

# Do Dark-eyed Juncos visit in the morning or afternoon?

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About three years ago, the Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) population was by far the highest of any other species at our feeder. That year I did an experiment to determine at what time of day juncos came to our feeder most. In the past couple of years, the junco population at our feeder has greatly decreased. Due to the large population decrease I decided to retry my experiment to determine if more juncos came to our feeder in the morning or afternoon.

If more juncos came to the feeder in the morning, then I expected it to be because of less noise and activity at that time. The independent variable was the time of day I was experimenting on: morning or afternoon. My dependent variable was the number of birds that came during those two different periods of time.

I gathered data that were collected from a morning and an afternoon class that participated in Classroom Feederwatch. I matched all the dates of when both classes observed birds and compared population numbers.

In total, 53 juncos came in the morning and 75 came in the afternoon (Fig. 1). I was surprised at the large difference. A few years ago, my experiment showed that more juncos came to the feeder in the morning. ☐

Figure 1. Number of Dark-eyed Juncos seen at the feeders in the morning and afternoon

