

# Birdin' and Chillin' at Seneca Lake

by Sarah Seeley

This is a summary of the OYBC Central Ohio Chapter's visit to Seneca Lake in eastern Ohio on Sunday, August 5, 2012.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

The plan was for the Central Ohio Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club to bird and swim and hike and eat and hang out together, but Mother Nature made it challenging. We dodged rain and thunder and lightning throughout the day, but still managed to have plenty of fun and discoveries!

On August 5, 2012, the Ohio Young Birders went to John and Gerry's lake house at Seneca Lake in Noble County, Ohio.

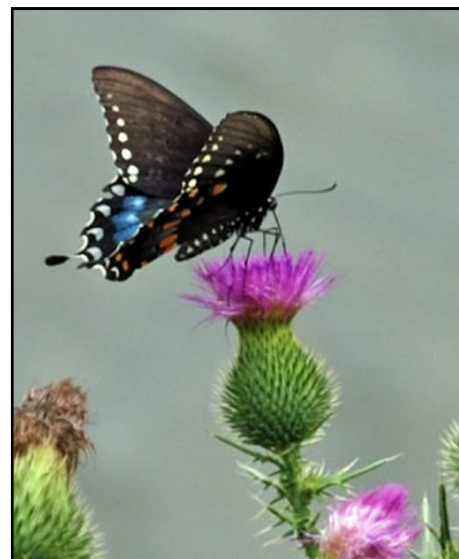
The first thing we did was to go on a nature walk. And we didn't just notice the birds. Trevor and Jacob identified several species of swallowtails: Spicebush, Tiger and Black. They also spotted a Common Buckeye butterfly.

The first things I saw were butterflies perched on a giant milkweed. The butterflies were called Eastern Tiger Swallowtails. The kind of milkweed was different than any other kind I had seen before. The flower alone was as big as both my hands. Its leaves were long, about 5 to 6 inches, yet thin. Trevor also identified several trees during our walk, including sassafras, pin oak, sugar maple, white pine, ash, red oak and white oak.

Then we went back to Gerry's for lunch and to bird watch from their balcony. Next we split up and half went swimming and the rest of us went on a boat ride. Can you guess which one I did? Some of us swam, some of us skied, some of us tubed -- but just about everyone got wet!



Doug tubing like a pro!



Female Spicebush Swallowtail

After we all got off the boat and

out of the water, it started to rain. In all unlikeliness, that didn't stop our fun! We went inside for food and games. Gerry, Susan and other moms made cookies, pasta, hamburgers, and hotdogs. We played a game where one player plays a bird sound and the others guess what bird it is. Also we played Dutch Blitz and did puzzles.

Most of all, it was nice just to relax and spend time with friends. Between hamburgers and swimming, it was absolutely peaceful. Between games and birding, it was absolutely fun.

List of bird species seen:

Ring-billed Gull  
Northern Cardinal  
House Finch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Ruby-throated  
Hummingbird  
Chipping Sparrow  
American Robin  
Eastern Wood Peewee

House Wren  
Carolina Chickadee  
Eastern Bluebird  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Tufted Titmouse  
Mourning Dove  
Downy Woodpecker  
American Goldfinch  
Osprey

Yellow Warbler  
Eastern Kingbird  
Song Sparrow  
Eastern Towhee  
Belted Kingfisher  
Purple Martin  
Gray Catbird  
Red-tailed Hawk

