

## **Become a Citizen Scientist: Join the 2019 Climate Watch**

You're invited to get involved with the GRAC in helping Audubon to conduct meaningful research in our community via the Climate Watch program. Climate Watch is a new community science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. The program was launched in the wake of the birding public's overwhelming response to Audubon's 2014 report, "Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report," which highlighted the risks that climate change poses to birds across the continent.

The next Climate Watch is May 15-June 15. Participants are asked to give a two- to four-hour time commitment. You will be tasked with choosing twelve spots within a ten-kilometer by ten-kilometer grid in Kent County. Try to select spots where Eastern Bluebirds or White- or Red-breasted Nuthatches are likely to be seen or heard. Each spot you select should be at least 200 meters away from all other spots to avoid double-counting the same areas. Count those species and report your findings to eBird.

Why those birds? Audubon's promotional materials for the initiative said "bluebirds and nuthatches are easy to identify, have an enthusiastic constituency, and Audubon's climate models for these specific 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."

Email [climatewatch@audubon.org](mailto:climatewatch@audubon.org) to request additional information. Or, contact GRAC's Becky Kuhn to get involved: [bexrecky@gmail.com](mailto:bexrecky@gmail.com) or (616) 437-9205.