Eastern Meadowlark: High counts included 15 at Slate Run MP on 3 June (**J. Watts**) and 10 in *Ashtabula* on 9 July (**C. Holt**): nothing encouraging here.

Western Meadowlark: **B. Hardesty** reported one from rural *Hancock* on 27 June.

Common Grackle: A flock of 300 was at Walnut Beach on 9 July, more or less on schedule (**C. Holt**).

Orchard Oriole: The high count of eight on 22 July in *Tuscarawas* was probably made up of migrants (**E. Schlabach**).

Baltimore Oriole: The GAASBC counted 268 during a June week in *Summit*.

House Sparrow: The "English sparrow" has declined in Britain by 64% between 1972 and 1996, and is virtually extirpated from London and Glasgow; several recovery programs have been proposed. Here in North America, the Breeding Bird Survey data show declines of 2.5% a year in the species' numbers between 1966 and 1999.

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One of three dickcissel nests found in a fallow field in Lorain Co. this season. In the color original, the eggs were bright blue, the color very reminiscent of bluebird eggs. Photo by Scott Wright.

Further Afield
by Rob Harlan

"A change would do you good"
Sheryl Crowe, 1996
"Or not"
Rob Harlan, 2000

Change can be frightening, unexpected, or tragic; change can be beneficial, welcome, or overdue. But no matter how one looks at it, change is inevitable. This is one reason we maintain a record of our history: to preserve the past, or establish a snapshot image of the present. Change and its history teach us that future researchers will benefit greatly from our birding discoveries today, if only to serve as a measuring-stick for findings in their version of the present. I like the old saying that we can see as far as we do today only because we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

A sage Ohio ornithologist has said: "This is a golden age for ornithological investigation. One wonders how the field workers of yesterday accomplished so much with so many handicaps to overcome. Good roads and auto transportation now enable one person to visit all the out-of-the-way corners of a whole state and make direct comparisons between contrasting locations. Communication is such that every ornithologist in the state can keep closely in touch with the work of all others and benefit by the exchange of ideas and the competition afforded." Since this quotation comes from Lawrence E. Hicks in 1935, we may safely assume that he wasn't speaking of interstate highways and the Internet. But one of us could have just as easily said the same thing earlier this morning. Change, it seems, can also be very relative.

So not only is change inevitable, it is good, bad, or indifferent, depending on our point of view. A prairie warbler might favor a southeastern Ohio clear-cut. A hooded warbler would probably frown on such a choice. It might be our instinct to side with the frowning hooded warbler, but my guess is that the prairie warbler wouldn't need or even ask for our compassion, because the change had given it a chance. And so we proceed, apologizing to John Milton, to Paradise Mislaid.

Change can make or break a birding site, and not just for one or two species. Habitat-wide alterations affect a wide range of birdlife. Many of us have heard of natural areas now obliterated, either entirely or essentially. The Great Black Swamp of northwestern Ohio and the Pymatuning Bog of northeastern Ohio come quickly to mind, both now mere shadows of their former glory. Neither is likely to spring back to full splendor anytime soon, so great have been the changes in their habitats and landscape. These paradises have been lost. But not all lost paradises need to stay lost forever. There is one spot in Ohio that has a great but little-known birding history; in fact, portions of the area are still preserved today, but only as a semblance of its past. We may have changed the face of the land, but not the landscape itself, not what made the area great in the first place. If we were to step back and let nature take its course, allowing it to regenerate and regrow its natural vegetation (with a little help, perhaps), I feel that over time this area might become the premier birding area in the entire state. But of course this is easier said than done.

Rather than simply naming the location up front, it might serve us better to review some of the changes that have occurred there. All the accounts that follow come from a series of six contemporaneous articles describing this locale, published for the his-

torical record. The articles come from one of Ohio's foremost ornithologists and present his insights into one of his favorite birding areas. It is now your assignment to ascertain the location and the decade about which the articles were written. Clues are aplenty. I have selected the following accounts both to show evidence of the changes that have since taken place, and also simply because they capture the essence of the era. Some clues may directly point to the area, and others may seem red herrings, but they all are historically valid. Have at it.

"A common breeder in the marshes...among the rankest vegetation where human progress is made next to impossible by the depth of the muck and the denseness of the brakes and cattails. During courting season the air is often palpitant with the peculiar mate call." *American bittern*

"Regular, but hardly common, from about March 20 to October 20. Most records are of single birds seen flying...There must be a small nesting place somewhere near... but it has never been discovered to my knowledge." *Great blue heron*

"A fairly regular migrant, but hardly common. Flocks ranging up to sixty individuals are still seen occasionally in both migrations...occasionally one is fortunate enough to find a flock resting on the beach..." *Canada goose*

"During the three years mentioned none were seen. In 19-2 four were seen; none in 19-3; but since then it has been of regular occurrence." *Wood duck*

"This is the commonest of the larger ducks, if, indeed it is not the commonest of all ducks." *American black duck*

They "reach the marshes...about the first of March...are common during the most of March, thinning out decidedly with the approach of warm weather and all but stragglers are gone by the middle of April. Individuals are occasionally seen in June and July, but if any breed, there is no other evidence than such irregular occurrence gives." *Mallard*

"Our commonest larger hawk..." *Red-shouldered hawk*

"On April 29, 19-7...the numbers were too great to be counted. These...were near the ground when first seen, but rapidly ascended in spirals, all the while moving nearly parallel to the lake shore in an easterly direction." *Broad-winged hawk*

"Formerly common over the whole area, but has been extinct for at least forty years." *Wild turkey*

"During the migrations single individuals may be found practically anywhere out of the woods. I have met them along roadsides, in barn yards, about small field ponds, in the marshes, and along the sand spit. Away from the wet places the single birds are usually no more wary than a hen." *King rail*

"Several pairs were found breeding...in 19-3..." *Piping plover*

"In straightaway flight the actions of a flock somewhat resemble pigeons in flight. In fact, more than once I have had an elderly man who had been familiar with the Passenger Pigeons in their palmy days remark, upon seeing a considerable flock of these birds, 'There goes a flock of Pigeons.'" *Killdeer*

"The presence of this gull...has been suspected, but it has not been until the more recent intensive studies...that positive proof of its regular occurrence has been obtained. It is clearly much less common than the Herring Gull. None have been observed in winter, and none during June and July." *Ring-billed gull*

"In the sense that it is present at all times of the year it is a resident if the proviso is added that it does not breed in the region. The birds found in summer are clearly not breeding birds." *Herring gull*

"In favorable summers I have counted upwards of twenty pairs...The birds are courageous in the defense of their eggs and young, even striking the head of the intruder." *Black tern*

"Accounts which I have been able to gather seem to agree substantially that most of the flights were in a northerly and southerly direction, which would indicate that the birds crossed the lake. It would hardly seem possible that so vast a company could turn abruptly in either direction upon reaching the lake without influencing the direction of flight of those as far inland as twelve miles." *Passenger pigeon*

"On April 29 and May 13, 19-7, [they] were in such numbers on the sand spit that an accurate count was impossible." *Whip-poor-will*

On "...May 13, 19-7...upwards of thirty were counted along the middle reaches of the sand spit...Four specimens were collected, all of which were exceedingly fat." *Olive-sided flycatcher*

"Nests are regularly destroyed by men and boys, on the plea that the birds kill chickens, and even young pigs and lambs, and that they are witches!" *Loggerhead shrike*

On "...March 7, 19-3, the birds were moving eastward parallel to the lake shore over an area more than half a mile in width and from a few feet above the ground to a height of 300 feet. The migration stream was almost continuous from 9 a.m., when I arrived...and was still in progress unabated when I left at 4:20 p.m. ...A number of counts...were made at widely different times, which resulted in an average of 130 birds passing per minute. There were thus over 50,000 passing during the period of my stay." *American crow*

"On but two occasions have I seen anything like a great migration wave, and then in the middle of March after two weeks of unfavorable weather. Then the woods near the lake shore were filled with [them, and they] seemed to be moving eastward along the lake in bands of several hundred each." *Eastern bluebird*

"On May 13, 19-7, when the greatest migration of small birds that I have ever witnessed was in full swing, this warbler literally swarmed over the...sand spit from one end to the other. There was no estimating the numbers." *Chestnut-sided warbler*

"On the days of heavy migration...this warbler seems to start up from every bunch of grass all along the five miles or more of open beach." *Palm warbler*

"A bird...was listened to and seen at close range on May 14 and 17, 19-9, on the sand spit at the eastern end of the telephone line. The bird was first seen on the wires where it was singing lustily...I made determined efforts to secure the specimen on both occasions, but its good angel intervened." *Bachman's sparrow*

By now, it's hoped most of you have at least narrowed the location down to a Lake Erie site, and so it is. In fact, you may still bird portions of it today—it is the Cedar Point sand spit, in Erie County. The author was Prof. Lynds Jones of Oberlin College, and the articles appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin* in 1909 and 1910, representing Jones's and his colleagues' findings for the area mostly during the decade 1900-1909.

To say the area has changed would be an understatement, and all in a span of less than a hundred years. Although the peninsula is still more than seven miles in length, the habitats on the sand spit have been changed radically, and the extensive cattail marshes that once stretched for half the distance between the spit and the mainland are now mostly a memory. When we bird Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve today, we are birding at the former eastern end of the sand spit known to Prof. Jones.

During this period, Jones divided the spit into three areas: the Bar, the Dunes, and the Ridge. The narrow Bar section ran some 4.75 miles from the mainland, and was covered with "straggling individual trees, none of any considerable size." However, along the entire length of the marsh border was a growth of bushes, mostly willow and buttonbush, which served as a natural corridor for migrating birds. Heading west out the spit for the next two miles was the Dune section, covered with larger trees (mostly cottonwoods), underbrush, and a variable width of grass-covered dunes, the highest of which, according to Francis and Francis's *Cedar Point—The Queen of American Watering Places* (1988), reached 27 feet. The furthest mile of the spit was known as the Ridge, and expanded to one-half mile in width, covered in a dense deciduous and cedar forest. The Ridge section's distance from the mainland, combined with the thick vegetation, made a natural migrant trap of outstanding character. According to Jones, the spit's "great length as compared with its width causes a crowding of birds all along the western half during the great days of migration, such a crowding, in fact, that every species is found in normally impossible places." Sounds good to me.

But of course the Cedar Point peninsula has seen some development since the days of Prof. Jones. Actually, a modest beer-garden resort had already existed on a small portion of the Ridge section as early as the 1870s. The Cedar Point Pleasure Resort, situated a mile east of the tip, attracted more free-spenders in the late 1880s. The Grand Pavilion was built in 1888, and although the first semblance of a roller-coaster was installed in 1892, rides and amusement attractions did not become an area attraction until the period from 1905 to 1920. Instead, the resort was best known for its bathing beaches, dining, and various stage productions. With a daily attendance som etimes reaching 10,000 by the early 1900s, expansion was inevitable. The lagoons were dug into the Ridge section west of the Pavilion in 1904, expanding into previously undeveloped natural areas. In 1905, the famous Breakers Hotel opened, hosting celebrities ranging from several US Presidents to John Philip Sousa, John D. Rockefeller, and Annie Oakley. But keep in mind that everyone visiting the resort arrived by water—Henry Ford hadn't introduced his Model-T until 1908. With the advent of the auto, resort owners soon recognized the need for a permanent roadway serving the area. Thus, in 1914 the "Chaussee" was opened, stretching from the mainland to nearly three-fourths the distance of the entire peninsula. This, of course, paved the way for development of the rest of the area, and although substantial development of the Bar section did not occur until the 1950s, the damage had been done.

One more quote from Prof. Jones: "There seems little reasonable doubt that a continuous study of the birds [of the Point]...would result in the discovery of species which have hitherto eluded observation, and would discover movements as yet hardly suspected." Based on the developments he must have witnessed, I suspect Prof. Jones had more than an inkling of what was to become of his precious birding haven, and his determination to establish its grandeur in the historical record speaks for itself. Crusader for a cause or not, his articles speak eloquently of what was and what might again be, if given the chance. I'm not holding my breath, but it seems a lot can happen in a hundred years. *A Paradise Mislaid. I'm sure we must have put it somewhere for safekeeping—if we could only remember where...*

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Eurasian Collared-Dove: The Next New Ohio Species?

by Joseph W. Hammond

Paralleling the American Birding Association's recent forecasts of new bird species for North America, Ohio birders have speculated which species were most likely to be discovered next in our state. In a recent debate on one of Ohio's Internet discussion groups, several active and knowledgeable birders shared opinions on the Buckeye State's next additions to the official checklist. Many species were mentioned, and none of the forecasts was without merit. Although predicting bird occurrences is like trying to gauge the outside weather from within a cave, a clear trend emerged—Columbids were very popular candidates for imminent arrival. Eurasian collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, white-winged dove *Zenaida asiatica*, and common ground-dove *Columbina passerina* appeared on many lists, mainly due to the family's tendency for wandering and recent records in nearby states and provinces. Often, Eurasian collared-dove topped the list of anticipated arrivals. Ohio birders still have to wait for one dove species, but the other two foreseen have become realities. On 5 November 1999, Jared Mizanin discovered the first new addition to the official checklist since the online tarot reading in the form of a common ground-dove in Cuyahoga County (Mizanin 2000). Then, Rosalyn Rinehart discovered the next new Ohio species by finding a white-winged dove in Logan County on 10 June 2000 (see related article in this issue). To date, the only species added to the Ohio checklist since these predictions have been doves—Columbids expected by Ohio birders. This leaves us with only one—the Eurasian collared-dove.

Eurasian Collared-Doves, Past and Present

The Eurasian collared-dove is a recent invader into North America. Native to the Indian subcontinent, this species at first expanded its range fairly slowly over the course of several hundred years until it began to blitzkrieg Europe in the 1930s (Smith 1987, Youth 1998). There, the birds began a rapid expansion, taking the continent by storm. By 1952 they had reached Great Britain, and began to nest there just three years later (Smith 1987, Youth 1998). They reached Iceland by 1971, and by the early 1980s the population in West Germany exceeded a million (Cramp and Simmons 1985, as cited in Smith 1987). Although the population in northwestern Europe seems to be at equilibrium, Eurasian collared-doves are still expanding their range northeast into the former Soviet republics and to the southwest (Smith 1987).

Eurasian collared-dove dispersal tends to occur in the spring and generally moves in a westward direction; however, there are differing opinions as to whether the dispersers are adults looking for nest sites away from an already saturated area (Smith 1987) or year-old birds looking to establish new territories (Youth 1998). At any rate, dispersing individuals tend to establish new colonies several hundred miles away from their originating points. As time goes by, other dispersing individuals fill in the range gap created by the original wanderers.

In the early 1970s, a bird breeder in Nassau, Bahamas received a delivery of doves supposed to be domestic (ringed) turtle-doves *Streptopelia 'risoria'*. Instead, the breeder received Eurasian collared-doves. In December 1974, several teenagers broke into the breeder's aviary looking for parakeets, and in the process released some of the Eurasian collared-doves. This discouraged the breeder and caused him to release the