

Your field guide to the 9 best cities in the United States for urban birding

Fledgling birdwatchers and seasoned birders alike should flock to these cities across the country



By [Stacey McKenna](#)

AUGUST 8, 2023



Birding is a popular thing to do in New York City's Central Park — Photo courtesy of Onfokus / Getty Images

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!](#)**

Miami

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](#)**.