

# Black River Audubon Society

# WINGTIPS

May and June Edition  
Summer 2010



## Field Trip April 17, 2010

By **Harry Spencer**

At the site of an abandoned sandstone quarry, eighteen nature lovers followed Grant Thompson as he guided us around fifty or so acres of the remains of his family home on Oberlin Road in Amherst. He vividly sketched the quarry history from about 1850 to 1920 when the sandstone was used for buildings and grindstones. He described the geology, botany, and wildlife of the area and spiced his talk with reminiscences of boyhood interaction with nature and the property. Grant and his four sisters and brother, lived with their parents in a house, now adjacent to the current property.

Exploring a Turkey Vulture Nesting Site/ H. Spencer



Hiking Modes  
H. Spencer

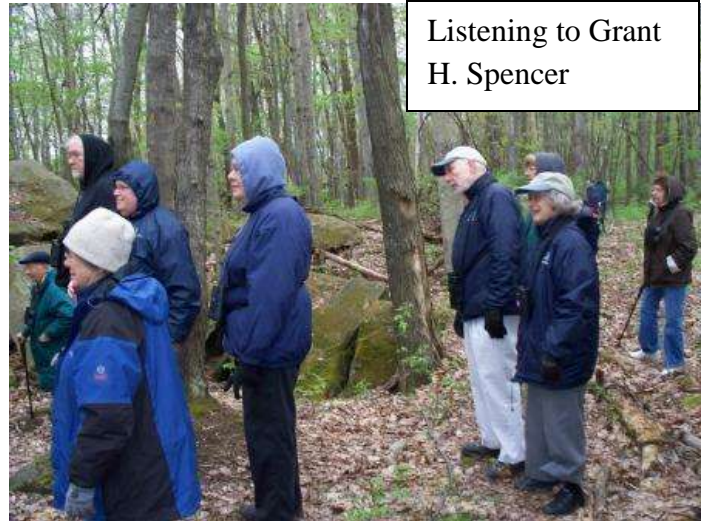
The trails that we followed were wide and reasonably traversed. We saw the remaining foundations of some of the buildings that had been used during either the quarrying period or the subsequent service as a hunt club.

Down we went to the banks of two ponds formed at quarrying locations. One pond is bounded on one side by a sheer-rock cliff, whose seemingly uniformly-smooth surface rises thirty or more feet above the water. Then we hiked up the hill trail at the side of the cliff until we overlooked the ponds from the brink of the sheer-sandstone cliff. From the cliff edge we looked down at the forty-foot-deep pond below. Grant explained that he, his brother, and other boys made numerous dives from the brink of the cliff into the pond.

Outstanding features are the naturally formed sandstone arches, unique within Ohio.



Natural Sandstone Arch  
Sally Fox



Listening to Grant  
H. Spencer

I found Grant's descriptions associated with the fascinating physical surroundings to be riveting, and I was unable to divert my attention to the chorus of bird calls. Nancy Miller and Mike Smith, however, were more attentive to the birds.



**Birds identified by Nancy Miller and Mike Smith:**

Canada goose, great blue heron, red-tailed hawk, northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, American robin, gray catbird, eastern towhee, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, dark-eyed junco, northern cardinal, brown-headed cowbird, American goldfinch.

Black-capped Chickadee/ John Koscinski

**Note: With its history as an active part in the sandstone quarrying industry, unique geological features, and unusual plants, this site is a strong candidate for preservation as a wildlife refuge or park. The property currently is for sale.**

## **May and July Board Meetings**

304 West Blvd.  
Elyria

Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m.  
Election of Officers for 2010 -2011

Tuesday, July 27  
Planning for 2010 -2011

## **June, July, and August Field Trips**

Saturday, June 19, 8:00 a.m.  
Holden Arboretum  
Kirtland

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Tureen Hike at Columbia Reservation

Saturday, August 21, 8:00 a.m.  
Indian Hollow Reservation

## **Photo Gallery**



Prairie Warbler  
Dane Adams



Hermit Thrush  
Dane Adams



Purple Gallinule at Columbia Reservation  
Dave Priebe

## Board Members, June 2010

	Term expiration	Term
Open	June 2013	
Marty Ackermann	June 2013	First
Gary Hawke	June 2013	First
Terri Martincic	June 2013	First
Arlene Ryan	June 2011	Second
Jack Smith	June 2011	Second
Steve Chavez	June 2011	First
Harry Spencer	June 2011	Completing an unexpired Term
Kenny Austin	June 2012	Second
Cathy Priebe	June 2012	First
Wendy Akin	June 2012	First
Debbie Mohr	June 2012	First

## Magee Marsh Field Trip, May 1, 2010

Photos by H. Spencer



Mike, Nan, Nancy, Marty



Debbie, Jack, Paulette

**Species Identified:** Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk,

**American Coot,** Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will,

**Chimney Swift,** Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo,

**Blue Jay,** American Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher,

**Veery,** Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling,



Tom, Dale



Dane

**Nashville Warbler**, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler,



Patty, Cheryl, Debbie



**BIRDING TRAIL SPRING FLOWERS**

H. Spencer

WINGTIPS Editors: Jack Smith and Harry Spencer

Photographer: John Koscinski

Webmistress: Arlene Lengyel