

What is climate change?

When we burn fossil fuels such as coal to make electricity, we add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide and other gases remain in the atmosphere and are slowly increasing the world's temperatures. Cutting down forests adds to the problem because trees absorb carbon dioxide.

How does climate change affect where birds live?

Birds and other wild animals live where they can find food to eat and materials to build a home. Climate change can affect these resources in different ways. For example, in the future a bird may not be able to find food in the same places where it can build a home.

This Mountain Bluebird has caught a caterpillar.

How does climate change affect birds' food?

Climate change affects plants, fish, insects, and other things that birds eat. Some birds migrate to raise their chicks in places where there's plenty of food. Climate change can mean the food the chicks need is not available at the right time.

Birds and Climate Change

Earth's climate is changing, and this could affect more than 300 species of birds. For example, by the year 2080, the Mountain Bluebird, Burrowing Owl, and Golden Eagle may lose more than half of the areas where they can live. Working together, we can fight climate change and help protect birds.

How You Can Help

You can help protect birds and also fight climate change at home and at school. Here are some ideas:

- Talk about the causes of climate change and how it affects birds and other wildlife.
- With your teacher or parent, go to climate.audubon.org to find a list of birds in your area that are at risk from climate change.
- Make a bird-friendly garden to provide birds with food and places to rest and nest.
- Save energy by carpooling or taking the bus and by turning off lights when you're not using them.
- Go on a bird field trip.
- Learn how to identify birds. Keep a list of all the different kinds you see.



Kids from summer camp get outside at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Cedar Hill, Texas.