

WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONALS

CLASS A at DEARBORN HIGH
Monday, Nov. 23: Dearborn Fordson vs. Detroit Western, 6 p.m.; Detroit Martin Luther King vs. Livonia Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to state quarterfinal, Tuesday, Dec. 1, at Farmdale High School vs. Utica regional champion.)

CLASS A at NOVI HIGH

Monday, Nov. 23: Detroit Northern vs. Birmingham Marian, 5:30 p.m.; Plymouth Salem vs. West Bloomfield, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to state quarterfinal, Tuesday, Dec. 1, at Birmingham Groves vs. Macomb Dakota regional champion.)

MICHIGAN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Nov. 25
Siena Hills JV at Oakland CC, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 27
Oakland CC at St. Clair (Om.), 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Nov. 24
Lansing CC at Schoolcraft, 6:35 p.m.

Oakland CC vs. Kalamazoo Valley at Highland Lakes Campus, 7 p.m.

PIER HOCKEY

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Farmington vs. O.H. Andover at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 25
Redford Union vs. Stevenson, Franklinville, Dexter

at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28
Redford CC vs. Divine Child at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Nov. 22
Ply. Whalers at Guilford, 2 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 27
Ply. Whalers vs. North Bay at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28
Ply. Whalers vs. Peterborough at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Juncos find Michigan weather milder

NATURE NOTES



TIM NOWICKI

The winter bird feeding season is upon us.

Those of us who enjoy watching birds at backyard feeders, recognized the new season when the dark-eyed juncos appeared in October.

Juncos leave their northern range to the Rocky Mountains. Michigan and Canada breeding areas to winter in milder southern climes. To northern Canada juncos, southeastern Michigan is their Florida.

According to the Feeder Watch program, sponsored by Suncocks Woods and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, most feeder watchers have juncos visiting.

In fact, 69 percent of 7,581 observations reported juncos at feeders. That makes it the most frequently counted bird at winter feeders.

Next in line, and not far behind (68 percent), was the mourning dove. Doves are very prolific and have adapted to living in suburban areas readily.

Last year and this year I had

one nesting on the ledge of my chimney. Both the junco and dove enjoy eating the porro millet seeds that are found in the premium mixes blended by the specialty bird feeding stores.

House finches were third on the list. It is amazing to me that this species has become so abundant, considering its relatively recent history in the eastern U.S.

In less than 60 years, house finches have expanded their range from the eastern seaboard to the Rocky Mountains.

Today, 62 percent of feeder watchers have them at their feeders. This is a very adaptable species.

More than half the participants reported downy woodpeckers at their feeders. This insect eater has adapted easily to suet feeders.

Insect eaters, like downy woodpeckers, often substitute suet as a winter food supply. They have also capitalized on

the abundance of sunflower seeds offered at feeders.

Downy's are eating seeds and taking advantage of food that is found at most feeders.

Though the black-capped chickadee may be the first bird to find your feeding station, they are not the most common species reported. They are fifth among the top ten.

Chickadees enjoy suet and sunflower seeds. Their rapid metabolism requires as much energy as they can get. A small bird like theirs cools much faster than larger bodies.

Tied for fifth place with the chickadee is the American Goldfinch.

Most feeder watchers enjoy these birds because of their color, size, and pleasant vocalizations. Goldfinch enjoy thistle seed, but will eat sunflower seeds as well.

They tend to be patchy in their distribution, so don't be sur-

prised if you don't have any at your feeder.

Despite the fact that northern cardinals have only been nesting in Michigan for just a little over a hundred years, they too have adapted very well to our feeders.

They are masters at extracting the kernel of a sunflower seed from its husk. Their powerful bill cracks through the husk with little difficulty.

Blue jays are eighth on the list and enjoy sunflower seeds, like the last two on the top ten list,

the white-breasted nuthatch and the tufted titmouse.

Though these are the top ten birds seen at feeders, they all get most of their food from the wild.

Our feeders really help them when their is an extended storm, but you will also see your feeder birds in the forests and meadows most of the time.

So enjoy them when they do come to your feeders, it's much easier to find them!

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