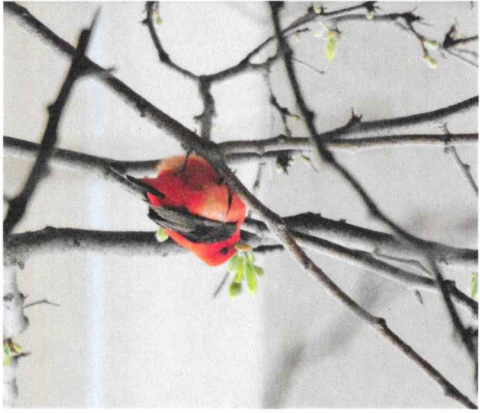




There are no rules.

There is no wrong way to go birding. I try to stay present and connect with nature. Try not to get too obsessed with lists and target species. You don't have to be an expert. You don't have to go to hotspots. Just do you. Some of my favorite encounters occurred when I didn't have a plan.

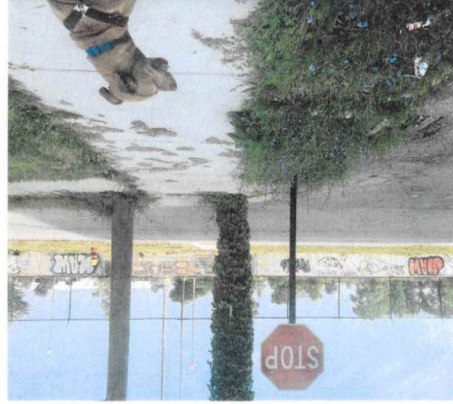


There is no Birding season.

Birds change with the seasons. Many birds can only be seen here during migration seasons or in the colder months. Don't wait for "good" weather or a sunny day. Some of the best birding experiences I've had were in low light and bad weather.



@feral_detroit



Slow Down.

Take a walk. Seriously. Get out of your car. Get off your bike. Take out your headphones. Share space with the environment around you. You don't need a destination. Dogs are probably not the best birding companions, but they can teach you a lot about walking.



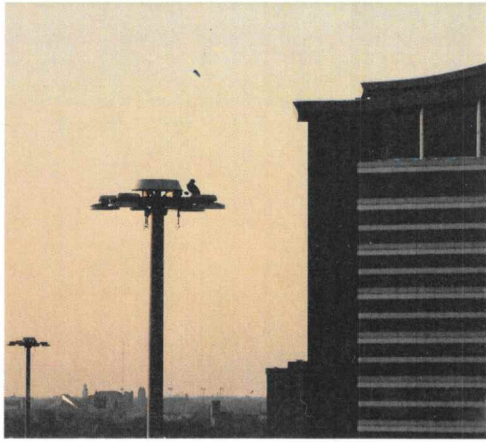
You don't need a lot of gear.

The only thing you really need is an updated field guide and binoculars. Yes, old books are cool, but climate change is real and range maps are changing. Knowing what birds to expect is important to identify them correctly. Check your local library. Also, you don't high end binoculars, A basic pair will get you started. Check with family members and thrift stores.



Look everywhere.

Every piece of greenspace matters. Weeds matter. Many birds have adapted to human structures, including Peregrine Falcons, Red-tailed hawks, Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows, Turkey Vultures, and Chimney Swifts. Look for intentional and unintentional habitats.



Start where you are.

Nature is not elsewhere. You don't have to go look for it. "The country" is now often single crop farmland that doesn't support biodiversity. Cities and suburbs are increasingly biodiverse. We rely on and are competing for the same natural resources, like water. Start by birding at home.