



## Urban birder's field guide to the 9 best cities in the US for birding

Pandemic-era lockdowns spurred people across the globe to embrace new hobbies, and [birding](#) certainly enjoyed a surge in popularity. While many birds are too sensitive to thrive in human-congested places, [20%](#) of the world's avian species can be found in cities. What's more, birding in cities is easier than expected — [just look up!](#)

Whether you're observing avians you happened upon (typically considered "birdwatching") or are actively searching for certain species (typically considered "birding"), the process will likely shed new light on the most familiar alleys, buildings, and sidewalks. With more than [800 species](#) of birds, roughly 50 of which exist [only within US borders](#), the United States is a great place to start your urban birding adventures.

Using a combination of [eBird](#) hot spots, rank on [Lawn Love's](#) 2023 list, endemic species, and local efforts to promote birding, we've identified some of the best birding cities (that have more than 300,000 human residents) across the country.

### Miami



A brilliant blue jay

stands out among the fall foliage — Photo courtesy of outtakes / Getty Images

**Miami-Dade County: 417 species, 351 hot spots**

South Florida's climate and environment have made it a [haven](#) for tropical birds, including escaped pets, introduced species that have adapted (the Miami area is home to [dozens](#) of species of human-introduced parrots), and drop-ins from the Caribbean.

But even with decades of habitat destruction and exotics adapting more quickly to revived landscapes, there are still indigenous birds to be seen in and around Miami. City-savvy species like blue jays, Northern mockingbirds, and loggerhead shrikes thrive in the urban environs, while anhingas, green herons, and fish crows can be found at [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#).