

Does time of morning affect the bushtit population?

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Procedure

Outside behind our school in the woods lies our bird blind where my classmates and I watch and count birds at least once a week. We enter our data into the Feeder-Watch link. Before we go out we record information from our weather gadget that tells us the temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, and wind speed. We also record the time of day we start and end.

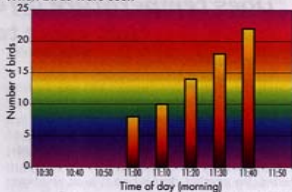
Hypothesis

Does the time of morning affect the bushtit population? I predicted that if the time of morning is later than 10:30 A.M., then there will be fewer bushtits out.

Results

Before 10:30 A.M. we saw no bushtits but from 11:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M. we saw as many as 22. On more days than one, we saw them between 11:00 A.M. and 11:50 A.M.

When birds were seen



Analysis

With the data provided it seems that I have proved that time of morning affects the bushtit population. But there are many other variables that you cannot keep constant with Mother Nature. For instance, temperature in the mornings is almost always colder than later in the day and the bushtits won't come out until it's just a little bit warmer. Or, one day it might have rained, or there was heavy wind chill that day. All these factors affect the bushtit count.

Conclusion

Since the number of bushtits I saw was only between the time frame of 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M., and not before, I think I have proven my hypothesis. □