

**Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society 2021 BIRDATHON REPORT
AND REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

May 2021

*Many of you have received this report from Clyde Ferguson for the past 35 years.
Clyde has asked me to make this report for him, too. Clyde celebrated his 90th last June.*

Dear Friend,

The 36th annual Birdathon was more like the first 34. We had three teams working the area and two others who added to the species. The Ferguson team consisted of Clyde working his 36th from his home watching his feeders, 22 species, and his son, Bob, and his family who found 23 more species in the areas nearby. My team, Koelliker, included Lowell Johnson and Mike Kanost and we scoured the area plus Carole Ann Harbers watched her feeder. My team added 38 unique species to the overall total of 98 species. Patricia Yeager, worked alone at Lake Elbo and surrounding areas and added 10 additional to the total. Scott Taylor found four additional species and finally, Jacque Staats reported the first ruby-throated hummingbird siting of the year. It was a tremendous effort, and the result was positive identification of 98 species that are found in our area. The included report shows the species found in **the '21 column in RED** and the letter there represents the team credited with finding that species.

Unusual species found this year are shown on the enclosed page of pictures. Both the Ross's goose and snow goose were the firsts ever. This was only the second year that a fish crow was found. The same is true for a pair of Prairie Falcons. The American Avocet was found for only the third time.

Unfortunately, we missed a number of species that we had found nearly every year in the last 20 – Greater Prairie Chicken, Northern Bobwhite, Wilson's Phalarope, Western Kingbird, N. Rough-Winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. Just a few days make a big difference in the appearance of many migrants in our area.

I always enjoy working on this Birdathon because I like the challenge and making this detailed report makes me even more aware of our local birds. Too, I hope you find this report interesting & informative.

Yes, this report is a request for your financial support for the Northern Flint Hills Chapter of the Audubon Society. This effort is our primary fund-raising activity. Last year nearly 100 contributors generously contributed almost \$3,600 that the chapter put to good use to support our efforts in the area.

I am again asking for your support by completing the section below, tearing it off, and sending it along with your check or cash to me, Jim Koelliker, at 3500 Mintons Lndg, Manhattan, KS 66503.



-----RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION-----

Please print your information

Name _____

Address _____

I/ we are contributing

____ 0.15 (\$14.70); ____ 0.20 (\$19.60);

____ 0.50 (\$49.00); ____ other (\$_____)

Remember: A contribution of \$15.00 or more provides you a year's access to The Prairie Falcon!

____ Yes, I/ we want The Prairie Falcon newsletter.

____ Yes, full-color issue to my E-mail address:

Make your check payable to the **NFHAS** and mail it me, along with this section and mail it to

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Jim Koelliker, 3500 Mintons Lndg, Manhattan, KS 66503
785-776-4915 koellik@sbcglobal.net

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**Fish Crow – 2nd Time Found,
but they are now here often.**



**Ross's Goose – 1st Time Found and with Canada
Goose. Pictures by Lowell Johnson**



American Avocet – 3rd Time Found

Best Birds of 2021

*Others found less often in the past 30 years, but not shown:
Merlin, 5th; Red-Shouldered Hawk, 4th; Chestnut-Sided Warbler, 2nd*



**Ruby-Throated Hummingbird;
7th time found, but 5th in a row.**



**Snow Goose – 1st Time Found and with Canada Goose.
Pictures by Lowell Johnson**



Prairie Falcon – 2nd Time Found