





P.O.R.C.

Barb Dean
321 E. Meyer Ave.
New Castle Pa. 16105

840A-01-1996

OREGON JUNCO
April 14, 1996
Lawrence County

LOCATION Mason Road at the Plain Grove Area of Lawrence County

TIME From 11:20 AM until 12:05 PM

WEATHER CONDITIONS It was 30° to 40°, cold, and the sky was overcast.

EQUIPMENT Zeiss 10x Binoculars

DISTANCE No more than 20 feet.

HISTORY This would be a first record for Lawrence County although I feel I saw Oregon Juncos on October 6, 1985 while birding at Cascade Park in New Castle which is in Lawrence County. (Report enclosed)

HABITAT Most of Mason Road is dirt but the immediate area where I had Oregon Junco was tar and chip. The birds were under several apple trees down on the grass lawn on the East side of the road which is at the edge of State Game Land 151. The Gameland is mostly deciduous woods with a lot of underbrush and scattered pines. Behind the woods were huge areas of brush piles. Behind the brush piles was a mature pine forest. The west side of the road was a cornfield. To the right of the apple trees was a house.

George and I were traveling south on Mason Road and I had just recorded about 400 mixed blackbirds out in the cornfield. There were 20+ Rusty blackbirds, and the rest of the birds were starlings, cowbirds grackles etc. There were many of our usual slate-colored, dark eyed juncos on the "woods" side of the road. As we approached the lawn and apple trees we noticed at least sixty juncos under the trees feeding and I began to scan them for a possible Oregon. I saw two but as soon as George shut the engine of the car off, at least half the flock flew back into the woods. One of the birds that flew off was one of the two Oregon juncos and the Oregon looked lighter and stood out from the Dark-eyed Juncos. I looked at the bird that was left. I was viewing it from the back and side. The head was a soft light to medium grey which contrasted very strongly and abruptly to the medium warm ^{BROWN} color of the back. The bill was a warm white, the eyes were dark and the upper part of the legs were light, (the rest of the legs and feet were in the grass and I could'nt see them. The right side and flank were--- let me put it this way---rust is too harsh a color description, buff would be too pale of a description. The sides and flanks were an uneven mix of pale orange to buff to light up to medium rust. The heaviest color was on the side and in line with the greater wing coverts. The width of the side coloring was an inch or more *under* At this time, George noticed a woman come out of the house and I decided I should try to get a quick picture. I thought I'd better use the old Pentax camera with the 70 to 250mm lense. As the landowner approached, the birds started to scatter and fly towards the woods and I got off two pictures at around 70 or 80 mm. The woman was concerned about all the tires piled near the road and wanted to know what I was taking pictures of. I told her about the Junco and we began talking about the birds. Of course all the Juncos were gone by this time.

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There were only a few more things that I can remember that were not in my notes. I did not spend time looking at the wings but do remember that there were no wing bars. I can not remember the color of the rump for certain but believe it was grey. The belly was white and met the breast which was light to medium grey with the same nice upward curve of the bird I had seen at Cascade Park on October 6, 1985. The outer tail feathers were white. I do not recall seeing black lores and also no unusual sounds.

I passed the word along to other birders and alerted the landowner so she would'nt worry but the birds were not seen again.

The photos are not diagnostic but I wanted to send them anyway. They do not have to be returned.

Barb Dean



Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco ()

Date of Sighting: 14 April 1996 to 14 April 1996

Location: PLAIN GROVE

County: LAWRENCE

Observer(s): Barb Dean

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Barb Dean

Written Description: YES

Photo: YES

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	
TOTALS						6		1
DECISION						X		

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. Haas

Date:

8-16-97