

Raleigh is 90 miles west of the nearest Seaside Sparrow habitat, the brackish marshes at the head of the Pamlico River. However, it is more likely that the bird came from farther north, as *A. m. maritima* breeds only as far south as northeastern North Carolina, or about 140 miles northeast of Raleigh. That the bird did come from this direction is supported by the fact that the prevailing wind on the night of 4-5 November was northeast, averaging 1-8 mph, and gusting to 17 mph.—WILLIAM POST AND MICOU M. BROWNE, *Department of Zoology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., 27607, 20 February 1970.*

Nesting habits of the Oregon Junco in Montana.—In the extreme northwestern corner of Montana, the Oregon Junco (*Junco oregonus*) occurs as a common breeding bird from the valley farmlands and woodlands upward through Canadian and Hudsonian zone forests to near timberline on the higher peaks. In total numbers for the entire valley and mountain area, it probably ranks second to the Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) in abundance.

An indication of the habitat preference and decline in numbers at my ranch near Fortine during the years 1928 to 1931 is given by the accompanying table. Figures are from cooperative breeding census surveys which I made for the then Bureau of Biological Survey, and record the number of pairs present during the breeding season rather than numbers actually found nesting. As shown, the decrease in numbers of Oregon Juncos during the period is comparable to a general decrease in the total bird population which occurred despite very little alteration of the habitat. During the 40 years since, the population of most species in comparable habitat areas in the same locality has declined very markedly.

My permanent records contain data on 46 occupied nests, of which seven have been in sites varying from the usual. Both normal habits and these unusual nests will be described briefly.

In the valleys of northeastern Lincoln County (2,500 to 3,500 feet altitude), in occasional years, a few Oregon Juncos (probably of more than one subspecies) are present throughout the winter. Normally, summer resident birds arrive in late February or March, and a few commence nesting activity late in April. My earliest date for a normal set of four eggs is 4 May 1947, but I found young in a nest 10 May 1930.

An irregular pattern of May and June nesting is suggested by these dates for eggs (in different years): 1 to 10 May, three nests; 11 to 20 May, one nest; 21 to 31 May, four nests; 1 to 10 June, one nest; 11 to 20 June, eight nests; 21 to 30 June, two nests. A more systematic and continuous study during this period would perhaps show a less variable seasonal pattern.

After hatching, young birds have remained in nests from 11 to 14 days. Young birds on the wing, fed by adults, have been seen as early as 1 June, and become common by 15 June.

Late season nesting or re-nesting in the valleys occurs in late July and early August. Some dates: 2 July 1937, first egg; 10 July 1937, three eggs; 14 July 1927, young hatching; 19 July 1955, three eggs; 25 July 1934, nestlings two-thirds grown; 3 August 1930, one egg and three nestlings perhaps two days old.

At least some of the Oregon Juncos that nest in the higher mountains move upward in March or April, although the snow cover is still deep. I have found them in early April at 7,300 feet where the snow depth was 7 to 10 feet. Nesting takes place in July

TABLE I
NUMBER PAIRS ADULT OREGON JUNCOS PRESENT DURING BREEDING SEASON

Area	1928	1929	1930	1931
60 acres farm land and deciduous woods	47	33	10	10
40 acres open pasture and sparse conifer woods	18	9	3	1
40 acres heavy second-growth fir-larch-lodgepole pine	32	24	12	8
80 acres heavy uncut forest fir-larch-lodgepole pine	57	49	22	10
Total for 220 acres	154	115	47	29
Total pairs all bird species	1009	870	705	595

after the snow has largely but not entirely disappeared. Here are some dates: 4,500 feet: 24 June 1932, nestlings 3 or 4 days old; 5,590 feet: 2 July 1922, one nest with five eggs, one with four small nestlings; 6,500 feet, Canadian zone: 1921, four eggs 4 July, young left the nest 27 July; 6,350 feet, Canadian zone: 1932, four young hatched 30 July to 1 August.

At my ranch near Fortine, some nests have been placed in unusual sites. For three years a pair constructed its nest and successfully raised young in the side of a straw-stack several feet from the ground. In 1941 a nest was placed 6 inches back in packed hay in the side of a hayshed, 3 feet from the ground. The young birds left the nest 27 June.

In 1931, a female Oregon Junco constructed and used a nest on the inside wall of a log barn, its top 38 inches from the floor. This nesting venture has previously been described (Bird-Lore, 35:155-156, 1935. Photograph printed sidewise).

In 1941, a pair nested successfully in an old Robin nest saddled on a rafter of an open-end garage, 8 feet from the floor. The young birds left the nest 26 May.

Most unusual was a 1956 nest constructed in the interior of a woven-reed fish basket hanging on a garage wall 5 feet from the floor. Entrance and exit were gained through the 2 × 3½ inch slot in the basket's cover, about 9 inches from the bottom and an inch out from the nearest side. Four eggs were laid 11 to 14 May, and the young birds left the basket 6 June.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, *Fortine, Montana 59918, 5 March 1970.*

Large number of birds exploiting a fruit tree in Surinam.—Near Phedra on a hill overlooking the Surinam River I noted on 13 November 1969 many birds feeding in a fruit-bearing tree amidst dense secondary growth. The tree had a height of about 15 meters and was filled with dense clusters of round fruits of the size of a cherry which had split open showing orange seeds. The tree was identified by Dr. G. F. Schulz of the Surinam Forest Service as *Guarea guara* (Meliaceae) and is locally known as *Doivisiri* (pigeon seed or kernel).

A number of birds constantly came to the tree, took seeds from the splitting fruits, and then flew away. This prevented my counting the individual birds that took part, but 23 species were recorded. They were: Little Chachalaca (*Ortalis motmot*), Black-spotted Barbet (*Capito niger*), Cinnamon Attila (*Attila cinnamomeus*)*, Grayish Mourner (*Rhytipterna simplex*)*, Cinereous Becard (*Pachyramphus rufus*)*, Tropical