

MAY 2026

A DECADE OF DISCOVERY

Ten Years of Audubon's Climate Watch



Lesser Goldfinch.

Photo: Lisa Mainz/Audubon
Photography Awards



Foreword

DR. BROOKE BATEMAN | SENIOR DIRECTOR, CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE

As we mark ten years of Climate Watch, we celebrate a decade of community science that is reshaping our understanding of how birds respond to climate change. When this program began in 2016, it carried an ambitious premise: that volunteers could help validate Audubon's climate projections by surveying birds where their ranges are expected to change.

This decade of data has delivered something powerful—direct evidence that many species are adjusting to shifting climates, just as models predicted. The patterns emerging from Climate Watch reinforce the reliability of climate projections and deepen confidence in using them to guide meaningful conservation action. These are not abstract trends or theoretical predictions—they are real birds, documented by real people, showing us in real time how our world is changing.

These findings are only possible because thousands of Climate Watch volunteers have documented 12 target species through different seasons for ten years and counting. We're building an unprecedented picture of how species are responding to climate change as it happens. Critically, the Climate Watch dataset includes not only places where birds are found but also where they are absent. With this information we can monitor real-time responses to climate change. Those absences have become some of our most important data for understanding climate-driven range shifts.

Yet even after a decade, our work is far from finished. This report highlights species and places where we urgently need more data. Filling notable coverage gaps for species like **Mountain Bluebird**, **Pygmy Nuthatch** and **Painted Bunting** is essential for detecting trends, validate projections, and guiding conservation for the species most vulnerable to climate change.



Eastern Bluebird



Winter Climate Watch survey in Aiken, South Carolina.



Climate Watch at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas, Texas.

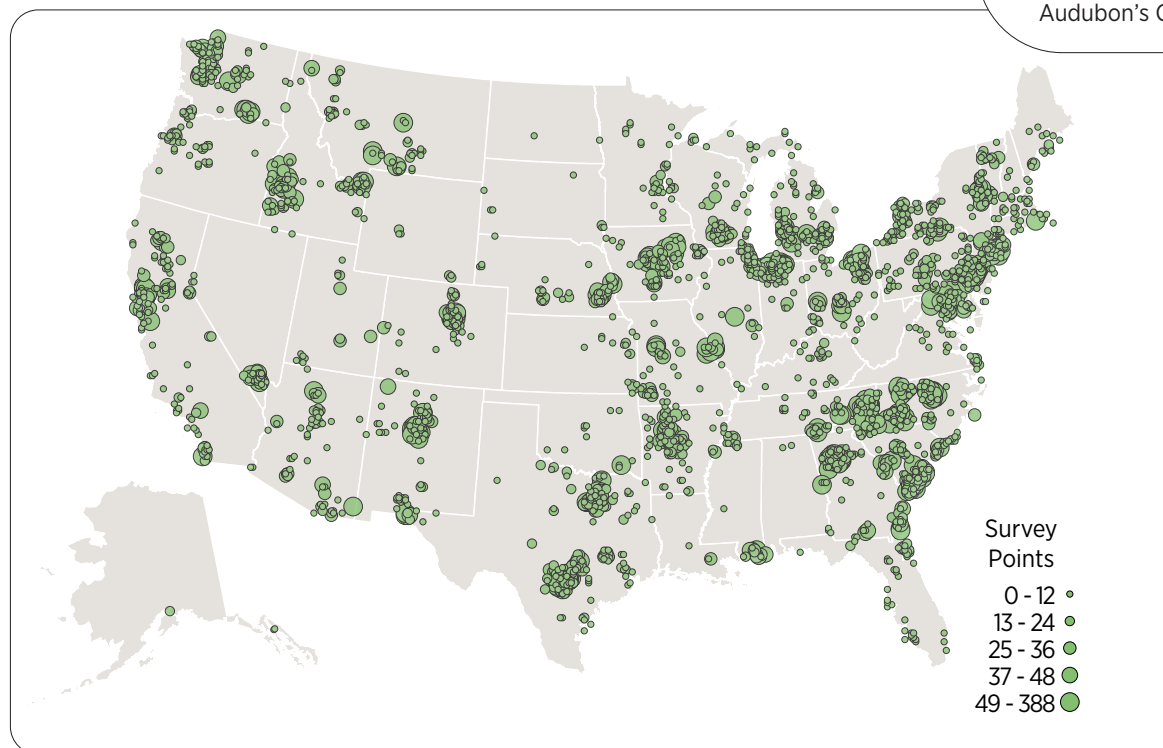
Climate Watch shows that when science and community come together we build the knowledge necessary to safeguard the places birds depend on today and in the warming decades ahead. Across all these years, through changing seasons and changing climates, the heart of Climate Watch has remained constant: people coming together to protect the birds we love by documenting change as it happens, one survey at a time.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SYDNEY WALSH/AUDUBON (2); DESIREE RIOS

Executive Summary

Climate Watch is Audubon's innovative community science program tracking bird responses to climate change. Since January 2016, what began with 11 Audubon chapters has blossomed into a nationwide network spanning all lower 48 states and Alaska (figure 1). This program bridges climate science and on-the-ground observation through mobilizing volunteers to monitor specific bird species precisely where climate models predict changes.

Figure 1. Total survey points within each 10 x 10 km grid from 2016-2025 during Audubon's Climate Watch.



The program's achievements reflect the extraordinary dedication of its volunteers: nearly 150,000 point count surveys conducted by nearly 3,000 community scientists. From just 140 volunteers in 2016, participation has grown steadily to more than 1,000 people annually since 2022.

Climate Watch's scientific impact was validated in a [2020 peer-reviewed study](#) confirming that bluebirds and nuthatches are indeed moving into areas that climate models predict are climatically suitable during breeding and non-breeding seasons.

This research demonstrates how community science can document climate impacts while validating predictive models. With a decade of data now available, Climate Watch is poised to inform conservation planning, habitat prioritization, and policy advocacy where birds need protection most.

As we mark this milestone, we celebrate the passionate commitment of volunteers who brave all conditions to collect these vital data. Their efforts have created not just a scientific program but a community united by purpose—monitoring birds and watching out for them in a changing world.

Program History & Purpose

Origin Story: Testing Climate Predictions in Real Time

Climate Watch emerged directly from Audubon's groundbreaking climate science work, serving as a real-world testing ground for Audubon's 2014 *Birds and Climate Change* report, and later updated with Audubon's 2019 *Survival by Degrees* report. Audubon's climate change reports relied on hundreds of thousands of community observations and sophisticated climate models to predict bird responses to various warming scenarios.

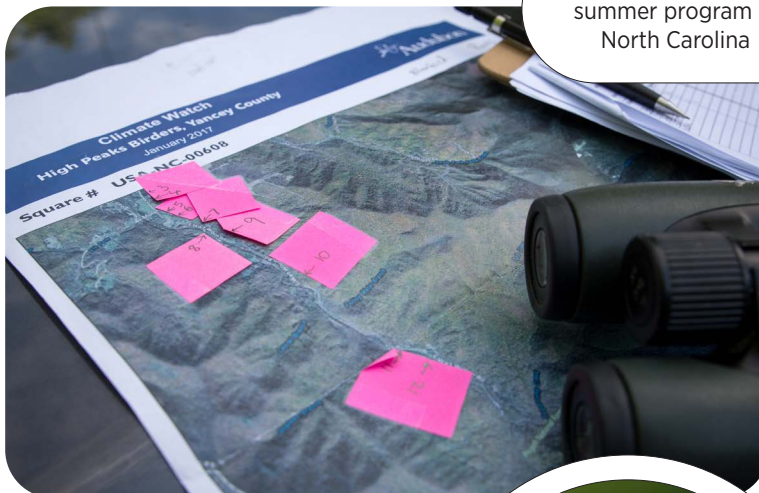
"Climate Watch was conceived as a way for us to better understand how birds were shifting with climate change in real time, and how well these shifts aligned with our model predictions," explains Dr. Brooke Bateman, Audubon's Senior Director of Climate and Community Science. "This requires information gathered at scale by dedicated volunteers coordinated across the country."

The program validates climate projections by collecting standardized data where species ranges are predicted to expand, contract, or remain stable—allowing scientists to determine whether birds are adjusting to climate change as predicted or lagging behind.

Scientific Purpose: Tracking Birds in a Changing Climate

Climate Watch serves two fundamental scientific purposes:

1. Validating Climate Projection Models: By systematically collecting data where climate models predict range changes, Climate Watch provides a real-world test of these projections. The 2020 peer-reviewed study based on Climate Watch data confirmed the program successfully validates Audubon's climate suitability projections for six species.



Climate Watch kit, summer program in North Carolina

2. Documenting Real-Time Responses:

The program creates a standardized dataset revealing how birds respond to climate change as it happens. Findings will allow us to prioritize and adapt management strategies for the most climate-sensitive species.



American Goldfinch

This approach makes Climate Watch unique among community science programs by specifically focusing on areas of predicted change rather than simply documenting current distributions. The standardized protocol—12, five-minute point counts within strategically selected 10 km Climate Watch squares—provides data comparable across time and space.

From Pilot to Nationwide Movement

Climate Watch launched in January 2016 with a focused mission: test Audubon's climate model predictions by having volunteers systematically search for birds where models projected they would be in the 2020s. The initial pilot centered on three bluebird species with 75 volunteers from 11 chapters across four states braving mid-January conditions to collect data.

Climate Watch serves two fundamental scientific purposes, validating climate projection models and documenting birds' real-time responses to climate change.

PHOTOS FROM TOP: CAMILLA CERA/AUDUBON;
DEREK SOOHOO/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

2016 Winter Season Pilot Participants

Iowa

- Prairie Rapids Audubon Society
- Big Bluestem Audubon Society
- Dubuque Audubon Society
- Loess Hills Audubon Society

New Mexico

- Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
- Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

New York

- Buffalo Audubon Society
- Audubon Community Nature Center
- Chemung Audubon Society
- Onondaga Audubon Society

Wisconsin

- Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society

By June 2016, the program had expanded to include eight additional chapters and one Audubon center for its first breeding season survey, establishing the twice-yearly pattern that continues today. This growth accelerated with participation reaching 446 volunteers in 2017, 772 in 2018, and stabilizing at over 1,000 participants annually from 2022-2025 after navigating pandemic challenges.



Spotted Towhee

EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION

The program has evolved significantly over its first decade:

January 2016: Initial winter pilot with three bluebird species and 11 chapters

June 2016: First breeding season survey added, establishing the twice-yearly survey pattern

January 2017: Program expanded to include four nuthatch species (White-breasted, Red-breasted, Brown-headed, and Pygmy), bringing the total to seven target species (446 volunteers participated in 2017)

2018: Participation grew to 772 volunteers across 26 states, conducting over 5,000 surveys.

2019: Five additional target species were added (American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee, and Painted Bunting), expanding coverage particularly in urban areas and where there were gaps in western areas and southern states.

2020: Despite pandemic challenges, 516 dedicated volunteers continued to collect surveys with new safety protocols.

2021-2024: Program participation stabilized at over 1,000 volunteers annually.

2025: 147,044 checklists submitted since 2016

2016 Breeding Season Pilot Participants

Arizona

- Tucson Bird Alliance

Colorado

- Denver Audubon

Georgia

- Birds Georgia
- Coastal Georgia Audubon Society

Idaho

- Snake River Audubon Society

Iowa

- Prairie Rapids Audubon Society

Maryland

- Chesapeake Audubon Society
- Pickering Creek Audubon Center

New Mexico

- Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

Oregon

- Mid-Williamette Bird Alliance
- East Cascades Bird Alliance

What makes Climate Watch distinctive is its hypothesis-testing approach. Volunteers survey not only where birds currently exist but also areas where they might appear in the future due to range shifts driven by climate change according to Audubon's climate projections. These absence data are just as crucial as presence data, providing a complete picture of range shifts.

Technology and Tools to Support Volunteer Success

Climate Watch has continuously improved its technological infrastructure based on volunteer feedback:

- **Online Results Tool:** Introduced in 2017, this interactive tool allows users to explore Climate Watch data, visualizing survey locations and bird observations across survey periods. Results are now available in a Data Reviewer included in the online [Climate Watch Tool](#).

- **Data Submission Platforms:** Over time, the program has streamlined data collection—now accepting eBird checklists and submissions through the Audubon mobile app, making it easier for volunteers to submit observations.

- **Climate Watch Tool:** This mapping resource has been updated consistently over the past ten years, helping volunteers claim survey squares and plan their point

count locations based on habitat suitability for target species. The tool was last updated in 2025 with new features that provide even more information for program participants.

Community-Driven Development

What truly distinguishes Climate Watch is how participants actively shape the program. From the earliest pilots, volunteer feedback has driven improvements in protocols, materials, and support systems.

In 2016, Audubon chapter and state leaders recruited and trained volunteers, raised important questions about survey locations, and helped refine protocols and resources. For example, based on their initial feedback, the time window for the surveys was extended to last the full month to account for volunteer schedules and also timing of the breeding seasons that vary geographically.

This collaborative approach continues today. A Spring 2025 participant survey revealed that while active volunteers were generally satisfied with species identification resources, potential participants wanted more training materials and improved online resources. In response, the Climate Watch team reorganized the website, developed video tutorials, improved data submission forms, and enhanced the [Climate Watch Tool](#).

The program's three-tiered structure—Regional Coordinators, Local Coordinators, and Participants—creates a supportive network blending national scientific guidance with local expertise, ensuring Climate Watch remains both scientifically rigorous and accessible to volunteers of all experience levels.

The program has streamlined data collection—now accepting submissions through the Audubon mobile app.

Gratitude & Community

Thank you to Climate Watch Community Scientists

Volunteers, nearly 3,000 to date, are the heart and soul of Climate Watch, braving winter chills and summer heat to collect vital data on how birds are responding to the changing climate. From experienced birders who can identify a nuthatch by its call to newcomers learning to distinguish a Mountain from a Western Bluebird, these dedicated community scientists have conducted thousands of surveys throughout the country over the past decade. They've ventured into remote areas, urban parks, and everywhere in between—not just documenting where birds are, but also where they are not. Their meticulous 5-minute surveys, repeated season after season and year after year, have created an unprecedented dataset that is validating climate models and informing conservation decisions.

Climate Watch Partners

Hundreds of Audubon Chapters and other community organizations have supported Climate Watch. Thank you to these partners, who are listed on the [Climate Watch results page](#).

SPOTLIGHT

Climate Watch Coordinators

Coordinators serve as the local and regional champions for Climate Watch, helping to recruit and support participants, train them to plan and conduct surveys, and ensure data are submitted. Thank you to all of the coordinators who have supported Climate Watch over the past decade. Our [coordinator listing](#) has a current list of active coordinators.

LEIF ANDERSON A Decade of Dedication to Climate Watch

Leif Anderson, a volunteer with Climate Watch and Arkansas River Valley Audubon, embodies the spirit of community science. As an avid birder, Leif's field observations vividly illustrate the impact of climate change. "I'm really concerned about climate change," Leif shares, "especially after I saw the 2014 Audubon report."



Leif Anderson
Climate Watch Coordinator

Leif's passion translates into action. He recounts, "Little did I know, I'd do more Climate Watch surveys than any other individual. With this last survey I did about 35 squares, and probably spent 50 hours just on the surveys." His dedication highlights the power of individual contributions to large-scale conservation efforts.

In Arkansas, Leif has witnessed climate change firsthand: "Brown-Headed Nuthatches are moving north. Cedar Waxwings were in the northern third of the state, and now you're lucky to see one nesting in the upper quarter. You notice things like that out in the woods."

Leif emphasizes that collective action drives the potential impact of Climate Watch: "If there's 400,000 readers of Audubon Magazine, and each person does one survey two mornings a year, that gives us another 800,000 surveys. That's a huge number."

Join Leif in making a difference! "In addition to working full time, I usually volunteer 1,000 hours per year towards community science and have done 4,600 Climate Watch surveys across 65 squares. I'm hoping you can join me by spending JUST two mornings per year counting birds for Climate Watch. Yes, one person can make a difference. Please help the cause!"

SPOTLIGHT

Climate Watch Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed their time, expertise, and passion to Climate Watch over the past decade. Your observations are helping to ensure birds have the habitats they need in a rapidly changing world.

CARRIE WILD Where Art Meets Science

Carrie Wild, a professional artist from Indianapolis, Indiana, represents the diverse talents drawn to Climate Watch. Her journey with the program began recently, but exemplifies how community science creates meaningful connections between people, birds, and conservation.

"I participated in the Spring 2024 Climate Watch. It was my first time volunteering with this

project, and I found both it and the people I met to be really interesting," Carrie shares. As an artist who specializes in bird paintings, Climate Watch offered her a new dimension to explore her passion.

The program has deepened her birding skills and expanded her horizons. "During Climate Watch, spotting lots of other species was a bonus, including a Common Yellowthroat, which I had never seen before," she notes. This blend of scientific contribution and personal discovery makes Climate Watch particularly rewarding for volunteers.

Carrie's experience extends beyond the surveys themselves. "A place I love to bird is Holliday Park, which is close to my home in Indianapolis. It's full of wooded ravines and natural springs that find their way down to the White River," she explains. "I've become more attuned to listening for birds as a means of identifying them, which is something I didn't really do prior to joining Audubon hikes."

For Carrie, Climate Watch represents something tangible in the face of large environmental challenges. "Conservation is really important to me, and being able to help with this project made me feel like I was contributing in a concrete way."

The community aspect has been equally meaningful: "I feel my involvement with Audubon has connected me to a community that feels like 'my people'. I hope to participate in more citizen science projects in the future."



Carrie Wild
Climate Watch Volunteer

SPOTLIGHT

Climate Watch at Audubon Chapters and Centers

Many Audubon chapters and centers help to recruit, organize, and support local Climate Watch volunteers, serving as critical front-line resources for participants.

PRAIRIE RAPIDS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Prairie Rapids Audubon Society (gopras.org), based in Cedar Falls, Iowa, was one of the first chapters to pilot Climate Watch in winter of 2016. They originally picked ten routes specifically for bluebirds by selecting areas with Red Cedars, open water, and savannah type habitat, and have completed their routes during every subsequent year of the program.

PICKERING CREEK AUDUBON CENTER

The [Pickering Creek Audubon Center](#) in Easton, Maryland, was one of the first Audubon centers to participate in Climate Watch. They piloted the program during the first summer count period in 2016, surveying for bluebirds on a 410-acre wildlife sanctuary.



**Prairie Rapids
Audubon Society**



**Pickering Creek
Audubon Center**

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF CARRIE WILD; COURTESY OF PRAIRIE RAPIDS AUDUBON SOCIETY; SAMANTHA PITTS

Data Summary & Visualizations

Over the last decade, 113,780 individual birds from 12 target species have been observed by community scientists. As of 2021, surveys have been conducted across all lower 48 states and Alaska, truly taking this program from a pilot in four states to a nationwide movement.

Since the Climate Watch launch in 2016, participants have observed 36,007 bluebirds during both the winter and summer survey periods. Following the program expansion in 2017, 33,147 nuthatches have been observed. Since 2019, there have been 28,227 goldfinches

observed, 14,174 towhees, and 2,225 painted buntings (Figure 2). The greatest number observations of target species were found in the following states: 8 target species in North Carolina, 4 in Texas, 4 in Washington, 3 in New Mexico, 2 in Colorado, 1 in Georgia, 1 in Idaho, and 1 in Florida (Figure 3).

See Appendix 1 for detailed summaries of each target species group observations by state during winter and summer survey periods and individual target species observations each year and season.



73,468
nest
boxes
recorded



35,725
feeders
recorded

Nest boxes and feeders recorded by Climate Watch volunteers help us understand how bird presence may be influenced by local habitat features and human-provided resources.

Figure 2. Total observations of each target species group during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods from 2016-2025.

A Decade of Climate Watch: Birds, Climate, and Community

Total Target Species Observations

Total species group observed during winter and summer survey periods since their first target year.

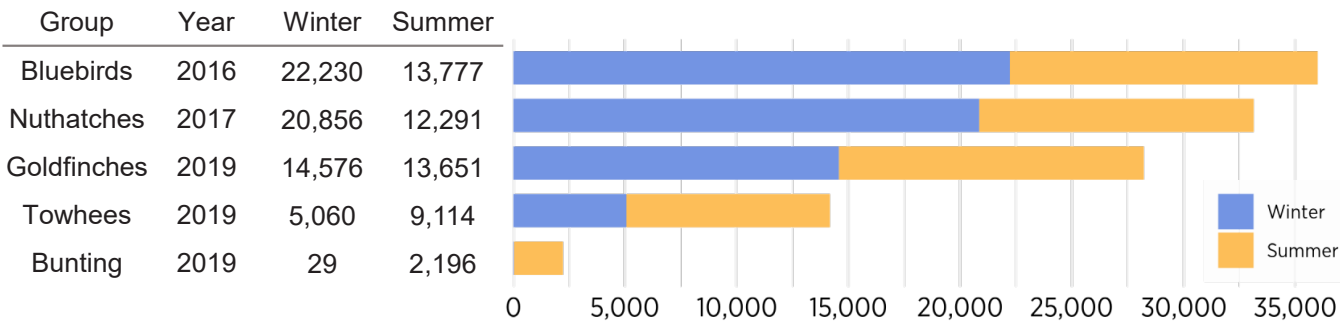
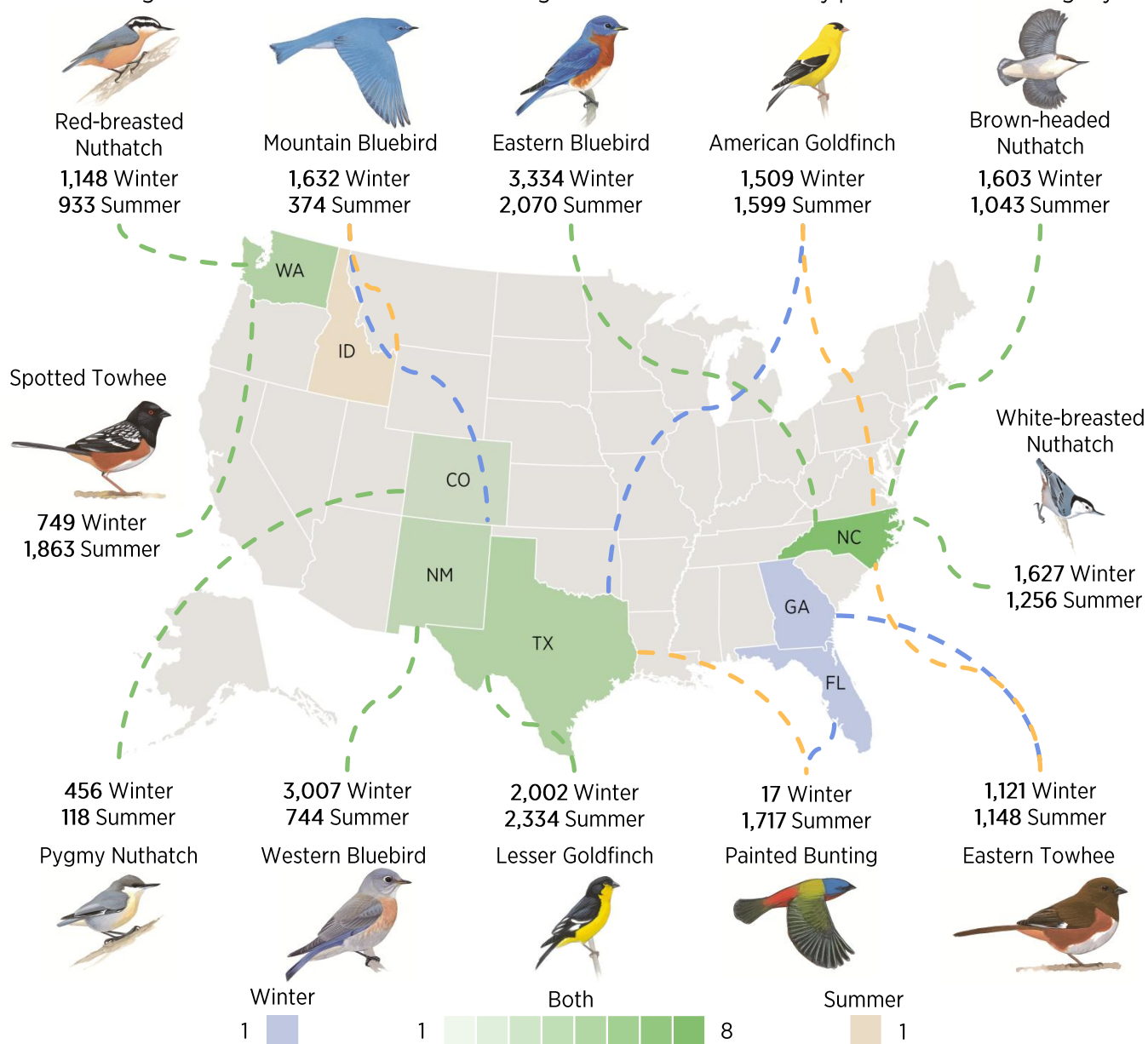


Figure 3. Top states during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods from 2016-2025.

Greatest Target Species Observations by State

States with greatest number of observations during winter and summer survey periods since their target year.



Scientific Impact

One of the earlier examples of Climate Watch's influential contributions to climate research came in a 2020 peer-reviewed study that used these data to provide an independent, real-world validation of climate suitability projections from ecological niche models at a broad, landscape scale. By examining the observations (or lack thereof) of bluebirds and nuthatches in relation to projected climate suitability for the 2020s, this study showed that birds are, in fact, occupying and moving into climatically suitable areas, providing critical evidence that species' climate projections reliably capture climate-driven changes. This validation helped establish confidence in Audubon's climate projections and underscored the ability of a structured community science program to inform large-scale conservation planning under climate change.

A central feature of Climate Watch's scientific value lies in its structured collection of both presences ("ones") and absences ("zeros"). While many bird monitoring datasets focus primarily on where species occur, Climate Watch's rigorous, repeated surveys also capture where species are not detected. These "zeros" are essential for understanding colonization and extinction, the processes that drive range shifts. This aspect of Climate Watch allows researchers to directly estimate how and when birds are expanding into new areas or disappearing from formerly suitable ones. This ability to track "bird turnover" provides rare insight into the pace and direction of climate-driven change in real time, offering a critical advantage over other large-scale bird datasets.

Building on the foundation of the 2020 study, a new analysis is now underway that incorporates six additional years of Climate Watch data and expands the suite of target species. With a decade of standardized

surveys across the country, Audubon researchers are now able to ask whether species are continuing to track climate change as projected, whether some species are lagging behind, and which species are showing resilience or vulnerability in the face of shifting conditions. This work will yield unprecedented, species-specific insights into how birds are responding to climate change right now. These results will not only refine our understanding of species' ecological limits but also provide forward-looking guidance on where conservation actions may be most urgently needed.

This next phase of Climate Watch science has important implications for bird conservation. By revealing which species are successfully colonizing newly suitable areas and which are leaving areas that are declining in climatic suitability, the results will help inform Audubon's conservation priorities. Identifying species which are highly sensitive to climate change, as well as those demonstrating resilience, will allow Audubon and its partners to better target adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration, protection of climate strongholds (areas with suitable climate and habitat for birds today and under future climate change projections), and facilitation of dispersal, where they are most needed. In this way, Climate Watch empowers volunteers to contribute meaningfully to science while helping to shape the conservation decisions that will support birds in a rapidly changing climate.



Pygmy Nuthatch

Building on the foundation of the 2020 study, a new analysis is now underway that incorporates six additional years of Climate Watch data and expands the suite of target species.

PHOTO: EVAN BARRIENTOS/AUDUBON

Notable Discoveries

Non-target Species Detections

Although the focus of Climate Watch is on 12 target species, volunteers also submit observations on non-target species. Those documented most often are:

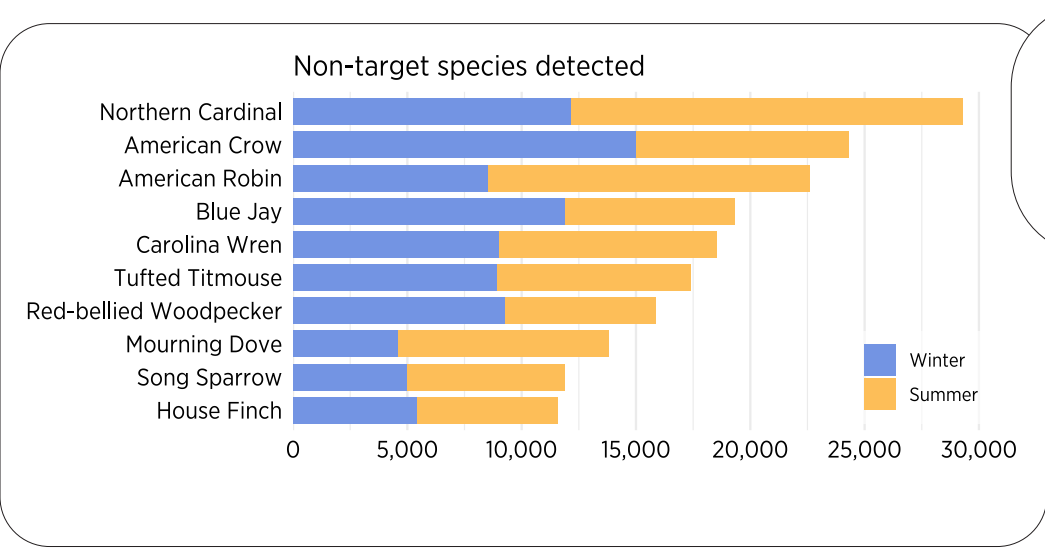


Figure 4. Top 10 non-target species detected (presence) during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods from 2016-2025.

Burgeoning Insights

The ongoing Climate Watch analysis is revealing two stories of adaptation among bluebirds: Western Bluebirds are flexible climate followers, inhabiting areas wherever climate conditions suit them in both summer and winter. Eastern Bluebirds, however, show a seasonal twist—while they readily breed in suitable climates, they are hesitant to expand into newly warming winter regions, where habitat and resources may not yet catch up to the changing climate. Together, they highlight how species' responses to a warming world depend not just on temperature, but on history and habitat.

SPOTLIGHT

Unexpected Species Observations

Climate Watch volunteers were able to document quite a few exciting and unexpected species during their surveys, including:



American Bittern



Iceland Gull



Chuck Will's Widow



Roseate Spoonbill

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KATHERINE SAYN WITTGENSTRIN/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS; ALVAN BUCKLEY/GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT; SHAWN TAYLOR/FICKR (CC BY 2.0); PETER BRANNON/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Volunteer Experience

Motivation to Participate

As part of an ongoing effort to better understand and support the Climate Watch volunteer community, Audubon conducted a survey in 2018 to explore participants' motivation for joining and participating in the program. A total of 73 Climate Watch volunteers who took this survey cited the following when asked what motivated them most to join Climate Watch:

- Enjoyment of participating in community/citizen science (70%)
- Ability to contribute to scientific research (66%)
- Enjoyment of birding (66%)
- Interest in Climate Watch (52%)

Why Climate Watch? Quotes from Volunteers

"Feeling useful in helping with scientific research and that this project has gotten me out looking for birds in new areas."

"Given the climate changes, habitat loss, and scarcity of food, Climate Watch is a critical study to help us understand the stress our birds are under."

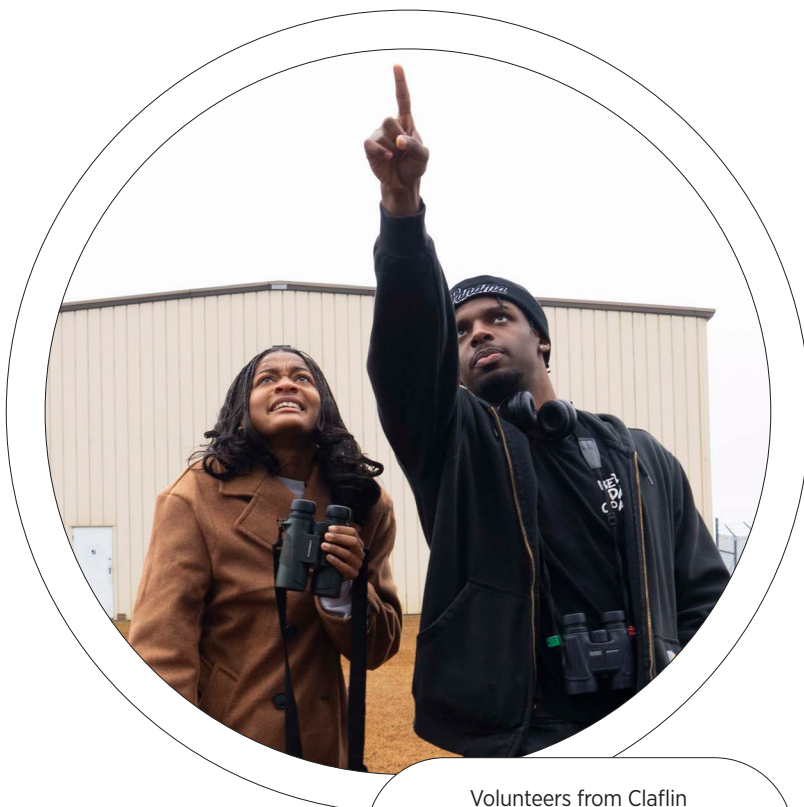
"I feel like I am providing valuable data to help Audubon track the impacts of climate change across the country."

"I liked be able to participate to help collect data and be a part of this very important research—it helps me feel like I can contribute or make a difference."

"It is a good excuse to get out and bird, and it also feels good to be doing something constructive for conservation and research."

"It's pretty exciting to be able to participate in cutting edge climate science."

"We like the fact that we're contributing, even in a small way, to a scientific effort that will, hopefully, benefit the birds we love to watch."



Volunteers from Claflin University's Friends of the Earth Audubon campus chapter conduct a winter survey in South Carolina.

PHOTO: SYDNEY WALSH/AUDUBON

The Road Ahead: The Next Decade of Climate Watch

As Climate Watch enters its second decade, we stand at a critical moment for birds and our planet. With North America having lost more than 3 billion birds in recent decades, birds face challenges across their annual life cycle and at various spatial scales. Yet Climate Watch exemplifies how collective action can make a difference—and how we can expand our impact in the years ahead.

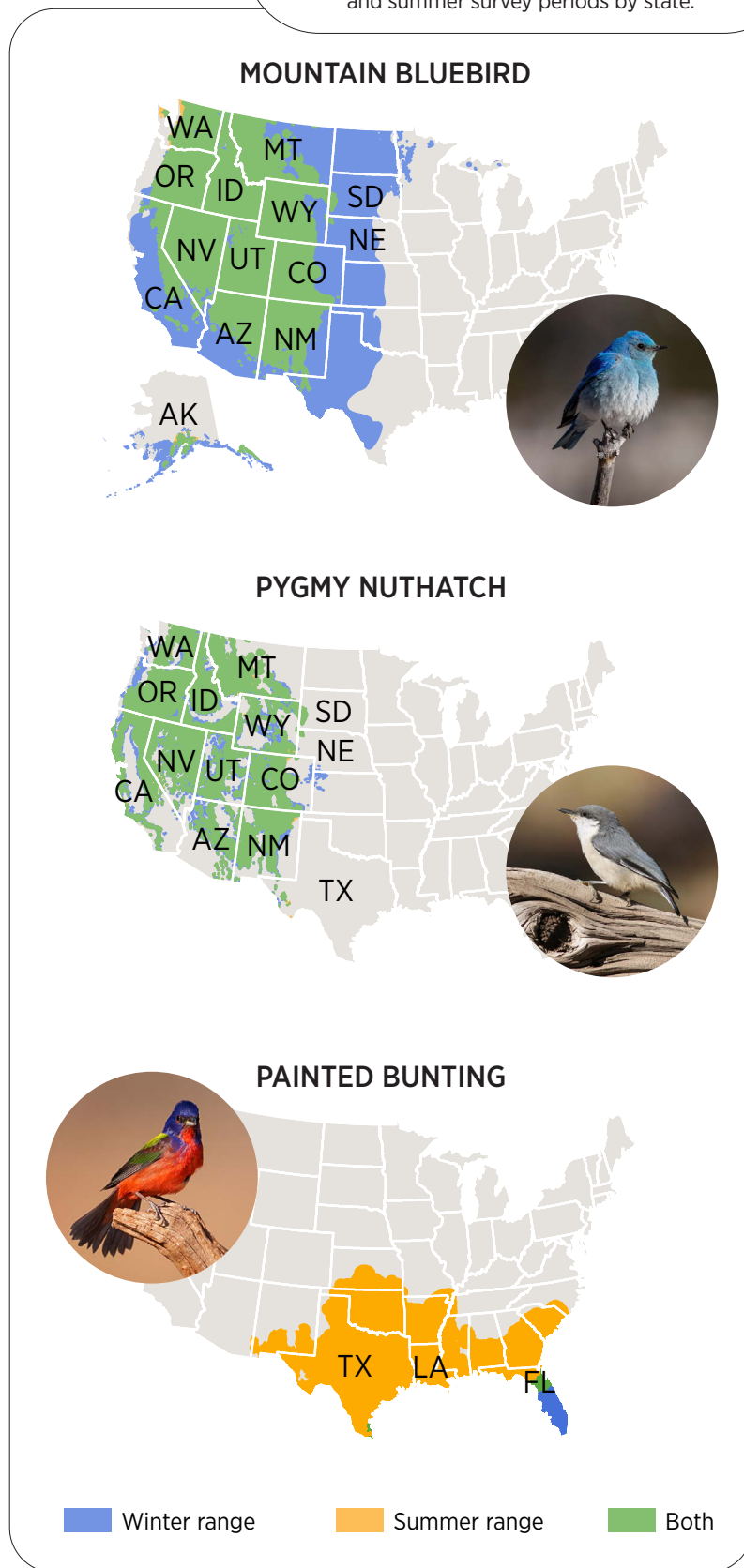
Climate Watch is uniquely positioned to contribute to Audubon's conservation outcomes, helping to document and address the impacts of climate change on birds throughout their annual cycles by:

- Providing critical data to track bird responses to climate change in real time
- Engaging thousands of volunteers across the lower 48 and Alaska in meaningful conservation-oriented action
- Validating climate models that inform habitat protection and policy decisions
- Building a powerful constituency for bird-friendly climate solutions

Filling Data Gaps

To identify coverage gaps, we analyzed the current geographic coverage of target species survey sites after 10 years. Identifying data gaps across the continental U.S. will allow us to plan for and strategically implement changes to the Climate Watch

Figure 5. Top three target species that need more surveys in their current and future ranges (combined) during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods by state.



INFOGRAPHIC: AMANDA LONG/AUDUBON. PHOTOS FROM TOP: VINCENT IADEVAIA; CLYDE DEXTER; BOB FELDMAN. ALL AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

program. We summarized the number of Climate Watch Squares each target species was surveyed for within Bird Conservation Regions ([Bird Studies Canada and NABCI, 2014](#)) and identified the intersecting states that need more sampling.

We found three target species to have critical observation gaps: the Mountain Bluebird, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Painted Bunting (Figure 5). See the Appendix for more information on all 12 target species that need more surveys by state for both winter and summer survey periods.

Join the Flock: How You Can Participate

Climate Watch's success is the result of its dedicated and passionate community of volunteers. Whether you're an experienced birder or just beginning your bird journey, there are multiple ways to get involved:

1. Become a Climate Watch Participant:

Conduct standardized 5-minute point counts during our winter (January 15-February 15) and/or breeding season (May 15-June 15) survey periods. Visit www.audubon.org/community-science/climate-watch to get started.

2. Serve as a Local Coordinator: Help organize volunteers in your area, provide training, and support data collection efforts. Coordinators are the backbone of the program!

3. Spread the Word: Share Climate Watch with your local Audubon chapter, nature center, or birding group to help us expand our volunteer network.

4. Use and Share Climate Watch Data:

Educators, researchers, and conservation planners can access Climate Watch data to inform their work and amplify impact. Getting started is simple. First, check if



Brooke Bateman
Climate Watch Volunteer and
Senior Director of Climate and
Community Science at Audubon

there's a local Coordinator in your area using the [online listing](#). Then select your target species and claim a survey square using the Climate Watch Tool. Step-by-step tutorials will guide you through the process of planning your survey sites and conducting your counts.

As we face this critical decade for birds and our planet, every observation matters. By joining Climate Watch, you become part of a community united in purpose—monitoring birds and watching out for them in a changing world. Together, we can ensure that future generations will continue to hear the chorus of songbirds that fills our world with joy and wonder.

Citations: Bird Studies Canada and NABCI. 2014. *Bird Conservation Regions*. Published by Bird Studies Canada on behalf of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/nabci-bird-conservation-regions> Accessed: Feb. 18, 2026.

Figure 1. Bluebird observations during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods since 2016: (A) total observations by state and (B) total observations over each year.

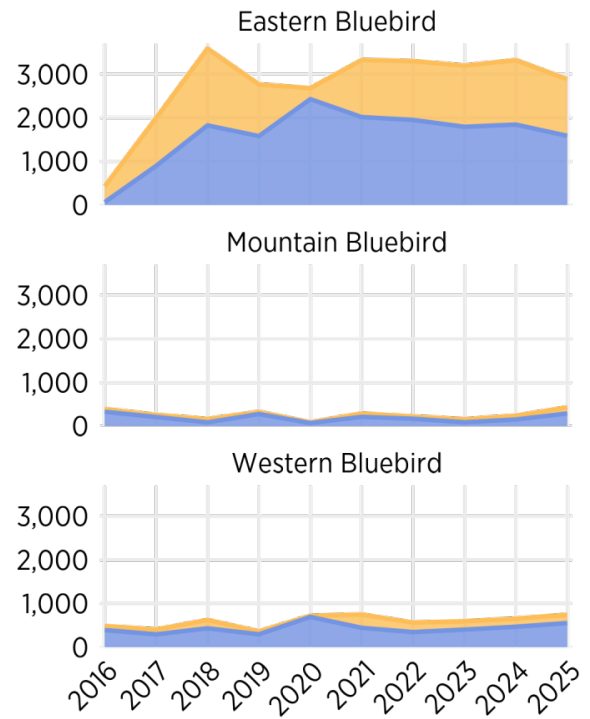
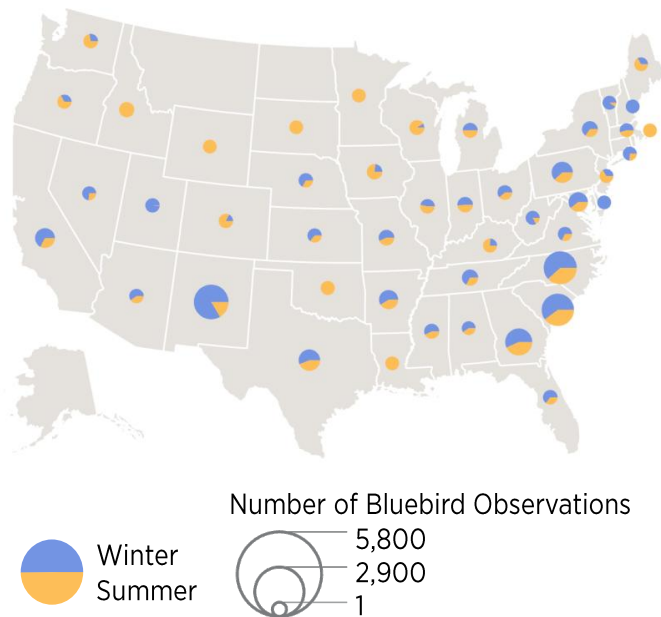


Figure 2. Nuthatch observations during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods since 2017: (A) total observations by state and (B) total observations over each year.

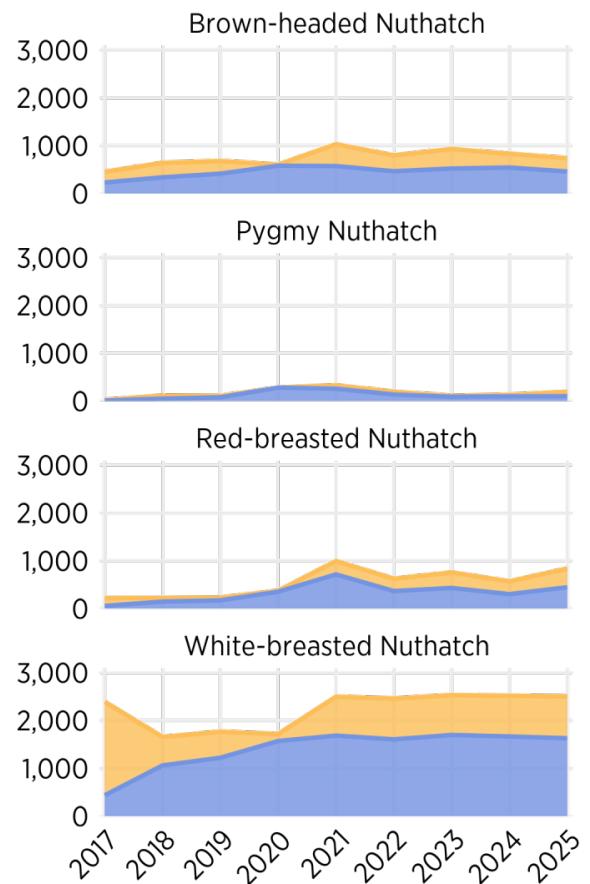
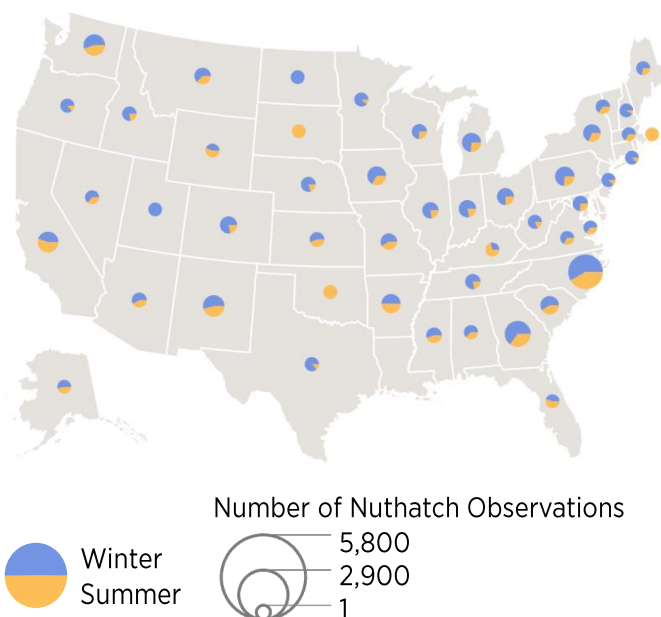


Figure 3. Goldfinch observations during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods since 2019: (A) total observations by state and (B) total observations over each year.

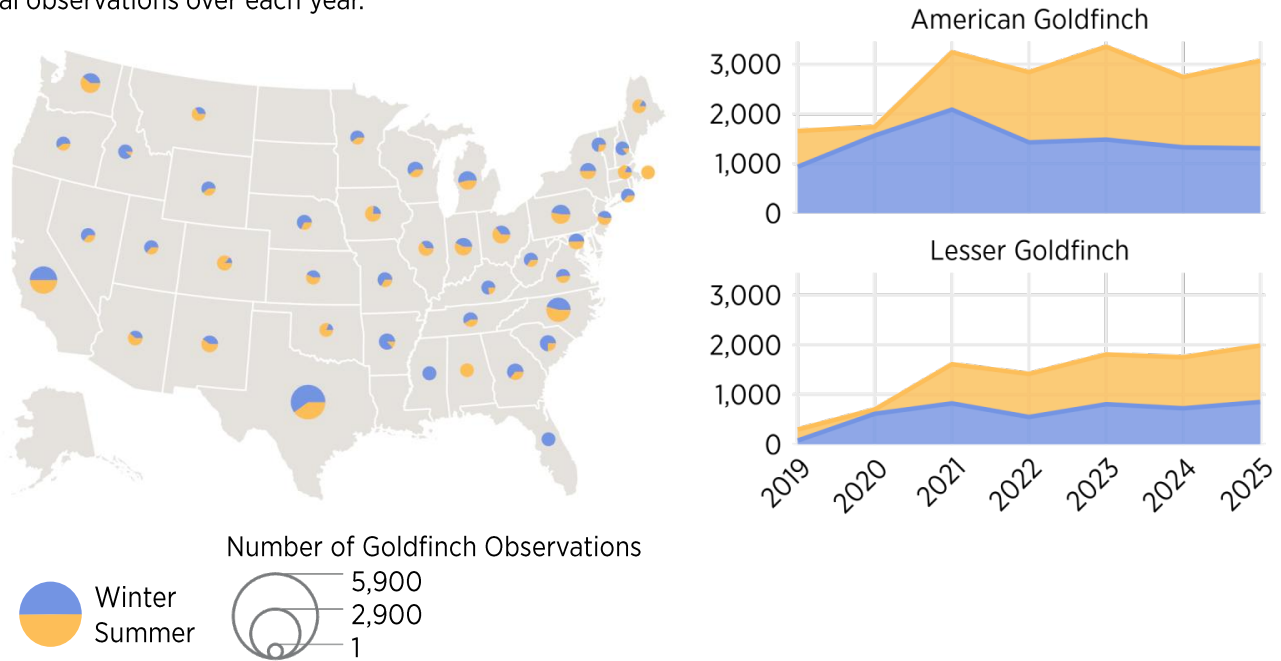


Figure 4. Towhee observations during Audubon's Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods since 2019: (A) total observations by state and (B) total observations over each year.

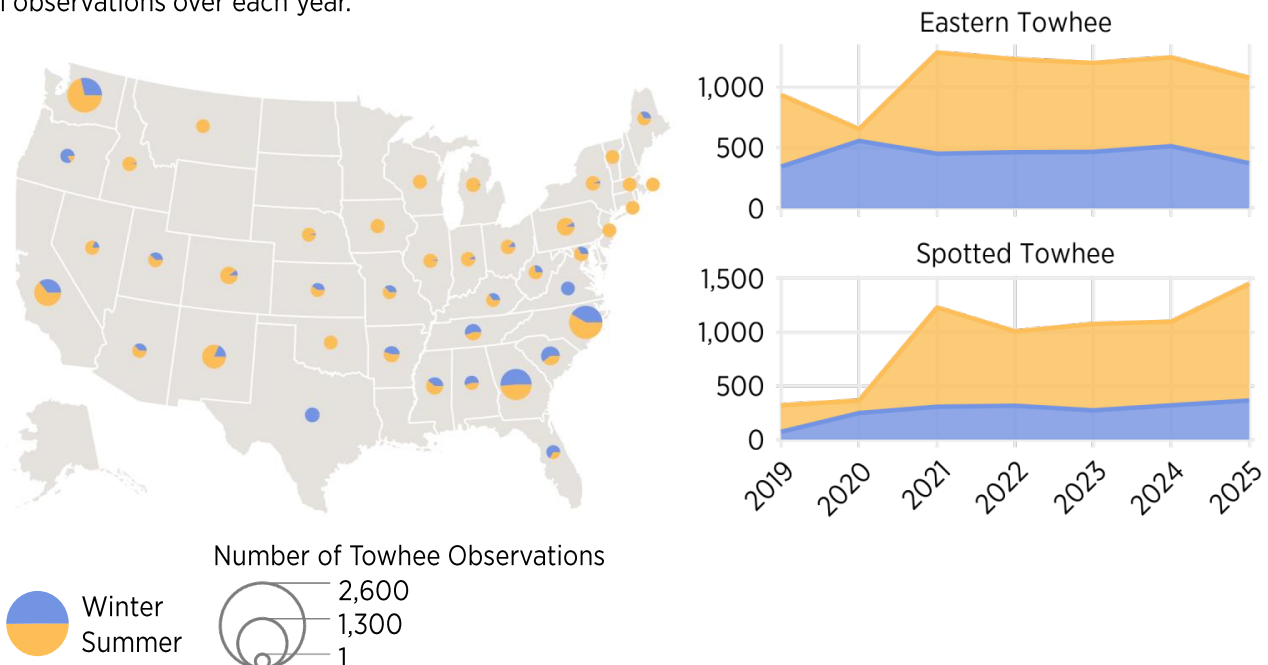
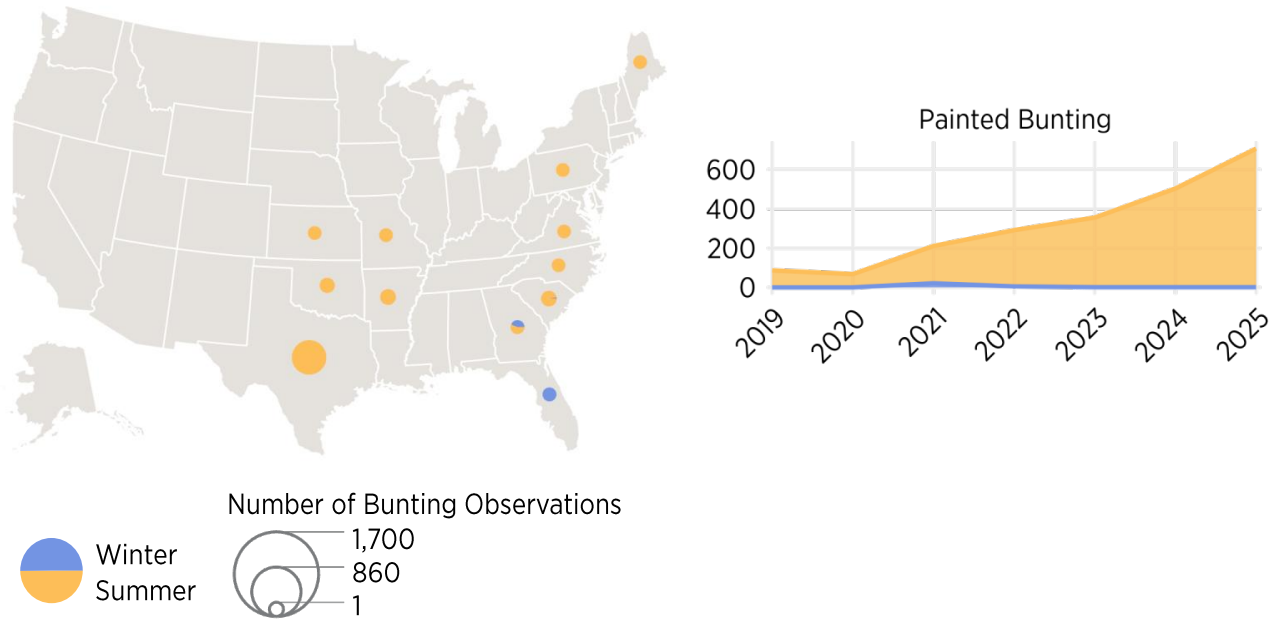
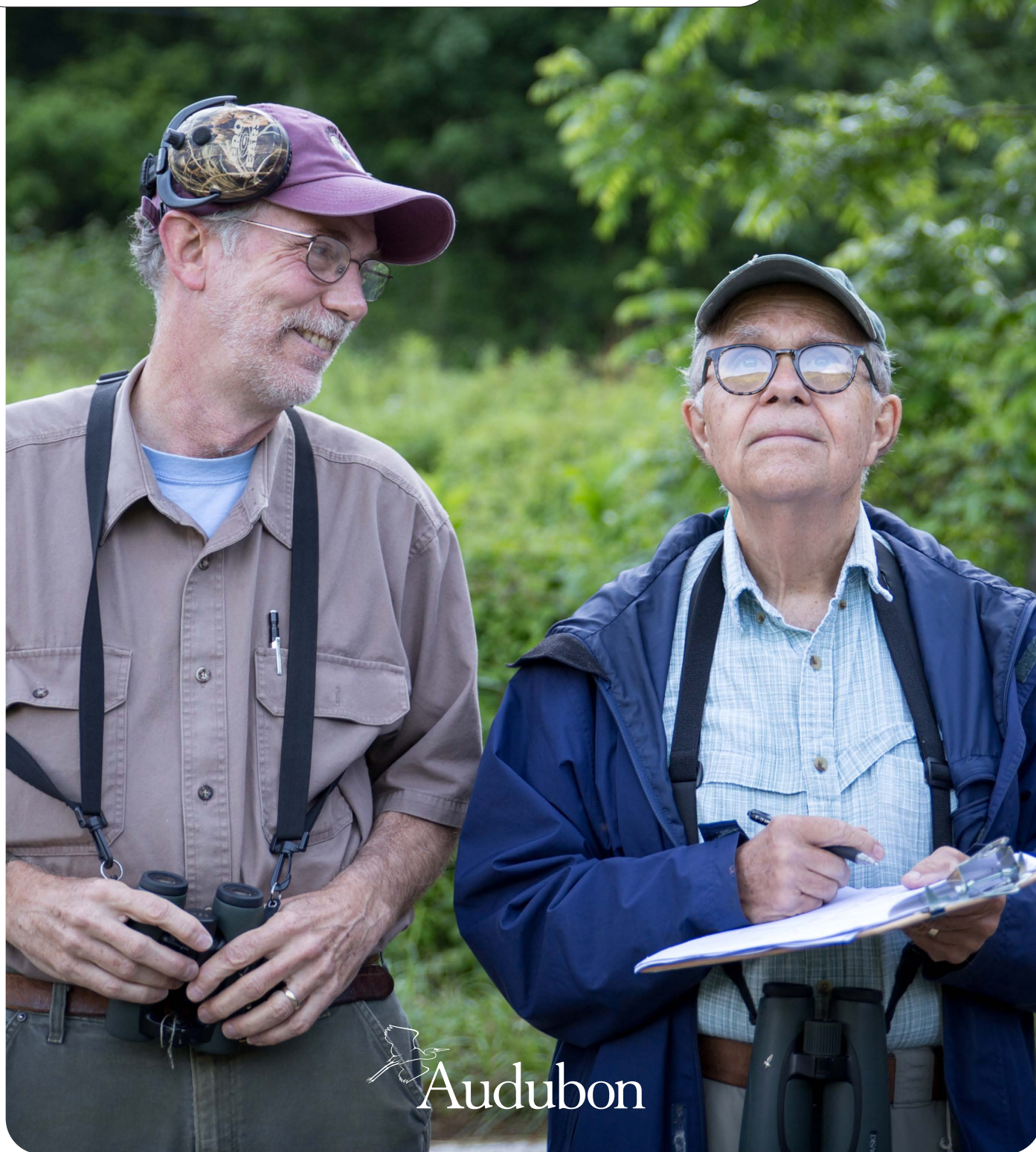


Figure 5. Bunting observations during Audubon’s Climate Watch winter and summer survey periods since 2019: (A) total observations by state and (B) total observations over each year.



This program would not be possible without the generous support of many organizations and dedicated volunteers who have led efforts to collect Climate Watch data. A full list of participating organizations can be found at [**audubon.org/climate-watch-results**](https://audubon.org/climate-watch-results).

Russ Oates, a Climate Watch Coordinator, and David Johnson, a volunteer, survey birds in North Carolina, 2017.
Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon



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