

Global Warming Affects Boreal Birds!

I sure hope the food I stored last fall is still around this spring, or my kids will go hungry...



Gray Jays

Gray Jays – also known as Canada Jays, Whiskey Jacks, and Camp Robbers – are commonly seen at campgrounds.

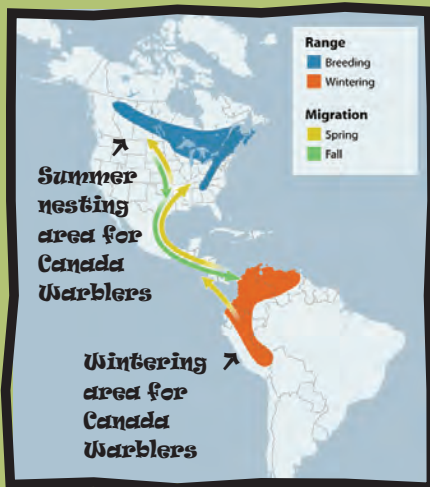
Unlike many animals that eat food as they find it, Gray Jays collect food (mostly berries and insects) and save it for later – just like people. And just like we put our food in the freezer to keep it cold, Gray Jays stash their food in spruce trees in the chilly Boreal Forest.

Is global warming causing Gray Jays' food to rot?

Almost 90% of Gray Jays spend the winter in the Boreal Forest, which traditionally stays as cold as your freezer for months at a time.

But now the globe is warming, and the Boreal Forest isn't as cold as it used to be. Scientists think that when Gray Jays try to collect food they have stored, some find that their natural freezer has failed and their food is rotten.

Canada Warblers



Canada Warblers fly thousands of miles north each spring from South America to spend the summer in the north.

About 60% of Canada Warblers spend the summer in the Boreal Forest. Unfortunately, due to global warming, the forest warms up earlier every year. Because of this, bugs can appear earlier than usual.

Canada Warblers eat bugs. But because they plan their trip by the sun, not by changes in temperature, Canada Warblers arrive in the forest at the same time every year.

Now, when Canada Warblers arrive in the forest and lay their eggs, there might be fewer bugs available to feed their babies.

I hope there will be enough bugs up north when I get there! There's no way to know while I'm so far away in South America...



Are there fewer bugs for Canada Warbler chicks because of global warming?

White-winged Scoters

The Boreal Forest is unique because it contains so much water – in lakes, ponds, rivers, and other wetlands. White-winged Scoters use these wetlands to raise their young.

White-winged Scoters are losing wetlands.

The ponds and lakes where I nest are drying up! I hope there's enough room for me and my family this year...



Almost 90% of White-winged Scoters nest in the Boreal Forest, near ponds, lakes, and other wetlands.

Some of these wetlands are drying up because of global warming. This makes it harder for White-winged Scoters to find good places to raise their young.

Global Warming & the Boreal Forest

What is the Boreal Forest?

Can you imagine a forest that stretches across an entire continent? The Boreal Forest of North America does!

It covers more than 1.5 billion acres, and is loaded with spruce, pine, fir and aspen, among lakes, rivers, bogs, grasslands and tundra. It is home to some of the largest remaining populations of caribou, wolves, and bears – as well as billions of birds.

But the Boreal Forest is getting smaller all the time, and birds and wildlife are losing important habitat.



The Boreal Forest is Heating Up!

Unfortunately, some activities currently taking place in the Boreal Forest release large amounts of carbon. This additional carbon in the atmosphere increases the harmful effects of global warming.

One of the ways that carbon is released in the Boreal Forest is through logging. When trees are cut down and soil is disturbed, lots of carbon goes into the atmosphere.

Another harmful activity in the Boreal Forest is Tar Sands oil processing. Great big machines tear up the forest and dig through tons of soil to find tar. Making oil out of the Tar Sands gives off hundreds of megatons of carbon.

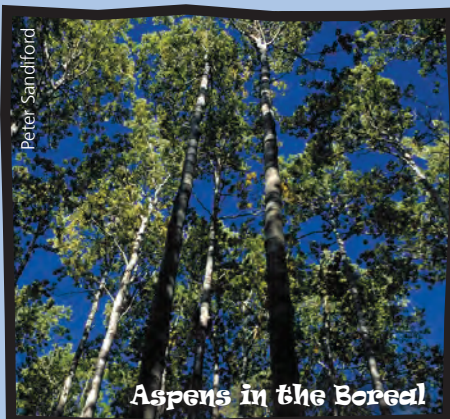


Fighting Global Warming

The Boreal Forest stores a huge amount of carbon in its trees and soil, providing our planet an important defense against global warming. In fact, the Boreal Forest stores more carbon than any other area on land.

If the Canadian government protects the Boreal Forest, it should continue to hold vast amounts of carbon. If not, much carbon will be released.

You can take action to protect the Boreal Forest. Visit our Take Action page at www.borealbirds.org/action.shtml



BOREAL SONGBIRD INITIATIVE



www.borealbirds.org