

THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM

BIRDING GUIDE

Explore the many miles of natural beauty and peaceful trails while visiting Greater Birmingham. While you're at it, follow this guide to top birding destinations across the Magic City, created in partnership with the Alabama Ornithological Society.

ALDRIDGE GARDENS

Known for its beautiful hydrangeas and peaceful walking paths, Aldridge Gardens is a rewarding stop for birders. During the spring and fall, keep an eye on the northern section and the dam area, where a variety of migrating birds may make a stop.

ALTADENA VALLEY PARK

This quiet neighborhood park offers a mix of habitats that attract migrating birds in spring and fall, along with wintering sparrows. Birders have even spotted the rare Vermilion Flycatcher here during the winter months.

AVONDALE PARK

Nestled in the heart of the city, Avondale Park combines mature hardwoods with open edges that make it an easy place to search for migrating birds. The south side of the park is often the most productive.

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

With landscaped gardens and natural woodlands, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens provide excellent habitat for migrating songbirds. The northeast portion is generally favored, including a peripheral loop road and spots such as the Kaul Wildflower Garden and

Bog Garden. The Barber Alabama Woodlands and Hulsey Woods can yield migrants as well though viewing is more challenging.

CAHABA RIVERCHASE GREENWAY TRAILHEAD

This diverse riverside park features wetlands, open fields, pine forests, and hardwoods, creating habitat for an impressive variety of birds. Keep an eye out for both seasonal migrants and uncommon species throughout the year, which have included Western Kingbird, Marsh and Sedge wrens, Henslow's and Lincoln's sparrows, and Mourning Warbler.

CAHABA RIVER TRAIL & CANOE DROP (GRANT'S MILL)

Follow the scenic Cahaba River on this wooded trail, where you'll find a variety of resident woodland birds along with seasonal migrants passing through during spring and fall.

FLEMMING PARK ON THE CAHABA

This riverside park offers easy access to woodlands and open spaces along the Cahaba River, making it a good destination for spotting migrant birds.



Scarlet Tanager



Aldridge Gardens



Black-throated Green Warbler



Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Indigo Bunting



Railroad Park



Eastern Towhee



Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve

FLORA JOHNSTON NATURE PARK

A peaceful woodland retreat, Flora Johnston Nature Park is an excellent place to enjoy a quiet walk while watching for migrating songbirds along its shaded trails.

INVERNESS NATURE PARK

Featuring mixed pine and oak forests, small lakes, and a 1.2-mile greenway trail, Inverness Nature Park offers a relaxing setting to observe a variety of forest birds throughout the year.

IRONDALE FURNACE TRAIL

History and nature come together on this short trail through a wooded creek corridor near a Civil War-era blast furnace. It's an ideal spot to look for migrating birds while exploring one of Birmingham's historic landscapes.

MOSS ROCK PRESERVE

One of Birmingham's premier natural areas, Moss Rock Preserve features diverse forests, streams, and rocky outcrops that support a wide variety of woodland birds. Spring and fall migrations can be especially rewarding along trail edges and open clearings.

RAILROAD PARK

Located in the heart of downtown, Railroad Park pairs urban green space with ponds, trees, and open lawns that attract a surprising variety of birds. Seasonal migrants, and the occasional rare visitors such as the Long-eared Owl and Clay-colored Sparrow, make every trip a little different.

Birding photography courtesy of Greg D. Jackson

RED MOUNTAIN PARK

The largest urban preserve in the City of Birmingham, Red Mountain Park is a major woodland birding site for the region. This is a stronghold for Swainson's Warbler in the area, but large numbers of other breeding forest birds are present in the warmer months. Migration can range from moderate to excellent, often best viewed along the ridgeline and in the open woods near the meadows of the western end.

RUFFNER MOUNTAIN NATURE PRESERVE

One of Greater Birmingham's top birding destinations, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve is renowned for its exceptional spring and fall migration activity. Its forests, wetlands, and ridgelines support an incredible diversity of woodland songbirds, including seasonal vireos, warblers, tanagers, and sought-after species such as Mourning and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

VULCAN TRAIL

Stretching two scenic miles along the slopes of Red Mountain, Vulcan Trail offers beautiful city views alongside good birding opportunities. Mature trees and open patches create attractive habitat for migrating songbirds during spring and fall, making it a favorite for both walkers and birders alike.

