

PINK-SIDED OREGON FORM

840-02-1992

First observed on Cemetery Road, Slippery Rock Township, Butler County, on December 16, 1992, a male pink-sided Oregon form of the Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis) remained in the vicinity until December 19. Its clear-gray hood, flesh-colored bill (upper and lower manibles), black lores, rich pink-cinnamon sides and flanks that nearly met across the breast, cinnamon-brown mantle, buffy gray rump and upper tail coverts, and red-brown feet and legs were characteristic identification marks differentiating this form from the typical Oregon and Slate-colored forms of the Dark-eyed Junco.

The bird was observed at 25 feet with 9 x 35 Bausch & Lomb binocular under a bright but cloudy sky for 15 minutes on December 19 by George Wilson, Joanne Wilhelm, and Gene Wilhelm. The bird was in company with a dozen Slate-colored forms of the Dark-eyed Junco and was consistently chased and shunned by them. However, such a mixed flock of juncos did allow the three observers a detailed comparison and contrast of identification marks of the two forms side by side.

It is suspected that the pink-sided Oregon form was caught in the strong snowstorm that originated in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico and Colorado on December 5-6 and moved rapidly northeast into western Pennsylvania on December 10-11 dumping 16-18 inches of snow in Butler County. Pink-sided Oregon juncos winter commonly on the lower mountains and foothills of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona and the form is considered the most common Dark-eyed Junco in winter at Boulder, Colorado.

The compiler is familiar with this form in its breeding range in Montana and Wyoming, especially in Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks. Although I have observed the more typical Oregon form of the Dark-eyed Junco in western Pennsylvania on a few winter occasions since 1972, this is the first record of the pink-sided Oregon form in Butler County.

It is strongly suggested that Pennsylvania birders remain alert to winter storms originating in the Rocky Mountains since a similar storm pattern in January 1978 produced 24 inches of snow in one week and a pair of typical Oregon forms of the Dark-eyed Junco in Slippery Rock Township. The male and female remained at a feeding station for over a week.

Gene Wilhelm, Ph. D.

8406  
Record No.: 840-02-1992

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2**

Species: **Dark-eyed Junco**

Date of Sighting: **16 December 1992**

Observer(s): **Gene Wilhelm**

Date of Submission: **1992** *Butler*

Submitted by: **Gene Wilhelm**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
<b>TOTALS</b>			6	1			
<b>DECISION</b>			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*J. Haas*

Date:

*11/14/93*

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

Species: **Dark-eyed Junco**

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Observer(s): **Gene Wilhelm**

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Submitted by: **Gene Wilhelm**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams				X			
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>DECISION</b>							

Comments:

*Go to second Round.*

Signature (Secretary):

Date: