



## **City of Ashtabula**

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

### Agenda

- 1. Opening of Committee Meeting**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Sunshine Law Certification
- 2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Special Guest Presentation**
  - a. The Nature Conservancy
- 4. City Manager's Report**
- 5. Parks & Recreation Committee Report**
- 6. Unfinished Business**
- 7. New Business**
  - a. Brief update on 60 properties - Assistant City Solicitor Catherine Colgan
- 8. Next Meeting**
  - a. December 3, 2025
- 9. Adjournment**

## Who is a birder?

To be counted as a birder, an individual must have either taken a trip one mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or closely observed or tried to identify birds around the home. In 2022, there were **96 million birders**, 16 years of age and older, in the United States — 37 percent of the population.

Comparison of participation in similar outdoor activities:

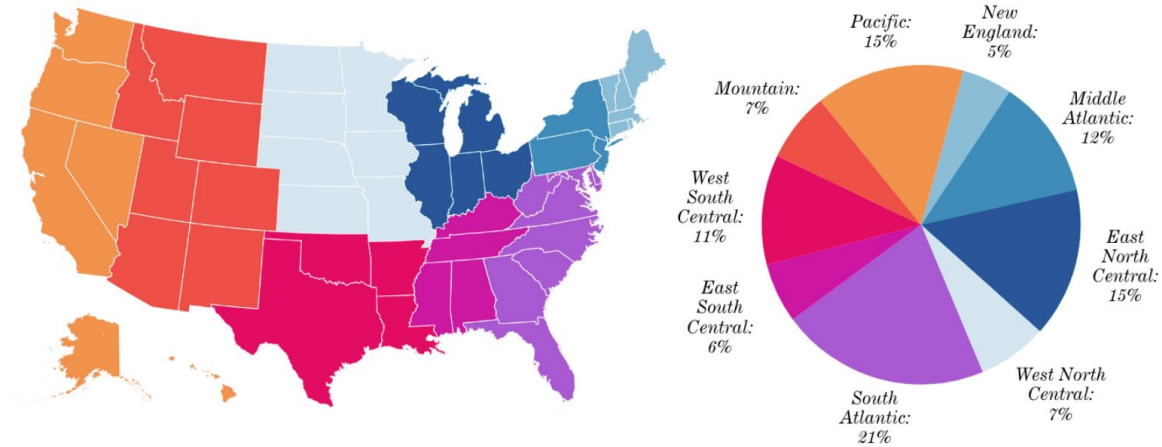
39.9 million people fish

14.4 million hunt

## Where are the birders?

**Figure 1. Divisional Distribution of Birders by Region of Residence: 2022**

*Total: 96 million birders, 16 years of age and older.*



*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

2022 Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis 13

## What is the economic value of birding?

### 2022 Expenditures in the U.S.

108 billion: Bird Watching		99 billion: Fishing		45 billion: Hunting
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<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-11/2022-birding-in-the-us-demographic-and-economic-analysis.pdf>

[https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Final\\_2022-National-Survey\\_101223-accessible-single-page.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Final_2022-National-Survey_101223-accessible-single-page.pdf)

www.ebird.org by Cornell allows us to share data input by birders in the form of a citizen science crowdsourced database: "eBird data document bird distribution, abundance, habitat use, and trends through checklist data collected within a simple, scientific framework. Birders enter when, where, and how they went birding, and then fill out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing."

Ohio ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of documented bird seeking outings (checklists). Birding is big business in Ohio! Not all birders document sightings in ebird but those who do are represented below.

**Checklist Leaders**

1. California	662.2K
2. New York	417.2K
3. Texas	381.5K
4. Florida	362K
5. Pennsylvania	358.5K
6. Ohio	272.1K
7. Washington	269.5K
8. Colorado	267.3K
9. Michigan	261.6K
10. Arizona	260.1K



<https://ebird.org/region/US/subregions>

**When do you watch birds?**

All year, including and especially the slow season for the lakefront!

**Why?**

Because birders follow the birds. Highly desirable birds that folks want to see are those who are migrating in the spring and fall or those who over-winter here briefly. Lakefront communities such as Ashtabula are magnets for birders because most migratory birds pause before and after flying across Lake Erie to rest and refuel for a few days and sometimes a few weeks.

## Ashtabula opportunities to attract birds and birders

### A success story from another lakefront community

Since the inception of the Lucas County bird festival, The Biggest Week In American Birding in 2010, tourists from every state and over 30 countries visited and spend over 40 million dollars at local businesses.

“All this occurs during what had been considered the shoulder season—one of the slowest times for tourism. Businesses are opening nearly a full month earlier, extending their hours, and hiring more staff. And birders are wonderful people to have in our area. They’re really nice, they don’t raise hell, they tip well, and many of them stay in the area as long as two weeks to a month. Birders are even starting to purchase spring birding homes. Who’d have thought that birds could even help sell real estate?!” Kimberly Kaufman, Executive Director, Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

<https://www.toledochamber.com/blog/economic-impact-why-birds-and-birding-matter>

### Nurture native landscapes at home and in the parks

By preserving the habitat that already exists and partnering with organizations such as The Nature Conservancy to expand these areas at every opportunity, we invest in the health and wealth of Ashtabula for years to come.



### Develop more birders locally

Contact Blackbrook Audubon Society for educational opportunities and volunteers to lead hikes.

<http://blackbrookaudubon.org/about.html>