

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Junco hyemalis oregonus; Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1st winter female
3. Parish:
Claiborne
4. Specific Locality:
183 Dance Road; Athens
5. Date(s) when observed: 17 January, 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:30am
7. Reporting observer: John Dillon
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
N/A
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
N/A
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sunny; looking at home office window at feeder area about 15-20 feet away.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL 12x50, new; Nikon P900 refurbished, very good condition.
12. Distance to bird(s): 15-20 ft.
13. Duration of observation: According to photo times, 2 minutes.
14. Habitat: Backyard feeders; birding yard.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): 3rd day of polar ice storm; had put out lots of white millet and black oil sunflower daily before storm started. Bird was foraging for seed on the ground.

16. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

The bright flanks made this bird stand out among the 25 or so other juncos present. Back and flanks almost same bright color with back being only slightly darker than flanks. Bright flanks clearly meet hood, eliminating Slate-colored. Hood solid gray with bib below; edge of hood and back clearly defined. Flank color at least 95% uniform with only slightest bit of gray near the middle of the flanks on the bird's left side; well within color range of 1st winter female Oregon.

17. Voice: N/A

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Slate-colored eliminated because the bright flanks fully meet the edge of the hood; Slate-colored should be gray there, even in browner individuals with brown in flanks. Cassiar eliminated due to uniform bright rusty color of flanks; Cassiar birds have obvious gray flanks that also contrast with browner back color.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Yes, photos by me.

20. Previous experience with this species: Have had three or four female Oregons in the state.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

Junco Complex FB group; Birding magazine article by Rick Wright (January 2024 issue); Sibley.

22. Identification aids used when?

After observation

23. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes. Here is comment from Junco Complex:

Dave Irons: "During the recent cold snap here in the PNW, the number of Dark-eyed Juncos in our yard has doubled to about 40 individuals coming in daily. We have been spending more time than usual at home over the last week and more time scrutinizing the variation in the mostly Oregon Juncos that we see in the yard. A fair percentage of the birds, particularly young females like this one, show a bit of gray in the flanks and

their flanks are not as clean and peachy as what many of us consider to be typical Oregon Juncos. This has given me reason to question my earlier belief that any bird that looks mostly like an Oregon but shows some gray on the flanks must be an intergrade. One does not have to look hard to find first-winter female Oregon Juncos that look like this one, and given their prevalence it is probably a reach to suggest that they are all Cassiars. Here at home, I would have no issue with calling this an Oregon Junco." One other person leaned "tentative Cassiar" because of "faint gray wash in flanks" but also said hood looked fine for Oregon and that 1st winter females are tough. I feel if the bird was clearly an intergrade, there should be other issues present than just the faintest gray in one small portion of the otherwise brightly colored flanks.

24. Date report completed:

20 January, 2024

25. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

Yes

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes



