

## Dark-eyed Junco (DEJU) Subspecies on the Moscow-Pullman CBC

The Moscow-Pullman CBC has continuous data from 1971. Through 2019 (49 years of data), a total of 24926 juncos have been reported. The "Oregon" subspecies has been recorded every year with 20706 individuals; that's 83% of all juncos. The "Slate-colored" subspecies has been recorded on 44 counts with 542 individuals; that's 2% of all juncos. In December 2014 eBird requested birders to start looking more closely for the "Cassiar" subspecies (aka cismontanus). We recorded one, our first, in 2015. No doubt some of the reported "Slate-colored" DEJU from the past may have been "Cassiar" as they are quite similar. Since 2015, we have counted 6208 DEJU. Of those 2800 (45%) were not identified to subspecies, 3281 (53%) were identified as "Oregon", 116 (2%) as "Slate-colored", and 11 (0.2%) as "Cassiar". While reporting DEJU at the species level is fine, I'm encouraging everyone to continue to report DEJU to the subspecies level (Oregon, Slate-colored, Cassiar) when possible, and look closely at any "Slate-colored" as possible "Cassiar." *Photos of "Cassiar" would be awesome!* Send them to [kas.birder@gmail.com](mailto:kas.birder@gmail.com).



Christopher L. Wood

### "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco

- Gray or black hood and bib.
- Bib shape convex downward.
- Brownish back and sides.



Keith Evans



Gary Mueller

### "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco

- Uniform grayish upperparts.
- Females with a hint of brown on back.
- Bib shape convex upward.
- NO contrast between head/bib and back.



Darin Ziegler



David Irons

### "Cassiar" Dark-eyed Junco

- Similar to "Slate-colored" in overall drab coloration but bib more irregular; hood shape similar to Oregon.
- Note subtle (right bird) to strong (left bird) contrast between head/bib and back.
- May have brownish tinge to back but mostly an overall grayish-backed bird.



Laurens Halsey