

Barb Dean 321 E. Meyer Ave.  
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OREGON JUNCOS  
LAWRENCE COUNTY

On October 6, 1985 I was birding at Cascade Park with my husband, George. We spotted three female juncos feeding on the dirt road. I felt they were "Oregon" juncos because they had very brown backs that contrasted with their grey heads and the sides and flanks of the birds were a pinkish orange. The birds also had white belly and light bill and dark eyes. Their legs were light colored and I could see the white on either side of the tails of all three as they fed in a loose flock just picking at the ground. George and I were in our car and parked about 45 feet away. I watched the birds for a minute or two and felt they were "different" since they had brown backs that contrasted with the head color. I was using a ~~7x~~ Pentax binocular at the time, and had only been birding for four years. I did not know any other birders at that time. It was sunny and mild that evening and the sun was low in the sky. There was an adult male "Oregon" junco perched about four feet off the ground and it was facing us. This bird was approximately 40 feet away from us. This is the bird I remember so well. It was so beautiful! This junco had a charcoal colored head and hood. The hood ended in a neat and deep curve upwards at the edge of the breast and was a high contrast with the clean, pure white belly. But it was the sides and flanks of this bird that stood out and held my eyes. It's sides and flanks looked to be about the color of pink on the breast of a male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK. I know that can not be but I am telling you what I saw, not what I know. Maybe it was because the sun was so low in the sky. The bill was light and so were the legs and while George and I were looking at each other and talking about this bird it must have flown because it was gone when we went to look at it. Total viewing time with the male was about two or three minutes and I was using my Pentax 8x binoculars.

A year or so later, I went to a workshop for birders and asked the expert birder about my "find". He said I would have had to see the back color to clinch the ID. At the time I felt I had seen "Oregon Juncos", Cascade Park consisted of a dirt road, deciduous woods and low brush on one side which was mixed with pines. The other side of the road was open field with tree saplings dotted all over and huge brush piles which the city had placed here and there and behind the field perhaps 100 feet back from the road there was a five or six foot wide run full of water and behind that was a mature pine forest.

I hope you will consider this record even though I did not see the adult male's back. I am wondering if any of the members of the PORC has seen Oregon Junco when the sun is low in the sky and seen the rich pink color.

At this time I was naive and thought I would find Oregon Junco again in a year or two. I began to look for Oregon junco every spring and fall.

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco ( )**

Date of Sighting: **6 October 1985 to 6 October 1985**

Location: **CASCADE PARK**

County: **LAWRENCE**

Observer(s): **Barb Dean**

Date of Submission: **1985**

Submitted by: **Barb Dean**

Written Description: **YES**      Photo: **NO**      Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas				X				
N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams				X				
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein						X		
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>		
<b>DECISION</b>				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*L. C. Haas*

Date:

*2-22-97*