

# The power of Brazil's urban birdwatchers – and migrant flycatchers

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As a birder, if you share your pictures, sounds and lists of birds on citizen science platforms, you may have already helped generate scientific knowledge. Recent research from Brazil shows how urban birdwatchers can make important contributions to ornithology.

**B**razil's biodiversity is one of the highest of any country, due in part to its size (it is South America's largest country) and variety of landscapes (six biomes and many different ecoregions). Birds alone comprise more than 1,900 species, of which almost 200 are migratory (Pacheco *et al.* 2021, Somenzari *et al.* 2018). It is also a populous country: most of Brazil's 211 million inhabitants live in the south and southeast, and more than 84% live in cities such as São Paulo, which is one of the world's largest cities with more than 12 million people. Urban green areas in even the largest Brazilian cities can provide a home to many bird species, including migrants. However,

we still know very little about their ecology, behaviour, movements and overall biology.

Birdwatching in Brazil is a relatively new activity in comparison with other countries in the Americas or in Europe; however, it has grown considerably in recent years. Since 2005, nationwide initiatives have been created to engage Brazilian citizen scientists. Most notably, the growth of birdwatching as a hobby in Brazil was propelled by the creation in 2006 of Avistar, the Brazilian birding fair ([avistarbrasil.com.br](http://avistarbrasil.com.br)). Held annually in the city of São Paulo, it attracts 5,000–7,000 people.

**1** Brazilian birdwatchers have provided several million datapoints on the country's birds, and citizen science information about the country's birds have already been used in more than 670 publications (Matheus Bernardo).

