

KNOW YOUR CLIMATE WATCH TARGET SPECIES

Bluebirds

Eastern Bluebird



! Neutral Climate Vulnerability

Description

7" (17cm). Bright blue above, reddish brown on throat and chest, belly white. Female paler, duller than male. Juvenile is heavily spotted, has telltale traces of blue above.

Songs and Calls

Call a liquid and musical *turee* or *queedle*. Song a soft melodious warble.

Similar Species

Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Indigo Bunting

Habitat

Open country with scattered trees; farms, roadsides. Breeds in many kinds of semi open habitats, including cut over or burned areas, forest clearings, farm country, open pine woods; locally in suburbs where there are extensive lawns and good nest sites. Wanders to other habitats in winter.

Eastern Bluebird



Juvenile

Western Bluebird



!!! High Climate Vulnerability

Description

6-7" (15-18 cm). Male deep purplish blue on upperparts and throat, reddish brown on chest and sometimes center of back; belly gray. Blue throat and gray belly are distinctions from Eastern Bluebird. Female much duller and grayer than male, with solid gray throat. Juvenile is spotted.

Songs and Calls

Soft calls sound like *phew* and *chuck*. Song is a short, subdued *cheer, cheer-lee, churr*.

Similar Species

Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Eastern Bluebird

Habitat

Scattered trees, open conifer forests, farms; in winter, semi-open terrain, brush, deserts. Breeds in semi-open areas including pine woods, oak woods, stream-side groves, ranch country, sometimes in pinyon-juniper woods, but avoiding hot dry regions. Winters in many kinds of open or semi-open habitats.

Western Bluebird



Juvenile

Mountain Bluebird



!!! High Climate Vulnerability

Description

7" (18 cm). Sky-blue male is almost unmistakable; other all-blue birds, like Indigo Bunting, are much darker. Female gray-blue to gray with blue tinges; gray flanks contrast with white belly; longer wings and tail than other bluebirds.

Songs and Calls

Soft warbling notes.

Similar Species

Townsend's Solitaire, Northern Wheatear, Western Bluebird, Eastern Bluebird, Blue Grosbeak

Habitat

Open country with some trees; in winter, also treeless terrain. Often in more open areas than other bluebirds. Breeding habitats not always in mountains; found in lowland prairies and sagebrush flats as well as alpine zones above treeline. In winter, most common in pinyon-juniper woods but also in open grassland, desert, farmland, even barren plowed fields.

Mountain Bluebird



Juvenile

Nuthatches

White-breasted Nuthatch



!! Low Climate Vulnerability

Description

5-6" (13-15 cm). Chunky and short-tailed, with thin, upturned bill. Beady black eye is conspicuous against white face and chest, set off by narrow dark crown stripe (black on males, often gray on females). Can show much orange-brown on lower belly.

Songs and Calls

A nasal *yank-yank*. Song a series of low whistled notes all on one pitch.

Similar Species

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper

Habitat

Forests, woodlots, groves, shade trees. Typically in mature deciduous forest, also in mixed forest with some conifers; rarely found in pure coniferous forest. Often favors woodland edge, along rivers, roads, clearings; may be in suburbs or parks as long as large trees are present.

White-breasted Nuthatch



Juvenile

Pygmy Nuthatch



!!!! High Climate Vulnerability

Description

3 3/4-4 1/2" (10-11 cm). Gray-brown cap down to eye, pale below, gray back, white spot on nape.

Songs and Calls

A monotonous *peep, peep-peep*.

Similar Species

Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper. In southeast, replaced by Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Habitat

Yellow pines, other pines, Douglas fir. Yellow pine (the commercial name for ponderosa and Jeffrey pines) is main habitat element throughout mountains of west; also occurs in Monterey pine on California coast. In some places extends into pinyon-juniper woodland and redwood canyons. On rare visits to lowlands, likely to be in planted conifers.

"Peep, peep, peep"

"Peep, peep, peep"



Juvenile

Red-breasted Nuthatch



!!! Moderate Climate Vulnerability

Description

4 1/2 - 4 3/4" (11-12 cm). Typical head-down nuthatch behavior, black eye stripe, white eyebrow. Buffy orange below, blue-gray back. Females paler on top.

Songs and Calls

A tinny *yank-yank*, higher pitched and more nasal than the White-breasted Nuthatch

Similar Species

White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper

Habitat

Conifer forests; in winter, also other trees. Nesting habitat almost always has many conifers, such as spruce, fir, hemlock, either in pure stands or mixed with deciduous trees. Mature forest preferred, perhaps because old decaying wood needed for nest sites. In migration and winter may appear in any wooded habitat, but conifers always chosen if available.

Red-breasted Nuthatch



Juvenile



High Climate Vulnerability

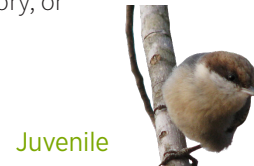
Description
4 1/4" (11 cm). Brown cap down to eye, pale below, gray back, white nape spot. Almost identical to Pygmy Nuthatch, best identified by range.

Songs and Calls
A series of high-pitched piping notes, unlike the calls of other eastern nuthatches.

Similar Species
In range: Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper. Pygmy Nuthatch in the West.

Habitat
Open pine woods. Pine species (such as loblolly, longleaf, slash, and pond pines) virtually always present in habitat; also other conifers including bald cypress and Atlantic white cedar. Often in pine woods mixed with deciduous trees such as sweetgum, oak, hickory, or sycamore.

This bird will sometimes use pieces of bark as a tool to pry up other bark to find a tasty snack. A rare behavior for an animal!



Sparrows



High Climate Vulnerability

Description
7-8 1/2" (17-22 cm). Dark hood and rusty sides set off by white stripe down center of belly. Upperparts mostly black (male) or chocolate-brown (female). Tail has big white corners. Compare to American Robin. Eyes usually red; white-eyed form occurs in Florida.

Songs and Calls
The song varies, often with a few introductory notes and usually ending with a long trill, such as *drink-your-tee-aaa* or *to-wheeeee*. Call is an inquisitive *meewww?*

Similar Species
American Robin, Spotted Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole.

Habitat
Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges. Habitat varies with region, but always in brushy areas. In the North-east, typically in understory of open woods.



"cheweeeeeee"

"meewww?"



Moderate Climate Vulnerability

Description
8 1/4" (21 cm). Rusty and white below, dark on hood and back, with bold white spots on back, wings, and tail corners. Some populations have less spotting above; compare to Eastern Towhee. Upperparts and hood are black on males and may be black or gray on females.

Songs and Calls
The song varies, long, buzzy *cheweeee*. Call is an inquisitive *meewww?*

Similar Species
American Robin, Eastern Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole.

Habitat
Open woods, undergrowth, brushy edges. In the varied terrain of the West, this towhee often lives in chaparral, mountain manzanita thickets, scrub oaks, or pinyon-juniper woods with dense understory.



Goldfinches & Other Birds

American Goldfinch



**Moderate
Climate Vulnerability**

Description

4 1/2-5" (11-13 cm). Summer male bright yellow with black wings, tail, and forehead. Summer female duller yellow-green. Winter birds vary from yellowish brown to gray; note bold wing-bars (white or buff) on black wings, white tail spots.

Songs and Calls

Bright *per-chick-o-ree*, also rendered as *potato-chips*, delivered in flight and coinciding with each undulation.

Similar Species

Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak

Habitat

Patches of thistles and weeds, roadsides, open woods, edges. Found at all seasons in semi-open areas having open weedy ground and some trees and bushes for shelter, especially areas of second growth, streamsides, roadsides, woodland edges, orchards, suburban areas. In winter also in some very open fields farther from trees.

American Goldfinch



Juvenile

Lesser Goldfinch



**Neutral
Climate Vulnerability**

Description

3 1/2-4" (9-10 cm). Very small, with white patches in wings and tail. From Colorado to Texas, most males have black backs; farther west, most have green backs. Female is plainer; smaller than American Goldfinch, with undertail coverts yellow, not white.

Songs and Calls

Song a rapid medley of twittering notes. Calls include a plaintive *tee-ye?* or *cheeo?*

Similar Species

Lawrence's Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak

Habitat

Open brushy country, open woods, wooded streams, gardens. Generally in semi-open areas, where there are thickets and trees close to open weedy fields, from low valleys to high in mountains. In dry country, usually found close to water. In the tropics, found in semi-open terrain, woodland edges.

Lesser Goldfinch



Juvenile

Painted Bunting



**Neutral
Climate Vulnerability**

Description

5 1/2" (14 cm). Adult male unmistakable with blue head, red throat and chest, bright green back. Female plain green, with no markings. Other small greenish birds have thinner bills, or show marks such as wing-bars. Juveniles are much grayer than adult females at first.

Songs and Calls

Loud, clear, and variable song consisting of a series of high-pitched musical notes. Call is a sharp, metallic *tsick*.

Similar Species

Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak

Habitat

Woodland edges, roadsides, brush, towns, gardens. Favors semi-open areas with dense low growth at all seasons. Breeds around thickets, hedgerows, woodland clearings and edges, and undergrowth of open woods. Winters in similar habitats in Florida, plus areas of scrub and second growth in the tropics.

Painted Bunting



Juvenile

You can join us in the fight against climate change by observing birds in your area, using our specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate. The following guide will help you to successfully identify and survey twelve of Audubon's climate watch target species.

For more information and to sign up visit audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch

Photos:

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