along the Atlantic Flyway, it is a major migratory stopover. Many species also stay to breed or spend the winter in the City’s diverse landscape of forest, marsh, grasslands, and shoreline. Many of these prime birding spots are just a subway or bus ride away. Let’s get birding on the MTA!

BY SUBWAY

• Bring the right gear. Binoculars are great for observing songbirds, but a spotting scope is key when observing shorebirds or waterfowl.
• Bring a friend. Even in the busiest places, such as Central Park, small parks, and the Staten Island Greenbelt, surprising visitors during migration, marsh birds often make surprise appearances in Central Park, Prospect Park, and Staten Island parks. In late summer, migrating shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Inwood Hill Park, and Staten Island parks. In late summer, migrating shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Inwood Hill Park, and Staten Island parks. In late summer, migrating shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Inwood Hill Park, and Staten Island parks. In late summer, migrating shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Inwood Hill Park, and Staten Island parks.
• Bird your patch. Small parks such as Bryant Park and even tiny “pocket parks” can yield surprising visitors during migration.
• Bird with a friend. Even in the busiest places, such as Central Park, it’s safest to bird with a companion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

• NYC Audubon’s online guide: www.nycaudubon.org
• Birdwatching in New York City and on Long Island, by Deborah Rivel and Kellye Rosenheim
• The New York City Audubon Society Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area, by Marcia T. Fowlie and Paul Kerlinger
• Field Guide to Neighborhood Birds of New York City, by Leslie Day

BIRDING TIPS

NEW YORK CITY BIRDS NEED YOUR HELP

New York City Audubon safeguards birds and their habitats across the five boroughs of New York City. We are the only organization solely dedicated to conservation, research, education, and advocacy for the City’s more than 350 species of wild birds.


Waterbirds of the New York Harbor monitors the health of nesting colonies of herons, egrets, terns, and shorebirds, and tracks migratory shorebirds.

New York City Raptors protects nesting and migrating birds of prey by raising awareness about rodenticide poisoning and coordinating rescue of injured birds.

JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contributing members are essential to our conservation and outreach work. As a member of NYC Audubon, you will receive The Urban Audubon newsletter and The eGret enewsletter, enjoy discounts on field trips and classes, and make a difference to the City’s birds. Join now at www.nycaudubon.org

NYC AUDUBON
71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1323
New York, NY 10010
212-691-7483
www.nycaudubon.org

New York City Audubon board of directors: Sarah Baines Duff, chair; Ted Winston and Anne Schwartz, co-chairs; Christina J. Rubin, treasurer; David Speiser except where otherwise noted; cover, François Portmann.

NEW YORK CITY
BIRDS OF NEW YORK CITY

Over 350 species recorded in the five boroughs.
The City owes this United States: over 350 species have been identified here. New York City boasts some of the very best birding in the world. From Central Park to Jamaica Bay, New York City is a birding paradise. Many of these prime birding spots are accessible via the subway or bus, making it easy to explore the diverse landscape of forest, marsh, grasslands, and wetlands. The six major birding seasons are spring, summer, fall, winter, and migration. The City's best birding spots include Central Park, Prospect Park, and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Most birding seasons, birders typically spot shorebirds or waterfowl. Shorebirds that breed in the tundra or prairies regularly reach New York City in the spring when songbirds are actively singing. Shorebirds are often seen here in the winter. Shorebirds at Jamaica Bay are also a major migratory stopover. Many species are seen in the City each year. The American bittern, clapper rail, and saltmarsh sparrow, are the hardest to spot. Jamaica Bay is the best and most accessible bet in the City—but even Jamaica Bay isn’t the best and most accessible bet in the City—but during migration, marsh birds often make surprise appearances in Central Park, Prospect Park, and smaller parks.

Contact:
For more information about rodenticide poisoning and coordinating efforts to protect nesting colonies of herons, egrets, and red-tailed hawks, on bridges, and in parks, contact NYC Audubon. Join now at www.nycaudubon.org. You will receive a free eGret e-newsletter, The Urban Birder, and be part of an international effort to protect nesting colonies of herons, egrets, and red-tailed hawks. Join NYC Audubon, the only organization in New York City that protects nesting and breeding colonies of birds. NYC Audubon is a nonprofit environmental organization that works to protect birds, wetlands, and open spaces in New York City and across the Northeast. NYC Audubon is a member of the New York City Audubon Society, the City’s official birding organization.

For more information:
Tod Winston and Anne Schwartz
The Urban Birder
Christina J. Rubin
Design:
NYC Audubon

New York City Audubon Society
880 First Avenue, Suite 1121
New York, NY 10010
www.nycaudubon.org
1. **CENTRAL PARK, MANHATTAN (SpF)**
   - 130th St., 103rd St.
   - Manhattan’s 843-acre centerpiece is a magnet for spring and fall migrants, making it one of the best birding spots in the United States. When shifting weather patterns cause a migrant “fall-out,” the density of songbirds is what birders dream of.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at 103rd Street and explore the Great Hill and North Woods.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

2. **JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE, QUEENS (SpSuFW)**
   - 23rd Ave.
   - Part of Gateway National Recreation Area, the refuge covers 9,000 acres of open bay, salt marsh, mudflats, ponds, fields, and woods. Over 300 species have been recorded in the bay, world-renowned for its shorebird migration.
   - WHERE TO GO: Walk north about three-quarters of a mile (or take the Q53 bus) to the Visitor Center. Explore the East and West Ponds and the forested paths of the North and South Gardens.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, marsh birds, songbirds, and raptors

3. **PROSPECT PARK, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN (SpF)**
   - 600 Washington Ave.
   - With 525 acres of woods, meadows, and bodies of water, Prospect Park offers a striking diversity of bird life. On peak spring and fall migration, nearly 300 species have been spotted here. The nearby Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers excellent birding as well.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at Grand Army Plaza to explore the Vale of Cashmere, Millwood, Long Meadow, Lookout Hill, Peninsula, Lullwater, and Prospect Lake.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

4. **VAN CORTLANDT PARK, BRONX (SpF)**
   - Van Cortlandt Park-242nd St.
   - Over half of this accessible park’s 1,140 acres offer excellent bird habitat, including deciduous forests, meadows, wetlands, and a man-made lake. Over 300 species breed here.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at West 242nd Street and explore the Putnam Trail. John Baer Nature Trail. Van Cortlandt Lake, Tibbetts Brook, and nearby freshwater wetlands.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, waterfowl, wading birds, marsh birds, and seaducks

5. **THE AMUNDSEN TRAIL, GREAT KILLS PARK AND THE GREENBELT (SpSuFW)**
   - S61/62/66 Bus from St. George Ferry Terminal
   - The most accessible part is the southern zone. Cross the bridge over the Salt Pond and turn left to reach the 1,900-acre Great Kills Park to the south.
   - WHERE TO GO: Walk south to visit the beaches, marsh trails, mudflats, and woodland of Great Kills Park (Crook Point is particularly productive)—or northward toward the wooded trails of High Rock Park and visit the Greenbelt Nature Center.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, marsh birds, and seaducks

6. **FOREST PARK, QUEENS (SpF)**
   - 730 acres
   - This remote and wild New York City Park includes open water, salt marsh, rocky shore, old- and new-growth forest, shrubland, and tall grass meadows, and dry and wet oak savanna.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: shorebirds, herons, and other neotropical migrants, particularly in spring.

7. **BELLMORE PARK, BRONX (SpF)**
   - North Gateway Drive
   - A beautiful 305-acre park located on Long Island Sound. It is a wildlife and birding paradise, with dense woodlands, meadows, and ponds.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, marsh birds, and seaducks

8. **CLOVE LAKE PARK (SpF)**
   - Clove Lake Park or 151-01 Clove Rd from St. George Ferry Terminal
   - Over half of this 196-acre park is made of up hilly woodlands, ponds, and streams—and is known on Staten Island as the “Water Hole,” a migrant songbird hotspot. On peak spring and fall migration, nearly 300 species have been sighted here.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

9. **INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN (SpF)**
   - 186th St. and 12th Avenue
   - This 20-acre park includes the borough’s only old-growth forest, tidal poplar, and oak woodlands that host nesting songbirds including rose-breasted grosbeak, a small number of an uncommon warbler, and great views of the Hudson River.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at 12th Avenue and explore the woodland trail to view the Twin Islands of the Dyeckman Street Pier.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

10. **THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, BRONX (SpF)**
    - 2900 Southern Boulevard
    - A 250-acre preserve, home to resident wood ducks and great horned owls, comprises gardens, a wild portion of the Bronx River, ponds, wetland areas, and a 40-acre virgin forest.
    - WHERE TO GO: Walk nine blocks (or take the B26 bus) and enter at the Mosholu Gate to explore the park’s extensive nature trails, the Riverwalk, and a 40-acre virgin forest.
    - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

Find more details at www.nycaudubon.org/go-birding

---

**MORE BIRDING STOPS**

- **Central Park: Manhattan (SpF)**
- **Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens (SpSuFW)**
- **Prospect Park, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (SpF)**
- **Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx (SpF)**
- **Forest Park, Queens (SpF)**
- **Feliman Bay Park, Bronx (SpSuFW)**
- **Clove Lakes Park (SpF)**
- **Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan (SpF)**
- **The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx (SpF)**

---

Find more details at www.nycaudubon.org/go-birding