

# 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

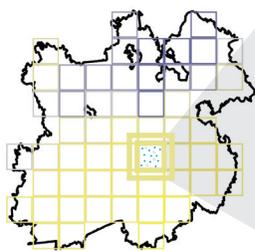
Climate Watch occurs over two 30-day periods each year, in the winter (January 15-February 15) and in the breeding season (May 15-June 15).

## Protocol



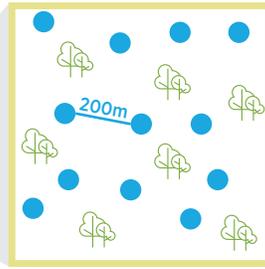
### STEP ONE

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

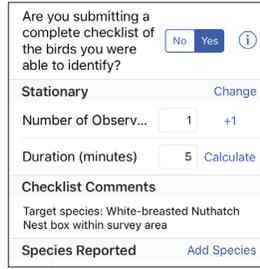
Work with a local coordinator to select one (or more) 10 x 10 km square from the Climate Watch maps to survey



### STEP THREE

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

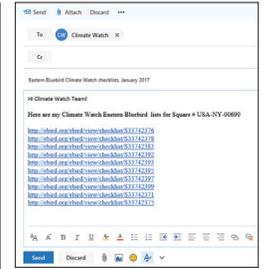
Points should be at least 200 meters apart to avoid double-counting the same areas



### STEP FOUR

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

Record observations with eBird, with each point count as an individual checklist



### STEP FIVE

Email your 12 eBird checklist URLs to [climatewatch@audubon.org](mailto:climatewatch@audubon.org)

## 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](http://audubon.org/climatewatch)

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