

Climate Watch Protocol Overview

Goal

Climate Watch documents birds' responses to climate change by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models project they should be in the 2020s.

Time Period

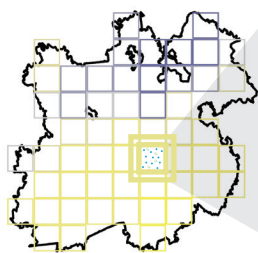
Climate Watch occurs over two 30-day periods each year, in the winter (January 15-February 15) and in the breeding season (May 15-June 15).

Protocol



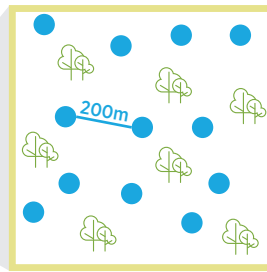
STEP ONE

Work with a local coordinator to select a Climate Watch target species to survey: Eastern, Western, and Mountain bluebirds; White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy nuthatches; American and Lesser goldfinches; Eastern and Spotted towhees; and/or Painted Bunting



STEP TWO

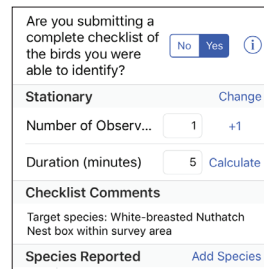
Work with a local coordinator to select one (or more) 10 x 10 km square from the Climate Watch maps to survey



STEP THREE

Identify 12 points that represent the best accessible habitat for the target species within a given square

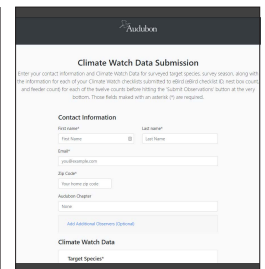
Points should be at least 200 meters apart to avoid double-counting the same areas



STEP FOUR

Conduct 5-minute stationary point counts at each of the 12 points

Record observations with eBird or with the Audubon mobile app with each point count as an individual checklist



STEP FIVE

If you used eBird, submit your checklist IDs to Audubon's portal. If you saved your data in the Audubon app, you are done

FOR EACH CHECKLIST, PLEASE RECORD:

- Start time and duration (surveys should be exactly 5 minutes)
- Number of observers (1 or 2)
- Latitude and longitude
- Number of each species (target species and other birds you identify) that you see or hear within 100 meters of your location
- In the comments, write the target species you were surveying for (bluebirds, nuthatches, goldfinches, or Painted Bunting)

NOTES:

- Submit your data whether or not you saw any target species at a given point.
- All point counts should be conducted as stationary counts for exactly 5 minutes.
- Be sure to answer "yes" to the question "Are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?"
- Make note of any nest boxes or feeders within your survey areas in the checklist comments.

For more in-depth instructions, please refer to our Climate Watch Manual.

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audubon.org/climatewatch

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo:
Lois Miller/Great Backyard Bird Count