

The Effect of Temperature on Bushtits

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Introduction and Hypothesis

I wondered if the amount of Bushtits seen at the bird blind was related to the temperature. My hypothesis was: If the amount of Bushtits is related to temperature, then there will be more Bushtits seen on colder days than on warmer days. I thought that temperature might affect the number of birds that come to the bird blind **need more energy** from the bird seed to keep them warm on colder days.

Procedure

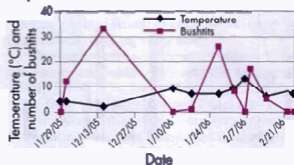
I recorded the temperature in °C. Then I would walk down to the bird blind we have at our school at Downy Creek with my class to observe the birds. When we saw a bird, we would write down how many of the species we saw at one time. We would watch the birds anywhere from 5 to 25 minutes.

Independent variable in my study is temperature. Bushtits are the dependent variable.

Materials

- A bird tally sheet to record the number of Bushtits seen.
- Bird seed and bird feeders to attract the birds so they could be more easily observed.
- A weather station that can record the temperature in degrees Celsius.
- A computer to insert the data into to make the graphs.
- Pencil to record the data with.

Figure 1. Comparing number of bushtits to temperature



Results and Analysis

The highest number of Bushtits seen at one time was 33 and the temperature at that time was 2°C. The least number of Bushtits seen at one time was 0 and this happened on multiple days. On these days, the temperatures ranged from 4°C to 13°C. There was no obvious pattern in my data but when the temperature was above 7°C, there were usually less than 10 Bushtits seen.

Conclusion

My hypothesis was that there will be more Bushtits seen on days when the temperature is colder than when the temperature is warmer. This hypothesis was not supported. There was no pattern in the data that supported my hypothesis.

Bibliography

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