



# New York City Subway

with railroad and airport connections

## BIRDING BY SUBWAY

SCIENCE | ENGAGEMENT | ADVOCACY

### TOP 10 BIRDING STOPS

(BY BOROUGH, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

- 1. VAN CORTLANDT PARK, BRONX**  
**1 Van Cortlandt Park-242 St**  
 Van Cortlandt Park's 1,146 acres offer excellent bird habitat, including forests, meadows, wetlands, and a large lake.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter at West 242nd Street and explore the meadows behind the Van Cortlandt Nature Center and House Museum, Van Cortlandt Lake, and the John Kieran Nature Trail.
- 2. PELHAM BAY PARK, BRONX**  
**6 Pelham Bay Park**  
 This wild and remote park - at 2,772 acres, the largest in NYC - includes open water, salt marsh, rocky shoreline, deep forest, rare tall grass meadows, and oak savanna.  
**WHERE TO START:** The walkway across I-95 leads to the accessible southern zone's Huntington Woods and waterfront. (Hunter and Twin Islands, accessible from Orchard Beach, in the beautiful northern part of the park, are also worth the trip.)
- 3. FOREST PARK, QUEENS**  
**6 Kew Gardens-Union Turnpike, Q37 bus**  
 The east end of this 538-acre park, with its deep oak and pine groves, is a songbird migration hotspot and nesting site for forest birds.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter the park at Metropolitan Avenue and Forest Park Drive via the Yellow Trail to visit the "Waterhole," a migrant songbird haven, or bird along Forest Park Drive to the Pine Grove. Bird with a friend; it's easy to get lost here.
- 4. JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE, QUEENS**  
**A Rockaway Boulevard or Broad Channel, Q52-SBS or Q53-SBS bus**  
 Part of Gateway National Recreation Area, the refuge covers 9,000 acres of open water, salt marsh, ponds, fields, and woods, and is famous for its late summer shorebird migration.  
**WHERE TO START:** Take the Q52 or Q53 bus to the Visitor Center. Explore the East and West Ponds and the forested paths of the North and South Gardens.
- 5. PROSPECT PARK/ BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN**  
**4 Prospect Park or 2 Grand Army Plaza / 2 Eastern Parkway-Brooklyn Museum or 15 St-Prospect Park**  
 With 585 acres of woods, meadows, and wetlands, Prospect Park offers a striking diversity of bird habitat. The nearby Brooklyn Botanic Garden (paid admission) offers excellent birding as well.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter the park at Lincoln Road, Grand Army Plaza, or Bartel-Pritchard Square, explore the Vale, Ravine, and Prospect Lake. Enter the botanic garden from Eastern Parkway or Washington Ave and bird the Japanese Hill-and-Pond and Native Flora Gardens.
- 6. GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN**  
**R 25 St**  
 This tranquil cemetery's 478 acres of rolling hills, glacial kettle ponds, and bird-friendly plantings attract a surprising variety of birds.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. Look for nesting Monk Parakeets atop the main gate's Gothic spire; visit the Valley, Sylvan, Crescent, and Dell Waves; and climb Ocean Hill.
- 7. THE AMUNDSEN TRAIL: GREAT KILLS PARK AND THE GREENBELT, STATEN ISLAND**  
**SIR Oakwood Heights**  
 The Amundsen Trail connects to both the forest birds of the 2,800-acre Staten Island Greenbelt and the waterbirds of Gateway National Recreation Area's 580-acre Great Kills Park.  
**WHERE TO START:** Walk two blocks to the Amundsen Trail (White Trail). Hike south to visit the coastal habitat of Great Kills Park or north to the wooded trails of High Rock Park, Willowbrook Park, and the Greenbelt Nature Center.
- 8. CLOVE LAKES PARK, STATEN ISLAND**  
**From St. George Ferry Terminal: S61/62 bus to Victory Blvd/ Clove Rd or S48 bus to Forest Av/Clove Rd**  
 This 196-acre park includes hilly woodlands, ponds, and streams, and is known as the best place on Staten Island to see warblers and other neotropical migrants, particularly in spring.  
**WHERE TO START:** Explore the wooded paths on both sides of the stream that runs between Brooks, Martling, and Clove Lakes.
- 9. CENTRAL PARK, MANHATTAN**  
**B 72 St or 103 St**  
 Manhattan's 843-acre centerpiece is a magnet for spring and fall migrants, making it one of the best birding spots in the world.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter at West 72nd Street to Strawberry Fields and bird down to the Lake and Ramble, or at West 103rd Street and explore the Great Hill, North Woods, and Harlem Meer. Visit the Reservoir for wintering waterfowl.
- 10. INWOOD HILL PARK, MANHATTAN**  
**A Inwood-207 St or 215 St**  
 This 196-acre park offers Manhattan's only old-growth forest, a small salt marsh, and sweeping views of the Harlem and Hudson Rivers.  
**WHERE TO START:** Enter at 218th Street and Indian Road to explore meadows and wetlands; visit the Nature Center; and hike up forested "Inwood Hill." At the southern end, the Dyckman Street Pier offers possible wintertime views of Bald Eagles.

### MORE BIRDING STOPS

- 11) Wave Hill: 1 Van Cortlandt Park-242 St, free shuttle
- 12) Woodlawn Cemetery: 4 Woodlawn
- 13) The New York Botanical Garden: 6 Bedford Park Blvd, B25 or B26 bus
- 14) Crotona Park: 2 5174 St
- 15) Alley Pond Park: 6 Kew Gardens-Union Turnpike, Q46 or Q48 bus
- 16) Flushing Meadows Corona Park: 7 Mets-Willlets Point or 7 75 Av
- 17) Rockaway Beach Endangered Species Nesting Area: A Beach 44 St
- 18) Shirley Chisholm State Park: 6 Pennsylvania Av, B83 bus or Canarsie-Rockaway Pkwy, B82 bus
- 19) Fort Tilden / Jacob Riis Park: 2 6 Flatbush Av-Brooklyn College, Q35 bus
- 20) Floyd Bennett Field: 2 6 Flatbush Av-Brooklyn College, Q35 bus
- 21) Salt Marsh Nature Center, Marine Park: 6 Avenue U, B3 bus or Kings Hwy, B31 bus
- 22) Calvert Vaux Park: 6 Bay 50 St or 6 Bay Pkwy, B82 bus
- 23) Brooklyn Bridge Park: 6 C High St or 6 C Clark St
- 24) Conference House Park: SIR Tottenville
- 25) Mount Loretto Unique Area: SIR Pleasant Plains or Richmond Valley
- 26) Freshkills Park: S62 bus from St. George Ferry Terminal
- 27) The Battery/Governors Island: 1 South Ferry/ferry service from Battery Maritime Building
- 28) Bryant Park: 6 D 42 St-Bryant Park
- 29) Randall's Island: 6 6 125 St, M35 bus
- 30) Riverside Park: 1 116 St-Columbia University

### ACCESSIBILITY, SERVICE CHANGES, AND SUPPORT

Accessible stations are labeled on the MTA map with the icon. Find more information at [mta.info/accessibility](http://mta.info/accessibility)

This map depicts typical weekday service only. Subway and bus service changes frequently.

Find more info and in-system maps at [mta.info](http://mta.info) or call 511 for multilingual support at the MTA Travel Information Center.

### LEARN MORE

For more birding info, including detailed profiles of each birding stop, our *Beginner's Birding Guide*, and ways to get involved with the NYC birding community, scan the QR code or visit [go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs](http://go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs)



Subway map © 2026 Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Used with permission. Current at time of publication, April 2026.

# GET TO KNOW THE BIRDS OF NEW YORK CITY

## BIRDING BY SUBWAY

Nearly 500 species recorded in the five boroughs



**Songbirds.** During spring and fall migration, any park with trees or shrubs can be full of colorful warblers, tanagers, orioles, and more; over 30 warbler species visit NYC, including the Blackburnian Warbler (above).



**Wading Birds.** The Black-crowned Night Heron (above), a species in steep decline, is one of nine wader species that nest on the wild islands of New York Harbor. Find them in parks with ponds or marshes.



**Birds of Prey.** The Bald Eagle (above), a species that has recovered from near extinction and now nests in NYC, is among 20 species of raptors, including hawks, falcons, and owls, that are regularly seen in the City.



**Grassland Birds.** Threatened grassland species such as the Eastern Meadowlark (above) visit parks with playing fields or meadows during migration and winter, and stay to nest in the largest grasslands.



**Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns.** At-risk species like the American Oystercatcher (above) nest on city beaches and islands, while others visit shorelines and marshes during spring and fall migration.



**Waterfowl.** Many colorful waterfowl species, including the Hooded Merganser (above), visit in the winter. Find waterfowl in parks with ponds, lakes, or reservoirs, or offshore in the harbor and ocean.

Photos: Left panel - birding in Fort Tryon Park @ Sean Januszewski; Blackburnian Warbler: Eastern Meadowlark: American Oystercatcher: David Speiser; Black-crowned Night Heron @ Laura Meyers; Bald Eagle @ Brian Wong; CC BY-SA; Hooded Merganser @ Lord Splinter; Cover - Indigo Birding @ Isaac Grant



**NYC BIRD ALLIANCE**  
A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON

## LET'S GO BIRDING IN NYC!

HELP BIRDS WITH NYC BIRD ALLIANCE

### From Central Park to Jamaica Bay, New York City offers some of the world's best birding.

The City is located along the Atlantic Flyway – a migratory route that some birds follow all the way from South America to the Arctic Circle and back! Each spring and fall, millions of birds stop in NYC to rest and refuel, while many stay to nest over the summer or spend the winter. Prime birding spots are just a subway or bus ride away.



Nearly 500 bird species have been seen in NYC's diverse habitats of forests, grasslands, beaches, and wetlands... and you can spot many birds, like the Red-tailed Hawk, in even the smallest neighborhood parks!



### BIRDING TIPS

- **Relax.** Birds can be startled by quick movement and noise. Slow down to find more birds – and to take a break!
- **Look and listen.** You'll soon discover that birds are all around you, all the time.
- **Think about timing.** You can bird anytime, but birds are most active and vocal in the morning and late afternoon.
- **Bird with a friend.** Even in the busiest parks, it's safest to bird with a companion or join one of many bird outings led by NYC Bird Alliance or other organizations.

- **Watch birds YOUR way.** You can enjoy birds with the naked eye, listen for their sounds, and even sit quietly and let the birds come to you. To see birds that are farther away and enjoy amazing close-ups, try binoculars. (You can borrow a pair on NYC Bird Alliance outings.)

### LEARN MORE

To find all you need to get started – including info on birding field guides and apps, binoculars, birding groups and guided outings, and over 100 city parks – scan the QR code or visit [go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs](http://go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs)



**NYC Bird Alliance** (formerly NYC Audubon) protects birds and strengthens urban biodiversity across New York City through science, community engagement, and advocacy.

We've helped pass landmark bird-friendly building laws and conduct long-term research – including decades of waterbird monitoring in New York Harbor – guiding conservation nationally. We offer hundreds of public education programs, more than two-thirds of them free, welcoming New Yorkers of all backgrounds and inspiring a lifelong commitment to conservation.

Ways you can get involved:

- **Go birding:** Join free guided bird outings across the five boroughs.
- **Volunteer:** Participate in community science that fuels our research and advocacy.
- **Stay in touch:** Sign up for our email newsletter; follow @nycbirdalliance for news, events, and ways to take action; or become a member to support NYC Bird Alliance.

Learn more at [go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs](http://go.nycbirdalliance.org/bbs)

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Photo: Red-tailed Hawk © François Portmann

Photo: NYC Bird Alliance outing on Governors Island © Lorian Beausoleil