

WHERE JUNCO ROOSTS.

Answers to the question: "Where does Junco Roost?" have been received from sufficiently scattered localities to furnish a fairly reliable record of its northern and southern winter range, and its roosting habits, for the past winter.

It appears to have been absent north of 42° during the greater part of the winter, and is reported as wintering north of 41° from only scattering localities and in especially favorable places. It was not common much above 40°, except in isolated places. Last winter it ranged further north in the extreme east and in the states bordering the Mississippi River than in Ohio and adjoining regions. Mr. Widmann found it wintering in Louisiana about New Orleans. His is the only report from the far south.

Junco's roosting habits are so interesting that contributors should be allowed to speak for themselves.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Within fifty feet of the side of our house there is a small patch of evergreen trees, mostly cedars and hemlocks, and in these trees the Juncos roost in large numbers every night through the winter.
—RUSSELL GRAY.

Berwyn, Pa.—I have always found the Junco—one of our most common winter visitors—in the sheltered and briery nooks of old and neglected fence rows—here commonly called the worm or Virginia fence—in very stormy days, or early morning and late evening. They will also, whenever it is possible, roost in cedar trees or bushes.—FRANK L. BURNS.

Washington, D. C.—At my home, in a suburb of the city, we have many Juncos throughout the winter (from October to the end of April), and having made a practice of feeding them, together with White-throated Sparrows and other winter birds (including of course, the English Sparrow—an unwelcome guest, however), we have many opportunities for observing them. The veranda of our house extends across the west, south, and part of the east sides, and is enclosed with diagonal lattice. Through this many Juncos make their way about dusk, and roost beneath the porch floor, probably upon the sills or braces. Of course I have closed all openings through which cats might possibly gain access to them. Very often, when returning home in the evening, I have startled from their hiding place Juncos that had taken shelter beneath the board walk, over which I was passing. I have also accidentally startled them (other birds as well) from the dense foliage of small red cedar trees in my yard,

as well as from the evergreen honeysuckle hedge with which it is enclosed.—ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Oberlin, Ohio.—Junco was entirely absent from northern Ohio during the past winter except in especially favorable places in the river gorges, in or near towns or cities. Here it roosted in the piles of brush thrown over the ledge of rocks, or even in the bed of leaves beneath overhanging ledges of stone.—LYNDS JONES.

Montgomery, Ohio.—For the note which suggested this inquiry, contributed by Mr. J. C. Galloway, see BULLETIN No. 12, page 9.

Meridian, Wis.—The Slate-colored Junco is seldom seen here during the winter, and never when there is much snow on the ground. Were last seen December 7, 1896, and first seen this spring March 29. I have found it roosting on the ground among dry leaves and weeds; more often on steep hillsides. It often roosts about farm buildings, in the sides of hay and straw stacks, and sometimes enters open buildings and sheds in stormy weather. It leaves us the latter part of April.—J. N. CLARK.

Rockford, Ill.—The Junco usually winters here in small numbers, tho I have not observed any this year, but then, I have been out very little. When they have been noted it was around farm houses where there are conifers, which are used extensively here for protection and ornament, in which I have known them to roost.—J. E. DICKINSON.

The following contribution from Mr. Widmann gives both the range and roost in two different localities. "I found it February 26, a mile south of New Orleans, and at Madisonville it was quite common March 5. In the immediate vicinity of St. Louis it prefers the ornamental evergreens for roost, especially red cedars and Norway spruces. Where such occur, particularly young trees thickly branched to the ground, Juncos roost in large numbers. They go to roost pretty early in the evening. On the farms I have seen them enter corn-shocks and out-buildings, taking to similar places as the English Sparrow. I may also say that they return to their winter home as other birds return to their summer home. The first winter I put up the feeding box in a tree near the house, the Juncos did not enter the box before late winter, driven to it by heavy snow. The next winter they had no fear from the beginning, and it was evident from their behavior that they had been there before. Ever since then they are regular boarders, and in cold weather never tire eating nuts. It is a common winter visitor from St. Louis southward.

To prevent misunderstanding, the box entered by my Juncos is not a nesting box with a small hole, but an open box 12 by 18 inches, and 6 deep. It is nailed against the trunk of an elm tree, 12 feet from the

ground, and is distant from my window in the second story 10 feet. In this we put smashed walnuts, whenever empty, all winter, day by day. The Blue Jays get the most of them, but they fly away with the pieces, and in doing so attract the attention of other birds to this source of continual supply. Our boarders, besides Blue Jays, Juncos and English Sparrows, are European Tree Sparrow, Tufted Tit, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and Hairy Woodpecker. These have been visitors every year for a longer or shorter period. Red-breasted Nuthatch was a boarder from November, '95 to about Jan. 20, '96. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is seldom seen to enter the box; he prefers the ham-bones, hung up in the same tree. Not entering, but attracted to the tree, are Golden-crested Kinglet (once the Ruby-crested in January) Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Robin, Flicker, Bewick's Wren. Also Cardinals (male and female) are among the boarders in cold weather, and White-throated Sparrows in late snows in March. Snow, of course, brings the greatest number, and on some days the tree looks enchanted; birds of all feathers, waiting their turn.

OTTO WIDMANN, *Old Orchard, Mo.*

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASH.

Since the appearance of other notes under this title in the September and November BULLETINS, I prepared a brief, annotated list of the birds of this region, which appeared in the *Auk*, April, 1897, and was also issued as *Laboratory Bulletin*, No. 6, Oberlin College. Reference to this will make unnecessary in the present connection a review of the commoner species and leave me to speak at random concerning a few of the rarer sparrows and more noticeable warblers.

HEPBURN'S LEUCOSTICTE, *Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*.—The breeding of this rare species was conjectural until I was so fortunate as to encounter it on Wright's Peak during the summer of '96. We had been encamped from August 5th to 8th on a shoulder of the mountain, at an altitude of 8,000 feet, and I had caught several unsatisfactory glimpses of this glacier-sprite, but it was not until early morning of the last day, when we succumbed to the continual cold weather and retreated from the mountains, that I saw the birds well. A pair were feeding full-grown young, and as the restless youngsters flitted from pile to pile of the projecting morainic knobs along the foot of the glacier, I could not but