

OPAS Western Bluebird/Climate Watch

Climate Watch Winter Survey Summary

The colossal Sequim snow storm managed to wreck havoc with the Climate Watch Survey Period, January 15-February 15. Though many people were still shoveling out by the end of the survey period, at least 12 dedicated Climate Watch Volunteers were not dissuaded from collecting data in their survey areas.

A total of 56 species were identified, 1,499 individuals and 47 checklists submitted on ebird. Most abundant were the American Robin with 603 identified. Also in greater numbers were the Canada Goose - 350 and the Dark Eyed Junco - 165.

This year for the first time in our winter count, 14 Western Bluebirds were reported. We'll be watching in our Spring/Summer survey period to see how this might translate to nesting for this species this summer.

A sampling of other birds of interest -

The Red Breasted Nuthatch (the other climate watch target bird) - 11

Annas Hummingbirds - 16

Bald Eagles -20

Northern Flickers - 29

American/Northwest Crow - 83

Raven -34

Varied Thrush - 15

Song Sparrows - 58

Red Wing Blackbirds - 66

Red Crossbills- 5

Trumpeter Swan - 72

Other news - a fourth nest box was installed by Dan Stahler and Bob Phreaner at the DNR property where we have installed nest boxes in the past. Last year, for the first time the Western Bluebirds attempted nesting in two of the boxes, although unfortunately in one we found the female dead and 4 eggs unhatched. The first box, where they have successfully nested before, managed to produce two broods.

In mid March a male and female Western Bluebird pair were already checking out the nesting sites. Cindy Fullwiler got some good pictures a few days ago.

Finally a Western Bluebird/Climate Watch training class is scheduled at Wild Birds Unlimited in Gardiner on April 27th. Flyer is included. Information on the Climate Watch program, installing and maintaining a nest box and some of Cindy's great pictures of Western Bluebirds in this area will be part of the class. Hope to see you there.

This is also a reminder that the Climate Watch Spring/Summer Survey is coming up. May 15-June 15.

It's important to remember that Climate Change is one of the biggest threats to birds. In our area, according to the National Audubon Model a significant number of birds will lose their winter or summer habitat, including the Marbled Murrelet, Trumpeter Swan,

Horned Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Townsend Solitaire, and the Red Breasted Nuthatch, just to name a few.

Data collected in the Climate Watch program is specifically designed to test the Audubon model and our survey results do just that. Though for the past few years Nuthatch and Bluebird species have been identified as target species, all birds seen in the 5 minute survey period are counted and reported.

Joyce Volmut , Coordinator
joyce.volmut@gmail.com



Help us learn how climate change is
impacting birds

Join us to learn more
about Western Bluebirds on the Olympic
Peninsula, and the Climate Watch
Program

April 27, 2019
Wild Birds Unlimited
275953 Highway 101
Gardiner WA
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Bluebird/Climate Watch Program
for more information contact joyce.volmut@gmail.com