

these types of pits in southwestern Ohio alone, and less than 5% get any birding coverage. If we are finding blue grosbeaks in most of the pits that do get birding coverage, then how many are there in the hundreds of pits that don't?

Two other rare Ohio species have shown an affiliation to gravel pits in southwestern Ohio. Lark sparrows, an accidental species in Ohio away from Oak Openings, have been reported breeding or presumed breeding at three southwestern Ohio locations since 1980. On two occasions they were discovered in gravel pits. In 1987 a pair nested in the Mt. Nebo gravel pit near Shawnee Lookout Park in Hamilton County. A pair was seen there again in 1990 but was not confirmed breeding. In late May and early June of 2004 a lark sparrow was present at the Roxanna-New Burlington gravel pit and seen by many birders who came to see the brown pelican. The third site, as mentioned before, was along a newly constructed section of Blue Rock Rd. in Hamilton County, a site that exhibited many of the characteristics of gravel pits. In central Ohio in 2007, a lark sparrow was confirmed breeding in an abandoned quarry near Columbus. The habitat the Oak Opening colony of lark sparrows uses consists of sandy soils and open weedy fields with scattered trees. Some gravel pits make a pretty good imitation of that type of habitat.

As I noted before, a territorial male Bell's vireo was found in an accessible Hamilton County gravel pit in 2006 and may have bred there. A probable breeding Bell's vireo was found in 1995 in a gravel pit along the Great Miami River at West Carrollton. Granted that is only two sites, but consider there are only six locations that have summering Bell's vireo records in southwestern Ohio. That's a 33% average for gravel pits. Without a doubt the typical habitats found in and around gravel pit are perfectly suited for this species.

Apparently blue grosbeaks have a special affinity with gravel pits and the like, and more thorough surveys of these areas during the summer months would most definitely discover additional, and maybe even considerable, populations. And don't be too surprised if a few lark sparrows and Bell's vireos show up as well. Gravel pits have great birding potential, and with three more years to go on the OBBA II we should have ample opportunity to get many of these great sites covered. But whatever the season, gravel pits assuredly will produce great birding.

Eurasian Collared-doves in Ohio: The Background

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The Eurasian collared-dove *Streptopelia decaocto* has made history in lands far beyond its likely origins in India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. Its present range in North America is already as extensive as that for the rock pigeon *Columba livia*, and it has occupied its adopted territory far more quickly. This species entered Florida by way of the Bahamas in the 1980s and had conquered North America by the summer of 2007, when single birds and possibly pairs were documented in several locations in Alaska. Coincidentally, Ohio experienced its first substantial influx of these doves in 2007, with reports of multiple birds in Williams, Darke, Preble, Butler, and Mercer counties. Prior to that we had only two accepted records, one of two birds shot by a hunter in Crawford County 1 September 2001 (specimen), and one visiting a Licking County feeder 15 April-28 May 2006 (photos). Other individuals previously reported had not been seen or described well enough to distinguish them from look-alikes. During this spring's invasion, these doves were observed copulating on several occasions, and on 27 September were observed in northern Preble County with a juvenile, suggestive of successful local nesting. Such is the Eurasian collared-dove's story in Ohio to date. It is likely only the beginning of a familiar tale.

History and taxonomy of the *Streptopelia* doves

As a group, the doves and pigeons (family Columbidae) present unique problems for observers. Few wild birds have been as adaptable to the human presence, as amenable to domestication, or as unlikely—even in large numbers—to threaten populations of other species. But their very adaptability and tendency to associate with humans has led to hybridization in the wild, intentional crossbreeding in captivity, and consequently rapid range expansions across the globe. The result has often been confusion: about the identities of certain populations, the local status of others, and any stable notion of their distribution overall.

Some columbids, it is true, have not adapted to us. The range of the passenger pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* in North America shrank as rapidly as ours expanded, and the extinction of this, at one time perhaps the most populous bird species in existence, followed after little more than two centuries of extensive contact with European settlers. Most of the ~300 species of doves and pigeons remain relatively modest in numbers and restricted in range. Others, however, have associated with dense human populations—as pets, as game, and as familiar neighbors—to a degree unknown in other bird families, and their history as captives among us dates back over two thousand years. Their dependence on humans has led to a number of odd versions of typical evolutionary progressions in the wild, as these birds seemingly dispersed far

more quickly than any other species, and various genetic characteristics, some ancestral and some not, have entered these populations via human interference in far-flung locales.

In North America, no single bird species has emerged to take over much of the huge ecological niche once occupied by the passenger pigeon, presumably because its vast undisturbed tracts of eastern hardwood forests are no more. Certainly our other native columbids are adapted to quite different ranges and habitats. Rock pigeons *Columba livia* were apparently the first to arrive here via introduction, just over four hundred years ago. They prospered, and have assumed many roles: treasured pet, subject of many genetic and psychological experiments, message-carrier and racer, food source, and urban pest. No other introduced columbid has established itself in North America until the arrival of the Eurasian collared-dove (hereafter ECD).



Note the undertail and tail coverts pattern on this Eurasian collared-dove. Photo from West Manchester, OH, on 2/2/08 by Troy Shively.

Among other factors, a long tradition of aviculture involving the dove family makes it difficult to trace the history of their status and distribution. Humans traded and transported them widely. Gentle, unobtrusive, and taking easily to human habitats, certain columbids have been welcomed, fostered, and crossbred for thousands of years, and the origins and destinies of strains are consequently often obscure. One good example is the taxon for which the ECD is most easily mistaken in the field.

The ring-neck, or ringed turtle-dove, once known as *Streptopelia 'risoria'*, has been the most commonly kept dove in the world. A domesticated form, it apparently breeds reliably only in captivity or if fed by humans, and its taxonomic status has always been in doubt. In fact, two eggs of this taxon were collected in Columbus on 12 Apr 1898 (OSU Museum collection). Its likely ancestor, *S. roseogrisea*, the wild African collared-dove, has been imported to breed with this form. In North America, *S. 'risoria'* was first recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union in the *Check-list's* fourth edition of 1931, and remained in the 7th edition (AOU 1998) as an introduced species; it was renamed *S. roseogrisea* after its wild ancestor in the 47th Supplement to the *Check-list* in 2006. Thus, *S. 'risoria'* no longer has official status here. The Eurasian collared-dove *S. decaocto* was included in the North American avifauna in the 7th AOU *Check-list* (p. 222). The Checklist Committee of the American Birding Association replaced *risoria* with *decaocto* in its list in 1992 (DeBenedictis 1994). While in 2006 the AOU committee continued to accept *roseogrisea* based

on what it regarded as established feral colonies in Florida, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico, the ABA committee considered the Florida populations extirpated, and the others "semi-domesticated" and not self-sustaining (Pranty et al. 2006, Pranty 2007). Thus, the actual wild status of the African collared-dove in North America is not yet fully agreed upon, but it is abroad in great numbers, and in the field must always be eliminated in identifying ECD.

Imre Frivaldsky (1799-1870), probably more remembered as an entomologist and botanist rather than an ornithologist, first described *Streptopelia decaocto* for western science as a subspecies (*Columba risoria decaocto*) in 1838, following an expedition to the Balkans, where he obtained the type specimen, which originated from a region of the Turkish empire that now lies in southern Bulgaria and northern Greece. In his report, Frivaldsky mentions 25 new plant species described, and a moth, then covers birds:

...the most interesting results of this year's research emanated from the mountain ranges of the Rhodope and Stanimas, that lies 4-6 hours south of Philipopol...Among the class of birds, the travelers were delighted to find some of the rarer species. These were the little bustard Otis tetrax, which sometimes shows up in the plains of Hungary; here it was found on the nest, incubating three eggs; pygmy cormorant Phalacrocorax pygmaeus, Calandra lark Melanocephala calandra, and a peculiar dove species. This dove is very similar to the laughing dove native to China, so much so it is probably its subspecies; it feeds predominantly on the rice paddy-fields, especially during harvesting, but also flies around in the woods. However, it always breeds in the towns, under the eaves in baskets hung on the ends of the rafters for this special purpose. Although it lives in company with the jackdaws, they are eternal enemies and fight all the time. Cooing starts early in spring, often in February, when it sings 'gur-gur-gur' sounds, intermingling 'deca octo deca octo' sounds. For this reason the people of this land are especially fond of this bird, almost with a religious devotion, and they are reluctant to harm them. This is based on an old folk tale that relates a poor maiden who served a miserly mistress had hardly any bread to eat, and her yearly income was only 18 para. In her desperation, she prayed from the bottom of her heart to let the world know her misery. {Frivaldsky 1838, trans. Domoki}

The story goes on to relate the gods heard her plea and changed her into a dove whose calls sounded like the Greek for "eighteen," decaocto. There are later and more elaborate Christianized versions of the story. The vernacular name of this species in Greek is Δεκαοχτούρα, which one might translate into English as "eighteener," and it is reasonable to regard it as echoic of the bird's vocalization, and the folk etymology as a subsequent elaboration. Clearly this dove soon endeared itself to the local human population, and as quickly took advantage of its welcome.

With time, two subspecies were generally recognized, the nominate and *S. d. xanthocyclus* (Newman, 1906). The latter is known from Burma and southern China, differing from *decaocto* in its darker overall coloration and yellow bare skin around the eye; conceivably it could show up in North America as a release. Some authorities recognize two Far Eastern subspecies, *S. d. intercedens* and *S. d. stoliczkae* (see Vaurie 1961); if valid, it seems their identification in the field would be problematic.

The Great Invasions: Europe

First recorded in the eastern Mediterranean in the 16th century, *S. decaocto* extended its range slowly at first. It moved east as far as Korea and Japan during the 18th and 19th centuries, but not in a massive way; most records can be attributed to releases of captive birds. By 1900, its European range was restricted to the Balkans. It was not to be recorded in Frivaldsky's native Hungary until the 1930s, when the doves began a rapid northwestward¹ sweep of Europe that was to be halted only in 1964 in Iceland by the vastness of the North Atlantic. In Hungary, for example, its numbers increased an average 30% yearly from 1932-1943, and the doves moved over 1500 miles further across the continent during the next 30 years (Hudson 1965). Inhabitants of warm arid lowland settings in their homelands, they demonstrated unexpected abilities to adapt to cold climates, and now nest near the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. Reported arrival dates in Europe (Hudson 1965, Hudson 1972) follow: Yugoslavia 1912, Czechoslovakia 1936, Austria 1938, Germany 1943, the Netherlands 1947, Denmark 1948, Sweden and Switzerland 1949, France 1950, Belgium 1952, Norway 1954, Britain 1955, Ireland 1959, Iceland 1964, and Spain 1975. By 1970, they had occupied every county in the British Isles save one in Ireland (Hudson 1972).

Naturally, questions arise as to why the once leisurely range expansion of this dove accelerated so explosively. Fisher (1953) called it "one of the most remarkable range-changes to have been recorded, ever since man began to record the ranges and changes of birds." Mayr (1950) suggested that a genetic mutation may have enabled this change in behavior, and others have wondered if perhaps land-use changes in Europe may have encouraged it. It typically became a resident breeder within 1-2 years of its arrival. Hudson (1972) cites an ECD seen on a vessel at sea in the Eastern Atlantic, and wondered if perhaps they might undertake a ship-assisted passage to the New World. It was eventually concluded that the explosion of ECDs had ebbed in Europe, and that while it was regarded as a local nuisance it had apparently wrought no important damage to plants of gardens or fields, or interfered with native bird populations in a significant way. The British Trust for Ornithology Web site estimated its population in Britain at 298,000 pairs in 2007: <http://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob6840.htm#>. Surveys reveal an estimated 59% growth in its numbers in continental Europe between 1980 and 2005 ("The State of Europe's Common

¹ The direction of the ECD's advances has been pronounced and identical in the New and Old Worlds. At the eastern edge of its natural range comparatively little change was noted. In April of 2004 the Hong Kong Bird Committee declared in a memorandum ("Statement Number 1") that "[d]espite the westward spread in Europe, there is no evidence of the natural range of this species expanding in China."

Birds 2007" from the RSPB, European Bird Census Council, and BirdLife International).

The Great Invasions: North America

As it happened, the ECD's appearance in North America was apparently the result of a deliberate, if mistaken, introduction in the Bahamas, a story well researched by Smith (1987). Having interviewed many of the persons involved, he relates that a pet dealer in Nassau got a shipment of ten pairs of doves in the early 1970s; ironically, he had ordered "ring-necks" *S. 'risoria*, but was shipped "Indian ring-necks" *S. decaocto* by his European contacts, who may not have known the difference. In 1974 thieves broke into his place of business, in the process releasing some of these birds. The shop-owner later released the remainder. They soon flourished as nesting populations in the Bahamas, at least some of them assisted by humans who released birds--sometimes as unwanted pets and sometimes in order to take hunting pressure off native doves--and by the 1980s local numbers were in the tens of thousands.

Smith reasonably concludes this species likely jumped the 80 kilometers from the Bahamas to Florida on its own, rather than being assisted in this crossing or having flown from Europe on its own. Though some were reported in the '70s, the first published record of the species in the US came from the Florida Keys in 1980, and during the subsequent decade they were recognized and reported in many locations in southern Florida. Smith estimated their numbers in the state as certainly in the thousands, perhaps already in five figures, by 1987. Pointing out that like other dove species it can raise as many as six broods (two eggs apiece) a year, Smith predicted:

...eventually it could span the North American continent, as has the European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) and the Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis). Because dispersal is primarily westward, it may take a few more years before the species breaks out of the Florida peninsula. However, expansion then might occur rapidly across the southeastern states because of the region's many small towns and extensive farming economy.

His predictions were accurate. They were in Alabama by 1986, Georgia by 1988, Arkansas by 1989, Oklahoma in 1993, South Carolina and Tennessee in 1994, Colorado and Texas in 1995, in Maine and Nova Scotia and Illinois and North Carolina and Pennsylvania and South Dakota in 1996, New York and Nebraska and Kansas and Montana and Utah in 1997, Oregon and Minnesota in 1998, Indiana and Iowa and Oregon in 1999, Saskatchewan in 2000, Nevada and Ohio in 2001, California and Arizona and Alberta in 2002, and Idaho in 2005. The distribution map of this species now closely resembles that of the ubiquitous rock pigeon, though as yet it is not nearly as numerous in most locations.

Breeding in North America has been reported fairly widely from Feb-Oct, with reported nests in Florida in every month but January. In Nov of 2007, birds were reportedly still incubating eggs as far north as Missouri and Kansas. There are three to six clutches per year, and in some cases another is started before the previous hatchlings fledge. As in Europe, many first-year birds

have dispersed via jumps, even as far as hundreds of kilometers, the distance decreasing with saturation. The ECD has a reputation of not being as docile as *roseogrisea*, but nonetheless it is fostered as a captive, and known to have been released from captivity singly and in numbers up to ~300 in California, Colorado, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and possibly Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland and New Jersey (Ramagosa 2002), blurring the picture of its distribution as a wild bird. The 2001 and 2006 records in Ohio, having occurred rather farther eastward in the state than those in the mass incursion of 2007, could easily represent released birds.

Because the aforementioned incursion occurred in every instance quite close to Ohio's western border, it is worth examining its records in Indiana in some detail. In June 1999, ECDs were first acceptably reported within hours of one another in small towns in central and northwestern Indiana. One was later to represent the first state record at the site; two were soon found there, then one killed, then two still around, and nesting attempted, with one adult and two juveniles discovered in mid-September. A bit later, one, then two, then six the next day, were reported from a third county, with copulation observed by 1 Oct; anecdotal reports claimed they had been nesting at the site for at least three years. (Gorney 2001). Subsequently, ECDs were reported in dozens of other counties in the state, since which time Indiana reports of the species no longer require documentation, and ECD is now regarded as locally uncommon in small towns and rural areas throughout the state (Gorney, pers. comm.).

Elsewhere in the US, as in the Old World, its dispersal farther to the east was far less dramatic. ECDs were reported in Cuba in 1990, but many populations in the West Indies, particularly farther down in the Greater Antilles, appear to have originated with releases (Romagosa 1999). Smith observed that even in the Bahamas, where in the late 80s the species numbered in five figures on New Providence alone, he could find no evidence of its having colonized the more southerly islands. This parallels the more questionable wild origins of movements east in the Old World, where populations in Korea and Japan (Fisher 1953) seem to have been releases as well, and underlines the distinct tendency of the species to disperse in a northwesterly direction.

In North America the ECD is as yet less than common in many areas. Its occurrence is still sparse and spotty in inland western states and provinces. In the eastern part of the continent, sightings thus far have been few enough as to require records committee verification in at least Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ontario, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Sightings do not require documentation for acceptance in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Minnesota. The dove's distribution here continues to reflect a strong tendency to spread westward via juveniles from a resident breeding population, with a weaker but still obvious northward tendency. One may speculate further that this species, more comfortable with villages in low agricultural country and open suburban habitats, has found the forested and mountainous areas of the Appalachians and even the adjacent piedmont a barrier to advances from Florida.

Ohio and West Virginia would seem to be well placed behind such a barrier, and indeed until this year both states had but one accepted record of this species. The spate of Ohio records in 2007 may well represent a sort of backflow

from Indiana, where ECDs have been nesting since 1999, rather than radiation directly from the Florida population or from locales to our east. Certainly they all occurred in the central and western parts of the westernmost Ohio counties.

As for the preferred habitats of the ECD, observers of the Old World invasion (Fisher 1953, Hudson 1965 & 1972) documented its devotion to human habitations, especially parks and gardens, rather than to open farmland or densely urban settings. They remain quite tame if not persecuted. They tend to avoid high elevations. They favor large (15-30') conifers like cypresses and pines for nesting, although they will make use of buildings or rooks' nests. They often reuse nest sites. For their typical ground feeding, agricultural lands are not preferred, except during late summer when stubble fields are foraged. Doves associate with game farms, bird feeders, mills, or docks where grains are shipped. They prefer poles and wires for roosting and territorial defense. They may associate with other dove species.

The experience in North America is quite similar. Here, the spread of this dove was rapid, and also took place in a northwestward direction. As in Europe, it seemingly undertook not a steady advance, but rather a jump-skip progression, apparently with younger birds shooting ahead 300 or more kilometers at a time to establish beach-heads along the advance. Such first waves often arrived April-June, in small numbers rather than singly, with nesting beginning with little delay. Here, as in Europe, later advances seemed to take place as infilling between these beach-heads, "often by spreading into less favoured rural habitats" (Hudson 1972). Their habitat preferences here closely resembled those in the Old World: small villages and rural settlements, suburbs with parklands and open spaces, grain elevators with conifers nearby, etc. Once such habitats are saturated, as in Florida, the infilling populations seem to adjust to large urban parks, denser suburbs, etc. They are hardier than doves of southern climes, with documented overwintering in southern Saskatchewan. As for more southerly sites, the only land bird species regularly nesting on the Dry Tortugas has been the mourning dove; it has now been joined by the ECD as a breeder in this rather demanding habitat.

Status of ECD in Ohio

The Ohio incursion of 2007 matched quite well the pattern established in other states west of the Appalachians. On 11 March, two experienced Michigan observers saw and heard a pair flying in and out of tall spruces in Stryker, a small town (population 1400) in Ohio's Williams County. Photographs were obtained, but others were unable to relocate the birds later. On 19 June, observers in the village of Fort Jefferson in western Darke County saw and heard two that had been frequenting a single tree in a yard; a nest site was suspected but not confirmed by subsequent observations. Eight days later, at least three birds were found in West Manchester, a village of about 400 about eight miles to the south, in Preble County. Here, courtship and copulation were witnessed. Not far away, on 10 June and subsequently, a dove had been seen at a new location less than three miles west of the border in Union County, Indiana. Many observers reported another just north of Oxford in Butler County over a three-week period in June, where it frequented grain elevators. On 11 July, a pair of doves was found in central Celina (pop. ~10,000) in Mercer County; they

and perhaps others were rediscovered there, calling, on 17 and 22 July. On 27 September, an apparent juvenile ECDO was observed in West Manchester, along with an adult.

Probably because its advance in our direction was blocked or at least slowed by relatively inhospitable dense forests and mountains, this species had furnished few records in Ohio until 2007¹, lagging well behind its arrival elsewhere at our latitude. Its appearance here in appreciable numbers was, in fact, contemporaneous with a similar arrival 4000-plus km. northwest in Alaska, where geography will soon dictate the limit of its North American dispersion. It has been promoted as a game bird and successfully hunted in southeastern states. As of this writing, this species has not been directly addressed in Ohio hunting regulations, but presumably as a non-native dove it may be taken. *Streptopelia* doves are frequently kept in captivity in Ohio, and have been released at weddings, corporate roll-outs, grand openings, and at other such public events. Releases will continue to confuse our perception of its natural distribution, but it seems likely they will become less significant as wild birds arrive.

Identification Problems

Issues, some of them difficult, in distinguishing *S. decaocto* from look-alikes in the field have been discussed here earlier (Hammond 2000) and in many other publications. The only serious ID contender is the domesticated *S. roseogrisea*, once *S. risoria*, now known as the African collared-dove, once as the 'ringed turtle-dove.' This species, allopatric in the wild for all that means, is a subject of aviculture and appears in many color morphs, some confusable with ECDs. Domesticated ACDs are smaller, and many—though not all—show folded primaries with a noticeably paler look than ECD, but these distinctions are most useful in the field when both species are present. Vocalizations are distinctive: ECDs utter a distinctive three-note hollow hooting 'koo-KOO-kook,' so persistently that some find it the species' most annoying behavior. Beneath, *decaocto* shows gray undertail-coverts (markedly darker the rest of the underparts), and blackish on the bases of the tail feathers extending farther distally, especially on the outer webs of the two outermost primaries, where diagnostic narrow 'spikes' appear. The underparts of *roseogrisea* show coverts as pale as the breast, and lack the spikes. Fortunately, the settings in which both species appear lead them to perch on utility wires, making these characteristics of the underparts easily discerned. Hybridization between *decaocto* and *roseogrisea* is known to occur (Romagosa & McEaney 1999, Fisher 1953, Smith 1987).

Eurasian collared-doves have spread so quickly that observers have not always been prepared to document observations adequately. This may have resulted in over-reporting of this species, as in the beginning reporters felt satisfied in distinguishing them only from mourning doves, for example, rather than the more confusable domesticated forms. Additionally, these birds quickly become so familiar in occupied areas that observers less often remark on them after their appearance. Over the last twenty years, *S. decaocto* has become more common than its congeners in North America, but reliable records

¹ The two atypical records in Ohio for 2001 and 2006 could easily represent escaped or released captive birds.

of its local status and distribution continue to depend on accurate identification by observers. Their occupation of North America over such a short period is certainly worthy of careful documentation.

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Migrant Birds Swarm at Little Cedar Point

by E. S. Thomas & Louis W. Campbell

*The Toledo Naturalists' Association's Yearbook for 1975
republished part of a weekly column in the Columbus Dispatch
of 6/4/1939 by E. S. Thomas, then curator of the Ohio State
Museum, appending remarks from Louis W. Campbell. It
appears again here with permission from the TNA.*

It was in many respects the biggest bird day in my career—and that covers 31 years' study of migrating birds. It was a dazzling exciting slightly bewildering day. Just imagine birds by the hundreds, birds everywhere, a dozen pairs of twinkling wings in every tree and shrub, sprightly song bursting our every few moments, hundreds and hundreds of birds!

I had often heard of the great swarms of migrating birds which occasionally mass themselves at places on the shore of Lake Erie in May, preparatory to their flight across the lake. But in a dozen or more May trips up to the lake, I had failed to find any more migrants than would occur in central Ohio on favorable days.

And, although the evidence was from unimpeachable authority, I had come almost to believe that the stories were myths. But, finally, I have seen it with my own eyes. You may believe me: bird migrants do on occasion swarm along the lake shore in absolutely unbelievable numbers, in numbers that are never seen in inland districts.

Upon the invitation of Louis W. Campbell, authority on the birds of northwestern Ohio, and Mrs. Campbell, we drove to Toledo one Saturday and started immediately for Little Cedar Point, a sand spit extending out into the lake, some 10 miles east of Toledo.

The sand spit is surrounded on all sides by extensive marshes, while the lake shore and the lane which leads to the point are bordered with trees and shrubbery. There, thus are presented opportunities for seeing marsh birds, birds of the sand beaches and birds which frequent trees and shrubbery.

There was an abundance of birds at the point that afternoon, but not to be compared with numbers which we were to find on the following day. The feature of the afternoon was the number of Lincoln's sparrows and of gray-cheeked thrushes.

Both species are ordinarily considered rare, and you can imagine our pleasure at finding them actually common on this afternoon. Both birds are normally very shy and difficult to approach, but here they were crowded into such close quarters that we were able to get incomparable views of them time and again.

Out on the sand-spit, there were sanderlings and turnstones and some charming, little suede-gray piping plovers—one of the very rarest of our Ohio nesting birds, and the first which I had seen in Ohio for five years or more.

At the very tip of the point there was a large flock of herring and ring-billed gulls, with some hundred pairs of common terns, which had established a nesting colony. Several dozen tern's nests had already been scooped out in the sand, and a few even had complete clutches of three eggs.

There was a gorgeous scarlet tanager which we saw, shimmering in the sunlight, at 30 feet, along the road. There were gaudy Baltimore orioles, canary and black goldfinches and a flock of the rare brown-streaked pine siskins