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Our Feathered Friends Are Getting Ready to Nest Here's how you can help.

Habitat is the single most critical factor for successfully attracting certain bird species to nest in your yard. The kinds of trees and vegetation, both on and near your property, will determine what kinds of birds will nest on your property. Some birds, like sparrows, towhees and juncos nest directly on the ground, so they need a safe place to hide underneath garden shrubs. Other birds, like doves, robins and orioles, will make their nests up in the trees using branches or mud and even plant fibers. Then there are the birds that require cavities in trees where they'll make their nests. They include woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, Violet-Green Swallows and wrens. If you do not have natural cavities in your yard you can offer them a man-made nest box as a substitute. We have several different nest box styles and sizes. Our staff is happy to help you pick out a nest box for your backyard habitat.



Panama Let's Go Birding Tour a Grand Success! By Lisa Myers

The Panama Birding tour proved to be a grand success. We birded along the Panama Canal and the Caribbean side of the country. Many times we birded from boat as we scanned the shore for new species. In addition to the birds, we also enjoyed Poison Dart Frogs, Night Monkeys, many reptiles and both two-toed and three-toed sloths not to mention the beautiful butterflies, tropical plants and flowers. Let's Go Birding partnered with Wildside Nature Tours and Glenn Crawford. Glenn is a fabulous birder and gracious leader and it was a joy for all to travel with him. We ended the tour with 237 species. I plan to do a re-cap Panama photo presentation of our tour this summer and hope you can come enjoy our adventure.



Come Get Up Close to Local Wildlife

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

We are excited to have WERC (Wildlife Education and Rehab Center) coming back to the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher on Sat. April 15.** WERC is a local non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. They also go out to schools and visit other organizations to help educate the public on how to peacefully coexist with nature.

WERC has helped the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and many of our customers many times throughout the years with wildlife emergencies. Please put April 15 on your calendar to come down to the store and meet the volunteers from WERC. We will also have a donation box available so you can help them continue their good work.



We are having a one day sale in honor of Earth Day, Saturday, April 22!



Earth Day was founded in 1970 when Gaylord Nelson wanted to increase the nation's environmental awareness. Millions of Americans observed that first Earth Day in April 1970 via one of the largest demonstrations in US history. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Earth Day continues to grow as people take time out to celebrate nature and what a great excuse to have a **ONE DAY SALE**. Simply come see us on Saturday, April 22 and mention the Earth Day sale and we will give you **15% off on any one item** (excluding optics). This is not to be combined with the newsletter coupon.

I recently met one of the Bird School Project Founders Darrow Feldstein. I was very excited about his non-profit and their mission and invited Darrow to tell us more. I hope you too are inspired and I invite you to come meet Darrow when he does our April photo presentation at The Terraces on Thursday April 20. Lisa Myers

The Bird School Project *by Darrow Feldstein*

A small group of middle school students are led outside their classroom door in the middle of science class and they are asked to take a moment in silence to simply listen for different bird sounds. After about thirty seconds, a young girl opens her eyes wide and whispers, "I had no idea there were so many birds here!" This



is the beginning of an important journey toward a deepening connection with her environment. The Bird School Project (BSP) is a local environmental education program in the Monterey Bay that seeks to provide experiences like this to thousands of students each year.

Back in 2014, Kevin Condon and Darrow Feldstein, both recent environmental studies graduates from UC Santa Cruz, set out to share their birding skills with a younger audience. They bought 24 pairs of binoculars, borrowed some bird specimens from the university natural history museum, and set out on bicycles to travel the entire California coast to teach kids about local birds in the schoolyard. Three years and over 3,000 students later, The Bird School Project is a successful education program perpetuating the educators' dreams of helping young people connect deeply with their local birds.

Some schools have the opportunity to attend a residential outdoor school or to have a scientist visit their classroom. However, many schools, due to limited resources are prevented from providing deep environmental educational

experiences outside the walls of the classroom. The Bird School Project believes that every student, if provided with the right tools and guidance, has the ability to turn their schoolyard into a living laboratory and the opportunity to develop an understanding and awareness of their local

birds. If the older generation hopes to inspire a younger generation to become stewards of the earth, we need to show students that there are beautiful birds and natural mysteries right in their backyards.

BSP brings binoculars and field journals into every class and guides students into the schoolyard to go birding. Students are taught how to take notes, draw field sketches, identify birds, and contribute to citizen science projects like eBird. BSP is an ambassador program to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and to the Ken Norris Center for Natural History at UC Santa Cruz.

In order to keep the program soaring and allow it to grow, The Bird School Project is seeking support from anyone and everyone--particularly local birders who care about the future of our birds. If you or anyone you know may be interested in supporting The Bird School Project--whether it be financially or through donating binoculars and field guides or even volunteering to help us teach--please contact us. Visit our website at birdschoolproject.org and come fly with us!



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

On this page you'll find all the upcoming birding tours we have planned through the store. 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

Dates and locations of our bird walks are listed in the newsletter and on our web page. A reminder to our location will also be found on the store's phone message. Join us most Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk. You can meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:15 am. Walks end by 10:00 am. These two hour Saturday walks are open to all who are interested in birding. If the forecast calls for rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels.



- Mar 4** La Rinconada, Los Gatos
- Mar 11** No walk this morning
- Mar 18** Beginning Birding Workshop Field Trip, call the store to sign-up
- Mar 25** Geng Road in Palo Alto off the Embarcadero - Meet at the Bayland's Athletic Center
- Apr 1** Vasona Lake County Park – Pepper Lane entrance off University
- Apr 8** Please join Lisa as she leads a fundraising team for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Spring birdathon from, 8 AM to 1 PM. \$50 donation to SCVAS.org
- Apr 15** West Valley Junior College, Saratoga, meet in front of Fox Theatre off of Fruitvale & Admissions Way
- Apr 22** Earth Day - No morning walk as we have a Raptor Workshop with Ryan Phillips
- Apr 29** No morning walk - Special free Nikon optics seminar being held in the store 9 AM. Call the store to reserve your space
- May 6** Picchetti Ranch Preserve - The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Road off Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Road
- May 13** No morning walk. All day tour to Henry Cowell

Tours below require a reservation, please call the store to save your spot, 408-358-9453.

Beginning Birding Workshop with Lisa Myers

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

6:30 – 8:00 PM at the store

& Saturday, March 18

8:00 – 11:00 AM field trip

This workshop includes one evening lecture in the store and a Saturday morning field trip. We will talk about what it takes to get into birding from optics to field guides and how to identify your birds. We'll introduce you to area birding clubs and area hot spots. **Fee: \$45 per person.**

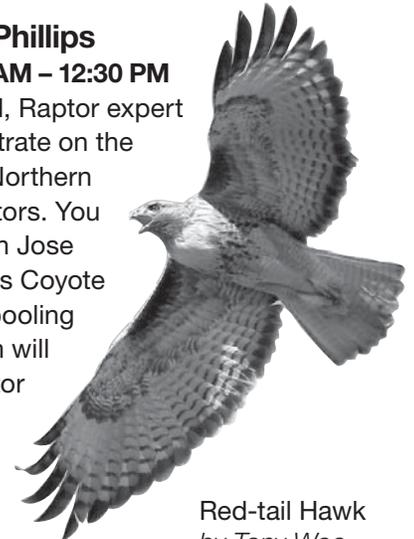
Raptor Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday, April 22, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Back by popular demand, Raptor expert Ryan Phillips will concentrate on the spring time activities of Northern California's breeding raptors. You will meet in the south San Jose birding hot spot known as Coyote Valley Open Space. Carpooling will be encouraged. Ryan will discuss the different raptor families - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons. Lisa Myers will also be there to help with birding activities.

Call the store to reserve your spot.

Fee: \$45 per person.



Red-tail Hawk
by Tony Woo

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Saturday, May 13, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains and is most famous for the 40-acre grove of towering old-growth redwood trees. These trees also inspired some of California's earliest redwood preservation efforts. This mountain habitat offers species we do not get on the valley floor including Allen's Hummingbirds, Pileated Woodpeckers, Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brown Creeper and Pacific Wren. This tour will consist of walking level trails in this park. We'll also stop at the visitor's center. Biologist Ryan Phillips will help Lisa co-lead this tour. Call the store to reserve your seat.

\$65 and includes park entrance fee and transportation

A Change in the Season!

You will notice a change in bird plumages and notice an increase in bird song as males sing to attract a female. There will also be a change in your backyard bird species as many of the species that wintered with you will soon migrate away to their breeding grounds in the north and east. This also means we'll be seeing a return of the birds that wintered elsewhere and will now migrate back to feed and, or nest in your neighborhood.



Hooded Oriole
on Oriole feeder
– Tony Woo

How you can help nesting birds in your yard

- Before you trim shrubs or trees, make sure there are no active nests hidden within
- Keep cats inside; they are the number one killer of birds throughout the world
- Be careful not to use pesticides near nests or on a potential food source
- Keep water and food sources available and clean

If you find a baby bird

If you find what you think is an orphaned baby on the ground, we encourage you to leave it alone and watch from a distance to see if its parents come down to feed it. Several different species of birds actually leave the nest a few days before they can fly. Their parents will come down to feed and care for them until they can fly. If you have determined your baby bird is in danger and is too young to fend for itself it is OK to pick up the bird, place it in a box and then call a rescue organization for assistance.



Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

(408) 929-9453 Serving Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Cambell, Saratoga, Santa Clara, or San Jose.

Peninsula Humane Society

(650) 340-7022, ext 314 Serving Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Cambell, Saratoga, Santa Clara, or San Jose.

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center

(408) 779-9372 Serving Santa Clara Country south of San Jose, or in San Benito County.

Injured and Orphaned Wildlife (408) 578-9145
Serving the South Bay.

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Frequent Buyer Program** – Buy 9 of the same seed bags of 15# or higher at full price and get the 10th bag free. Coupons do not apply.
- **Home Delivery** - If getting into the store proves to be a hardship for you, we will deliver seed to your home. Your order must be a minimum of \$40 to receive free delivery. If your order is below \$40, there will be a handling fee of \$8 added to your total. Call the store for details.
- **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 coupon.
- **15% off one item** – The newsletter coupon is available every two months. You don't have to bring in the physical coupon, but you do have to let us know at the time of the sale that you would like to use it. One coupon per household. Coupons are not applied automatically. The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to frequent buyer program purchases.
- We offer **Gift Certificates** and complimentary gift wrapping.
- **Outreach to community organizations about birding.** We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups. We can also do "show & tell" of the many items we carry in the store.

Upcoming Free Events – All Are Welcome

Better Birding With The Right Optics with Nikon Specialist Mike Freiberg

Saturday, April 29, 9 AM at the store followed by 90 minutes in the field

Customers often ask how to select a good pair of optics so we designed this special event just for you. Come join Nikon's Birding Specialist Mike Freiberg as he combines an educational seminar on birding optics followed by a local bird walk. While optics are one of the primary keys to a birder's success the importance in the minor details can be overlooked thus sacrificing the quality of your experience in the field. Mike has been birding since the age of 5 and has previously worked as a professional bird guide around the world. Lisa met Mike when she was invited to join the Nikon Pro-Staff. She invited Mike down from Oregon to pass along the information you can use to make an educated optics purchase. With all the choices out there, choosing optics can be intimidating and overwhelming. Mike will help narrow down the field and have you understanding what optics are best for your style of birding. The event is free but call to reserve your space. Those attending the seminar will receive a 5% discount on a pair of Nikon binoculars.



Wild Birds in Spring

by Bill Walker

Thursday, March 16, 7– 8 PM at The Terraces

Join Bay Area photographer Bill Walker on an exploration of wild birds in Spring. He'll illustrate stories of breeding, nesting, and migration with photographs from Nome, Alaska all the way down to Ecuador. We'll see beautiful and unique birds and learn fascinating natural history and biology about the many species. Bill Walker has been birding since 1996 and photographing wild birds and their environment since 2003. He has taught photography for the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the Point Reyes Birding Festival. His work is published on flickr, at birdwalker.com, and in his annual BirdWalker wall calendar.



Bill Walker at the Orkney Islands, Scotland

The Bird School Project

by Darrow Feldstein

Thursday, April 20, 7– 8 PM at The Terraces

The young birder revolution is upon us! Join local birder and environmental educator Darrow Feldstein for a look into his new and exciting schoolyard bird education program, The Bird School Project. Darrow studied natural history and education at UC Santa Cruz and since then, has set out on a mission to share the joys of birding with school students all over the Monterey Bay area and beyond. Come hear Darrow share inspiring stories, have a good laugh, and learn more about The Bird School Project and how we can all get more involved with educating the next generation of birdwatchers, scientists, and environmentalists.



Founder Darrow Feldstein



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Birdwatcher

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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



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Dates to Remember

March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins • **March 17** – St. Patrick's Day • **March 20** – First Day of Spring
April 16 – Closed Easter Sunday • **April 22** – Earth Day Sale • **May 14** – Mother's Day



LOS GATOS
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Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires April 30, 2017

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

#NC043017

Store Hours

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



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