# http://ts4.mm.bing.net/th?id=HN.608008189181167631&pid=15.1Andrew McCormick

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May 9, 2018

*Karismatic Kestrels flying high for Birdathon!*

Hello Birdathon Supporter,

May is here and that means Birdathon, the Audubon Society’s annual fundraiser, is on again. For our eleventh consecutive year, my team, the Karismatic Kestrels will be counting birds to raise funds for Audubon’s conservation and education programs. I hope that you will be one of my team’s sponsors.

The Karismatic Kestrels were out on May 7 for a Big Day of birding and saw 111 species of birds! It was a great day and it’s good to know that many birds are doing well. My report of the day is enclosed.

If you donate to support my team your contribution will be matched by The Melody S. Robidoux Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. Thanks to the generous support of all those who supported my team and the matching funds from Robidoux, our Audubon chapter raised over $32,000 last year.

The foundation has challenged us with another matching grant of $15,000. You can double your contribution again this year!

Here is how it works. Birdathon teams compete to see who can identify the most species of birds by sight or sound in any 24-hour period. The Birdathon idea is to enlist the support of sponsors who agree to pledge a certain amount per species tallied. This amount becomes the sponsor’s contribution to the Audubon cause. For example, a sponsor pledging $1.00 per bird species would contribute $105.00 if we find 105 species.

If you choose to sponsor my team, I’ll be very grateful. (Could you consider pledging $.50 per species or more?). Of course, your donation is tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to Eastside Audubon Society. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You can also donate online at <https://www.eastsideaudubon.org/birdathon>

The birds and I appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Andy McCormick

P.S. The United Nations recently reported on the need to protect our open spaces and bird habitats. Our Audubon chapter is working to protect these areas and we are educating people about the importance of this work. Thank you for whatever you can contribute, and I hope you see a lot of birds this year.