

2023 Annual Birdathon

24 hour birding - April 22nd or 23rd

By Jim Koelliker

Way back in 1985, Cecil Best and Clyde Ferguson on a whim during a late April poor fishing outing hatched a plan: to search for as many bird species in a 24-hour period and then send it to their friends to urge them to donate an amount for each species to the North Flint Hills Audubon Society. It worked!

Fast forward to 2023 and I will be managing the 38th annual Birdathon. Cecil pulled me in and I became friends with Clyde and ever since about 1990 I have been hooked in and now it's an annual must for me. Thankfully, many others have joined with me over the years. A group of birders will join me on my chase around to different habitat areas. But you, as just one birder, can go out and count the number of species you see within a 24-hour period of your choice sometime during April 22nd and 23rd this year.

Yes, an important part of the process is to raise donations for the Chapter, so I hope you would send me your list of species you found along with contact information for your friends, family and anyone who you think would like to be a sponsor. I will send them our report so we can ask them to contribute to NFHAS, a certain amount for each species we see this year. From a dime to quarter or more, you would be surprised how much we can raise. Last year we raised nearly \$4,000!

I will include the additional species that you found in the written report of those my group found and then send that report to your contacts and ask them for their contribution with our report. Some sponsors just give a set amount. Those donating \$20 or more may receive a year's subscription to the Prairie Falcon if requested.

Please send the name and address of each potential sponsor to Jim Koelliker, 3500 Mintons Lndg, Manhattan KS 66503. If you don't want to go out alone or don't think you are good enough to ID birds, contact Jim Koelliker (785-776- 4915, voice or text, koellik@sbcglobal.net) and I will help you find someone or a group to search with you. Also, you can contact a board member, or drop a note to NFHAS, PO Box 1932, Manhattan 66502 and we will find someone to count for you. On average we see between 90-110 species this time of year.

PS: Please report your list of species to Jim no later than April 29th to have them included in the master list. Our list will be included in a subsequent edition of the Prairie Falcon.

More information and sponsor form will be in the April Prairie Falcon and on our website nfhas.org.



Photos by Dave Rintoul

Birdathon Sponsor form

Your name_____

Email address _____

Address_____

City _____

State_____ Zip_____

Sponsor’s Name & Address	Pledge/species	Total Pledge	Newsletter