TOP 10 BIRDING STOPS

1. CENTRAL PARK, MANHATTAN (SpFW)
   - Subway: 1/2nd St., 103rd St.  
   - Manhatten’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 “fallout,” the density of songbirds is what birders dream of.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at 103rd Street and bird to the Lake and Ramble, or at 103rd Street and explore the Great Hill and North Woods. Visit the Reservoir for wintering waterfowl.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

2. JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE, QUEENS (SpFW)
   - Broad Channel, DIY-SBR, Q53-SBR Bus  
   - Part of Gateway National Recreation Area, the refuge covers 8,000 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 Q52 or Q53 bus) to the Visitor Center. Explore the East and West Beaches 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 (SpFW)
   - (Prospect Park or Grand Army Plaza)  
   - An easily accessible 136-acre park located in Brooklyn. Prospect Park offers a striking diversity of bird habitat. On peak spring days, nearly 100 species have been spotted here. The nearby Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers excellent birding as well.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 6402 20th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Explore the gardens and check the ball fields for songbirds and raptors.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

4. VAN CORTLANDT PARK, BROXON (SpFW)
   - Van Cortlandt Park-242nd St., free shuttle  
   - Over half of this accessible park’s 1,146 acres offer excellent bird habitat, including deciduous forests, meadows, wetlands, and a constructed lake. Over 60 species breed here.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at West 242nd Street and explore the Putnam Trail, John Vickers Nature Trail, Van Cortlandt Lake, Tibbetts Brook, and nearby freshwater wetlands.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

5. THE AMUNDSEN TRAIL: GREAT KILLS PARK AND THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND (SpFW)
   - Silt Oakwood Heights  
   - Walk two blocks to the Amundsen Trail (White Trail), which connects High Rock Park and the Staten Island Greenbelt to the north with Gateway National Recreation Area’s 1,200-acre Great Kills Park to the south.
   - WHERE TO GO: Hike south to visit the beaches, marsh trails, mudflats, and woodland of Great Kills Park (Crooke’s Point is particularly productive)—or northwards 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 seabirds

6. FOREST PARK, QUEENS (SpFW)
   - Kew Gardens-Union Turnpike, Q46 Bus  
   - This 250-acre preserve, home to resident Wood Ducks and Great Horned Owls, comprises gardens, ponds, wetlands, meadows, a 40-acre old-growth forest, and a wild portion of the Bronx River. A pair of Great Blue Herons has nested in recent years next to the park’s “knob.
   - WHERE TO GO: From the subway, walk or take the Q46 bus to the Visitor Center. Explore the East and West Gardens.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors

7. PELHAM BAY PARK, BRONX (SpFW)
   - Pelham Bay Park  
   - At 3.35 acres, this remote and wild New York City Park includes open water, salt marsh, rocky shore, old- and new-growth forest, shrubland, rare coastal tall grass meadows, and dry and wet oak savannas. Over half of this accessible park’s 196 acres offer excellent bird habitat.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at Pelham Bay Nature Center and explore the Pelham Bay Nature Center and explore the Pelham Bay Nature Center and explore the Pelham Bay Nature Center and explore the Pelham Bay Nature Center.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors

8. CLOVE LAKES PARK, STATEN ISLAND (SpFW)
   - The 40-acre Clove Lakes Park is a songbird migration hotspot; the park’s “knot and toilette” lifework, left over from the last ice age, hosts magnificent salt and pine groves.
   - WHERE TO GO: From the subway, walk or take the Q72 bus to the Visitor Center. Explore the East and West Gardens.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors

9. INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN (SpFW)
   - Inwood Hill Park-21st St. or 215th Street  
   - This 196-acre park is the site of Manhattan’s only old-growth forest, a fullopic poplar and oak woodland that hosts nesting forest birds. The park also includes a small adjacent salt marsh and offers great views of the Hudson River.
   - WHERE TO GO: Enter at 215th Street and Indian Road to explore the woods along the stream that runs between Brooks, Marling, and Clove Lakes. A pair of Great Blue Herons has nested in recent years next to the Martinling Avenue Bridge.
   - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, wading birds, shorebirds, marsh birds, and seabirds

10. THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, BRONX (SpFW)
    - BN: 210th St. or 214th Street  
    - The 250-acre preserve, home to resident Wood Ducks and Great Horned Owls, comprises gardens, ponds, wetland areas, a 40-acre old-growth forest, and a wild portion of the Bronx River.
    - WHERE TO GO: Enter at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and explore the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and explore the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and explore the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.
    - BIRDS TO SEE: songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors

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

**Sp:** spring  **Su:** summer  **F:** fall  **W:** winter

---

**MORE BIRDING STOPS**

11. Conference House Park: SIR Tottenville  
12. Mount Loretta Unique Area: SIR Pleasant Plains or Richmond Valley  
13. Freshkills Park: Hoxton for special events  
14. The Battery-Governors Island, NYC Audubon environmental center: South Ferry Ferry Service (summer only)
15. Bryant Park: Q42nd St.-Bryant Park  
17. Randall’s Island: 120th St., M60 Bus  
18. River Park East Sanctuary: 81st St.-Columbia University  
19. Wood Hill: Van Cortland Park-24th St., free shuttle  
20. Woodland Cemetery: Woodland  
22. Flushing Meadows Corona Park: 81st St.-White Point  
23. Alley Pond Park: Q54th St.-Union Turnpike, Q54 Bus  
24. Shirley Chisholm State Park: Pennsylvania Ave., Q53 Bus  
25. Fort Tilden and Jacob Riis Park: Q52 Bus  
26. Floyd Bennett Field: Q40 Bus  
27. Marine Park: Ave. S, B1 Bus or Kings Hwy., Q31 Bus  
30. Bush Terminal Piers Park: 40th St.
NEW YORK CITY IS FOR THE BIRDS BIRDING BY THE SEASON

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!

BIRDING TIPS

• Bird in the early morning or late afternoon, particularly in spring when songbirds are actively singing.
• Bring the right gear. Binoculars are great for songbirds, but a spotting scope is key when observing shorebirds or waterfowl.

Sign up for NYC Audubon birding trips, classes, and bird walks at www.nycaudubon.org/exa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

• NYC Audubon's online guide: www.nycaudubon.org/birding
• Birding 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 the Neighborhood Birds of New York City, by Leslie Day
• NYC Audubon "71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523, New York, NY 10010 212-691-7483 www.nycaudubon.org

NEW YORK CITY BIRDS NEED YOUR HELP

New York City Audubon is the only organization solely dedicated to safeguarding birds and their habitats in the five boroughs. Join us! As a contributing member, you make possible our research, conservation, education, and advocacy for New York City’s more than 350 species of wild birds.

Project Safe Flight seeks to ensure safe passage for the millions of birds migrating through our city by reducing collisions with glass and expanding habitat. We helped pass New City laws in 2019 that require bird-friendly construction and green roofs.

Waterbirds of New York Harbor monitors and tracks wading birds and shorebirds that nest or stop over at the City’s wetlands, islands, and beaches.

Education and Outreach brings the joy of birding and the rewards of conserving nature to diverse communities all across the City, offering bird walks, classes, wildlife festivals, hands-on volunteering, and a seasonal center on Governors Island.

BECOME A MEMBER

Benefits include free members-only bird walks, discounts on trips and classes, the quarterly Urban Audubon newsletter, the eGreet e-newsletter—and knowing that you are making a difference for birds. Join now at www.nycaudubon.org

NYC AUDUBON

Over 350 species recorded in the five boroughs of New York City.

BIRDS OF NEW YORK CITY

Monticello in winter, geese on the waterfront.

Marsh birds. Fledglings of five species of heron in the harbor; a Northern Gannet is also regularly spotted in the City. New York Harbor has been updated and reprinted thanks to the generous support of Con Edison.

Over 350 species recorded in the five boroughs of New York City.