



Climate Watch

Audubon's Climate Watch is a new community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change.

In 2014, Audubon released the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report highlighting the risks that climate change poses to birds across North America. In response, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds. Now, you can help by observing birds in your area, using a specific protocol, to help us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate.

TARGET SPECIES



Eastern Bluebird



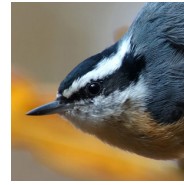
Mountain Bluebird



Western Bluebird



White-breasted
Nuthatch



Red-breasted
Nuthatch



Brown-headed
Nuthatch



Pygmy Nuthatch

QUICK FACTS

DATES

January 15-
February 15
and
May 15-June 15

TIME

2-4+ hours

TARGET SPECIES GROUPS

Bluebirds and
nuthatches

LOCATION

Specific
10 km x 10 km
squares; see inset
map example

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you would like to find out more about being a volunteer or coordinating in your area, please contact the Audubon Climate Watch Team at climatewatch@audubon.org

When does Climate Watch take place?

Climate Watch takes place during two distinct seasons, winter (January 15-February 15) and summer (May 15-June 15), each year. Participants are free to conduct their surveys at any time during these time windows.

How does it work?

In 2017, Climate Watch focuses on bluebirds and nuthatches: Eastern Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird, White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy Nuthatch. Bluebirds and nuthatches are easy to identify, have an enthusiastic constituency, and Audubon's climate models for these species offer strong predictions for range shifts for us to test. In future years, Climate Watch will include additional target species threatened by climate change covering a broader range of habitats and regional interests.

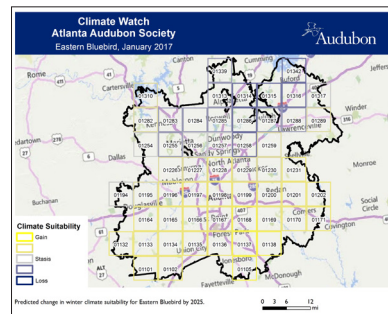
Where will Climate Watch take place?

Climate Watch focuses on areas of predicted change for bluebirds and nuthatches at each location. These areas of change include areas of potential range expansion and contraction based on Audubon's climate models. Audubon provides volunteers with maps of each location, overlaid with a grid of 10 km x 10 km squares showing species-specific predictions for each square based on the climate models.

What is the field activity?

Using the maps provided, volunteers survey appropriate habitat within a square and conduct 12 point counts

of five minutes each, then record the number and species of all birds seen or heard within 100 meters. Point counts within a given square should be separated by at least 200 meters. The 12 point counts in each square can be done by the same person or different people.



Atlanta Audubon Society territory with sample survey squares provided

What will be provided?

Audubon provides printable and digital mapping resources, instructional materials, and training to coordinators. Each location will determine how best to convey these resources to their volunteers to conduct the protocol.

How much time do I spend on Climate Watch?

Volunteers in our previous pilot period generally were able to complete one survey square in two to four hours (12 five-minute point counts per square). Surveys should either be started in the morning and completed before noon, or started in the afternoon and completed before sunset. It is up to each participant how much time to spend

on the overall activity, but make sure to talk with your Climate Watch coordinator about your level of interest. Some advance scouting and planning may be required to choose survey point locations. Your Climate Watch coordinator will communicate with you if this will be required.

How do I submit my survey data?

Each five-minute checklist should be submitted through eBird separately, and we also ask that volunteers email a link to their eBird checklist to the project team at climatewatch@audubon.org.

How is this different than just reporting bluebirds when I go birding?

Audubon is using general bird data, such as reported through eBird, to help inform this program. However, data reported using the Climate Watch protocol measure detectability in a way that general birding data do not. This protocol is being implemented in areas where the birds do not yet have climatic range, or may be abandoning their range. That focus is a very important part of measuring how the birds will respond to climate change.

Why get involved?

Audubon would like your help to learn how birds are responding to climate change. Your participation will be a valuable part of refining our climate science and protecting birds.

audubon.org/climatewatch