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We're Honoring Veterans Sunday, November 11th



On Sunday, Nov. 11, let us know that you're a veteran, and in which branch of the military that you served, and we will give you **15% off your entire purchase**. Veterans Day is a day to honor those who served for our country and goes back to 1919 after the end of World

War 1. It was called Armistice Day. The Veterans Day of today is a day, "to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good". The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to honor all veterans.

2018 Is The Year of the Bird

"Nothing in nature catches our fancy or arouses our curiosity more than birds. They live from the windswept high Arctic to the world's driest deserts, and everywhere in between. Christopher Columbus studied them far out at sea, as beacons of hope foretelling approach to a new continent. Some hunt in the darkest of nights, navigating by listening for their own echoes. Others hunt from high in the sky using eyesight far keener than our own. Some raise just a single chick every two to three years, others can hatch a flock of their own several times a year. They may eat other animals (*tiny to large*), and even minerals (*clay to sheep bones*). They flap, soar, stoop, glide, swim, dive, walk, hop, and run like the wind. They can dance with choreography that baffles us, sing with melodies that haunt us, display with decorations that enchant us, and feign injury so convincingly as to fool us. Some mate for life and live

in extended families, others mate for an instant and never see their offspring. Some never leave the local woodlot all their lives; others know the planet as a

north-south stage to move across twice a year. Whether we are beginning bird-watchers or seasoned experts, and whether we watch as an occasional hobby or a lifetime profession, we can experience two remarkable sensations every time we see or hear a bird. For their beautiful colors, ability to fly, wonderful sounds and active habits, birds bring us pure enjoyment". Taken from the chapter, "The Adaptable Bird" from the National Geographic Reference Atlas to the Birds of North America. Written by the Executive Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

- John W. Fitzpatrick.

California Scrub Jay
-Tom Grey





FALL COUPON

**Mention this coupon and take...
10% off one item**

Expires December 31, 2018

One Coupon per customer please. Excludes sale items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers. #FALL123118



Holiday Store Hours

- Wed., Nov. 21** Closing early 10–3 PM
- Thur., Nov. 22** Thanksgiving closed
- Mon., Dec. 24** Christmas Eve 9–3 PM
- Tues., Dec. 25** Christmas Day closed
- Mon., Dec. 31** New Year's Eve 10–3 PM closing early
- Tues. Jan. 1** Closed for New Year's Day

Just some of what we have for you!

All made in the USA!



Seed Houses

Our seed houses come to us from Texas and are always a gift giving favorite. Place outside and let the birds enjoy.



Our newest line of jewelry comes from Montana. Lisa found this USA vendor while leading her birding tour to Yellowstone last June.



Kliszewski Glass

We have a new shipment of Kliszewski glass made by Fresno Artist Bob Kliss. They come in a variety of colors and sizes.



Pretty Bird Pottery

We have added porcelain to our wind chime offering. Patterns are individually hand stamped into the clay using local California Flora.

Flour Sack Towels

Everyone already knows about our flour sack towels from *Paper Shark*, but during the holidays we also carry *Mary Lake Thompson* designs out of Oroville, CA.



LOS GATOS BIRDWATCHER

Custom T's

We found a new graphic artist out of Michigan that captures our birds beautifully. We have two designs featuring the California Quail and Burrowing Owl.



Sierra Essentials

These 3.5 ounce scented soaps come from Truckee and make great stocking stuffers.



For everything on your holiday gift list!

- 4Ocean
- Anuschka
- Baffles
- Bat Houses
- Binoculars
- Bird Baths
- Bird Feeders
- Bird Houses
- Cards
- Cat Collars
- Clothing
- Coasters
- Coffee Mugs
- Dog Biscuits
- Door Mats
- Field Guides
- Garden Art Gifts
- Glass Pumpkins
- Gloves
- Gordon Stennett
- Hats
- Home Décor
- Jewelry
- Kimonos
- Lotion
- Nectar
- Pajamas
- Rain Gauges
- Scarves
- Seed
- Soap
- Socks
- Squirrel Proof
- Stepping Stones
- Studio M
- Suet
- Thermometers
- Totes
- Towels
- T-Shirts
- Wall Clocks
- Wind Chimes

Greetings from Templeton!

by Freddy Howell

I was excited when Lisa asked me to provide you an update on how John and I are doing since we retired. We sold our home in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and with our completed architectural plans in hand, we moved to the Paso Robles area ready to build our straw bale house. I am thrilled to report our home is now built and we have been enjoying the Central Coast for over a year now and we couldn't be happier. We moved into our new straw bale house this last April 26 and have been working hard to make it our home...almost there. This summer was pretty brutal with temperatures between 102-110. The good news is that it cools down into the 60s at night and there is always a breeze/wind coming through the Templeton Gap. We open the windows and, with the help of great ceiling fans, we cool right down. The house stays between 73 and 77 degrees. The construction process went smoothly and we are now working on our landscaping.



Freddy and John's new home

We have a nyjer and a hulled sunflower feeder that attracts an amazing number of lesser goldfinches and house finches. They empty the feeders daily! Mourning doves, juncos and towhees clean up in the afternoon. We are now up to six Anna's hummingbirds and this last summer we had three hooded orioles visit the oriole feeder.

The first week we arrived, I saw a notification about an upcoming Newcomers meeting. It's an active group of both men and women and offer a number of



Breaking ground

activities, one of which was birdwatching. Through that contact, I found the Morro Bay Natural History Museum.

I am now a Front Desk/Nature Shop docent and so enjoy greeting visitors and sharing the special location and Museum with visitors from all over the world. During the school year, I am also a school docent! This summer I have been on a team that educates visitors about sea otters out at Morro Rock. The local Audubon Education group is very active and we do school programs and birdwalks as well as summer camps and a Land Conservancy program called Learning Among the Oaks.

John is keeping busy "puttering", fine tuning all the systems in the house and hanging all our wall art! He is also spreading left over straw beyond the fence to keep down the weeds. His main task is figuring out how to set up a wireless music system to play all our CDs. He has also joined the local genealogy society and their Scandinavian ancestry research group.

We are also enjoying living close to my cousins and getting to know all our new neighbors. Let us know if you are in the area or on your way to the southland. We make an excellent rest stop! jandfhowellz@icloud.com

Small Business Saturday: November 24, 2018

WHAT IT MEANS TO LOCAL BUSINESS.

Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize smaller brick and mortar businesses like the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We appreciate our loyal, nature loving community and thank you for doing your shopping with us as we celebrate 23 years in business! Small Business Saturday also allows us to thank you for shopping local. If you make a purchase at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher on Nov. 24 you will have your pick from one of our fun giveaways, from free seed to hummingbird nectar to much more. You will also be entered into a raffle where the winner will receive a **\$100 gift certificate** to be used in the store.





Let's go Birding

Let's Go Birding is the tour division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

Let's Go Birding tours get you out of your yard and into different habitats where you can experience a variety of species not found at home.

Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks

FREE

Join us Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk.

Walks end by 10:00 am. Dates and locations are listed on our web page. Mornings listed with, "Meet-up*" indicates a morning when birders will meet on sight at 8:15 AM without Lisa. For all other walks you can meet Lisa at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:30 am. These two hour Saturday walks are open to all who are interested in birding. If the forecast calls for an 80–100% chance of rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels. **A reminder of Saturday's location can be accessed on the store's voice mail at 408-358-9453 on Friday night.**



Oct 6 – call the store Friday night for location

Oct 13 - Meet-up at Belgatos Park in Los Gatos off Blossom Hill Road

Oct 20 - Oka Ponds - entrance off Lark

Oct 27 – "Listening for the Birds" Class field trip: details below

Nov. 3 - Picchetti Winery Open Space 13100 Montebello Rd Cupertino

Nov. 10 - Los Capitancillos Ponds in South San Jose. Meet on Singletree Way off Camden at PG&E power station

Nov. 17 - Meet-up - Rinconada Park, 151 Granada Way Los Gatos

Nov. 24 - Call the store Friday night for location

Dec. 1 & 2 Let's Go Birding the Central Valley Weekend: refer to details

Dec. 8, 15, 22 - No Walks during busy holiday shopping month

Dec. 29 - Kevin Moran Park, 12415 Scully Ave. Saratoga

Jan. 5 - Call the store Friday night for location

Jan. 12 - All Day Tour - Merced National Wildlife Refuge



Let's Go Birding Central Valley Birding Weekend with Lisa Myers

December 1st & 2nd

We'll spend the weekend birding North American hot spots as we visit the Sacramento and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges and open spaces in between. Here we will find the millions of birds that leave their northern breeding grounds to spend their winter in California. We'll spend the evening in Williams. Trip fee includes transportation, hotel, continental breakfast and snacks. Lunch, Dinner, alcohol and driver tip are not included. Rain does not cancel. We'll experience over 70 species including Tundra Swans, Ross's & Snow Geese, Greater White Fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagle, and White Faced Ibis. Space is limited.

\$379 Single in their own room

\$630 Couple sharing a room

\$319 Single sharing with another single
Email your questions or to sign-up.

info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

Snow Geese photo above – Tony Woo

Listening for the Birds Class

Class will be held Tues. Oct. 23 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher includes a Saturday morning field trip planned for Oct. 27 at McClellan Ranch 8:30 – 11:00 AM

Call the Los Gatos Birdwatcher to sign-up 408-358-9453. Cost: \$35

Learning to use your ears to help find birds will aid you greatly in IDing and finding your birds. This workshop will concentrate on how to use bird calls and chip notes when birding. While there is less bird song during the fall, but continue to communicate using other types of vocalization. We will concentrate of the birds we can find here in the Bay Area in the fall and into the winter. We will learn the differences between birdsong and chip notes. We will review Yellow-rumper Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Cedar Waxwing, Anna's Hummingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bewick's wren and both the White Crowned and Golden Crowned Sparrow. This class is being taught in partnership with Santa Clara Valley Audubon and will be held at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher located at 792 Blossom Hill Road.

Bird Identification Workshop at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

– Open to all levels

These workshops have proven extremely popular as customers learn how to identify the birds coming to their yards. Workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:30 – 8:30 PM (Free) These one hour workshops will focus on four different bird species we can expect to see in our local area. We'll go over the field marks you can use to make the ID. We'll also talk about behaviors, food preferences and even vocalizations. We ask that you bring your own folding chair to the store that night and you will need to have a field guide with you for class. Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453.

Thursday, Nov. 8 Workshop: Acorn Woodpecker, Northern Flick, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker

Nikon Monarch Madness SALE

- We have a Nikon binocular sale happening through October 21, 2018. You can save between \$35 - \$100 on specific Monarch 5, 7 and HD binoculars. Come on down and we'll show you how much you can save. We also have some great give-a-ways you will receive when you make a Nikon purchase.



Project Feeder Watch Starting in November

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. It's a fun way to learn about your backyard birds and contribute to a 31-year-and-running data-set of bird population changes. With FeederWatch, you become a scientist in your own backyard and your counts become part of something bigger.

It's time to register for the **2018-19 FeederWatch season, which begins November 10**

Just go to this link to sign-up. <https://feederwatch.org>. Instructional kits will start shipping by bulk mail in October to all first-time participants. ID numbers needed for data entry are printed on the letter that comes in the kit.

Merced National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, January 12, 7:45 AM – 4:00 PM

The Merced National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 10,258 acres of wetlands, native grasslands, vernal pools, and riparian areas. It was established in 1951 under the Lea Act to attract wintering waterfowl from adjacent farmland where their foraging activities were causing crop damage. In the last few decades, changes in local agricultural practices and Refuge management activities have reduced these wildlife/crop issues. The Refuge plays host to the largest wintering populations of lesser Sandhill Cranes and Ross' geese along the Pacific Flyway. Each year more than 20,000 cranes and 60,000 arctic-nesting geese make the Refuge home for six months. Here they mingle with thousands of other visiting waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds – making the Refuge a true winter phenomenon.

\$70. Fee includes transportation, gas, entrance fees. Tip to driver is separate.

Where will Let's Go Birding go next?

We would like to hear from you. Lisa is trying to determine the next

Let's Go Birding tour she will plan in the coming year. These are the following locations she has in mind - Alaska, Guatemala, Texas, or Florida. We welcome your feedback.

You can email her at Lisa@lets gobirding.com. Updates to come.



Birding the Migration

by Lisa Myers

During the late Summer and early Fall many species of birds fly south to warmer climates, where they will find lots of food to help them get through the winter. During this time of year birders know they may get a chance to spot a bird that is seen only a few times a year as they migrate through. There is also a chance to find species that simply do not belong here. This means getting to see a bird you have never seen before, also known as a “Life Bird.”

These birds are considered rare or “vagrant.” Often they are young birds that were born the past Spring. As they leave the area where they were born and start their instinctual migration south, they get lost or are blown off course and end up in locations they do not belong. When we find them, it makes the news in the birding communities. This happened on a Los Gatos Birdwatcher Saturday walk right here in Los Gatos at Vasona County Park. It was Sat. morning Sept. 8, when our Los Gatos Birdwatcher group was birding along the creek on the look-out for migrating species. Soon we saw a bird fly up past the group and land in a Sycamore. I commented, “Here is something new for the day,” and we all got on the bird quickly. We knew it was a warbler. Warblers can be difficult to observe because they move around quickly looking for bugs, however, this bird actually sat and preened. Before it could fly away, we called out all its field marks....yellow throat, 2 white wing bars, grey back, white vent, dark eye, striped head....when Ozzie A. shouted out, ““it’s a Blackburnian Warbler.” The bird was so cooperative we had time to open our field guides and apps and study the bird.



Vasona Blackburnian Warbler
– Ellen Bateman taken 09/08/2018

This bird arrived from somewhere in the North/East in the area of Alberta Canada to Newfoundland. Blackburnian Warblers usually migrate through the middle of North America. Folks in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Missouri and Oklahoma get to see them before the birds reach Texas and follow the Gulf of Mexico on their way to Central America. Our bird went too far west and ended up in California! When this happens, one would hope they get back on course and meet up with the rest of their clan, but until they do, birders from everywhere will try and re-find them. Per local bird recorder Bill Bousman, Blackburnian Warblers have only been recorded in Santa Clara County 5 times since 1971. The most recent involved a bird that hung out in Palo Alto from Nov. 25 - Dec. 9, 2011.



The Blackburnian Warbler is one of the few birds named after a woman. Anna Blackburne (1726 - 1793) was a respected English naturalist who’s primary interest was in entomology. When she found this warbler she could not identify, she sent it to the bird experts of her time and they named the bird after her.

Keep An Eye out in your yard

The following birds will be arriving back very soon -
White Crown & Golden Crown Sparrows, Varied Thrush, Fox and Lincoln Sparrows,
Cedar Waxwings, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler and many more.

Yellow-rump Warbler - ***Tony Woo***

Entertaining and Educational Photo Presentations

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor an entertaining and educational photo presentation each season for our local community. Presentations take place next door at The Terraces which is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and presentations start at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to park at The Terraces, or use our Kings Court parking lot and take the short walk next door. These presentations are free and there is no need to pre-register.

Arctic Summer with Bill Walker

Thursday, Oct. 18 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

Photographer Bill Walker is coming back in October to give the presentation he was not able to give over the summer. We are looking forward to seeing his presentation on life during the brief summer near the Arctic Circle. We'll look at the lives of long distance migrants and a few hearty year-round residents spending the summer in Orkney, Iceland, and Alaska. Find out how birds make the most of the long days to nest, rear their young, and prepare for the coming winter. Bay Area wildlife photographer Bill Walker has been photographing wild birds and their environment since 2003. He has taught photography

for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Point Reyes Birding Festival, and the Coastside Land Trust. His work is published on Instagram, flickr, at birdwalker.com, and in his annual BirdWalker wall calendar.



Common Eider - *Bill Walker*

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Feeder Cleaning** – We want to help you maintain a healthy environment for your backyard birds. That is why we offer this service to clean feeders on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bring your feeder into the store in the morning and we'll have it ready before closing. While we clean feeders for free we do ask that you consider making a minimum donation of \$5 per feeder to one of the Bay Area charities we support. You'll find collection boxes at the store.

- **Frequent Buyer Program** – Buy 9 of the same seed bags of 20# or higher at full price and get the 10th bag free. Coupons do not apply.

- **Outreach to community organizations about birding** – We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups.

- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** – We will come out to your home and talk about what you can do to attract more birds to your yard. What species you can attract, where to set-up feeders, bird baths and nest boxes are just some of the topics we'll cover. There is a \$25 consultation fee per visit. With your visit you'll receive a \$10 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate.

- **Help you to ID your Birds** – We can help you ID that mystery bird in your yard. Just take a photo using your cell phone and email it to info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com, or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.



We invite you to share your photos to our Facebook page and we will provide feedback.

- We offer **Gift Certificates** and **complimentary gift wrapping**.

That's Simply Not True!

Some customers think keeping seed or hummingbird feeders out during the fall will prevent the birds from migrating. Well, that's simply not true! For some species of birds, migrating is part of their DNA. It's their instinct to travel to other parts of the world throughout the year. So keeping a feeder out for them actually helps! The high-quality food you offer gives them a chance to bulk up and rest during their journey. And our Anna's Hummingbirds live here in the Bay Area throughout the entire year, so keeping your hummingbird feeders full is a welcome sight for a hungry hummer. Please keep feeders clean, and away from cats.

PHOTO - Droll Yankee Feeder with White-breasted Nuthatch



King's Court Center
792 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032
408/358-9453
email: info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com
website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



Dates to Remember

- **Oct. 31** – Halloween
- **Nov. 4** – Daylight Savings Time ends.
Turn back your clock 1 hour
- **Nov. 11** – Veteran's Day
- **Nov. 22** – Thanksgiving (closed)
- **Dec. 2** – Hanukkah begins
- **Dec. 21** – First Day of Winter
- **Dec. 25** – Christmas Day (Closed)
- **Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve closing early
- **Jan. 1** – New Year's Day (closed)

Please note the store will begin closing at 5 PM on Saturday's starting in 2019



Loyal Customer Discount
Mention this coupon and take...
15% off one item
Expires December 31, 2018

#NC12312018

One Coupon per customer please.
Excludes sales items, excursions and optics.
Not to be combined with any other offers.

Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 am to 6 PM
Sunday: noon to 5 PM



Map showing the location of Los Gatos Birdwatcher Kings Court Center at the intersection of Blossom Hill Rd and Los Gatos Blvd. The map includes labels for Winchester Blvd, Lark Ave, and Blossom Hill Rd. A north arrow is present in the top right corner.