

Have Dark-eyed Junco Visits Decreased and House Sparrow Visits Increased at Feeders?

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Introduction

I decided to research if there has been a decrease in Dark-eyed Juncos visiting our school feeder but an increase in House Sparrows. Until 1999, no House Sparrows had been spotted at our feeding station. Since 1999, however, the habitat behind the feeding station has been converted from fields to a new housing development.

Hypothesis

My hypothesis was that more House Sparrows and fewer juncos would visit our schoolyard because of an increase in houses built behind our feeding station. I looked at our school data from as far back as it had been collected. I also looked up data from other Oregon schools that were counting birds in order to determine if others had noticed a difference.

Materials and Methods

I observed the birds coming to our schoolyard feeders and recorded what I saw. I also spent a lot of time collecting past data from other websites.

Analysis

The graph shows the changes in the junco and House Sparrow population at our school since 1996. The data I gathered from other schools also resulted in some interest-

ing notes. Two schools in the area did not see any changes in the birds' population over the years, and the Dark-eyed Junco population outnumbered the sparrow population. No new houses were built in the area.

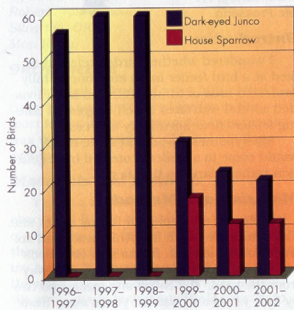
Conclusion

It seems that there has been a decrease in the junco population lately, but only at our school. The heavy increase of House Sparrows also seems to have occurred at our school only. There seems to be no obvious changes to suggest why the birds may have left other than the new housing development. My conclusion is that the housing development increased our House Sparrow population and decreased our Dark-eyed Junco population.

Bibliography

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Figure 1. Dark-eyed Junco and House Sparrow Observations



Dark-eyed Junco

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