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Come by and see us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher!

by Lisa Myers

We wanted to remind everyone to come by and see us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We want to be your “go-to” store for quality bird feeders and the freshest seed you can find anywhere in the south bay. If you have been by the store on a Tuesday morning you already know that our seed is delivered every week. It comes to us from California’s farm country. We have a variety of mixes that are favored by birds found in the west. To go along with our seed, we also carry a large selection of bird feeders. Most of our feeders are guaranteed for the life of the product. We also have solutions for how you can store your seed and create an inviting and safe habitat for your neighborhood birds. No matter if you are looking for a bird bath or a special piece to help make your garden beautiful.



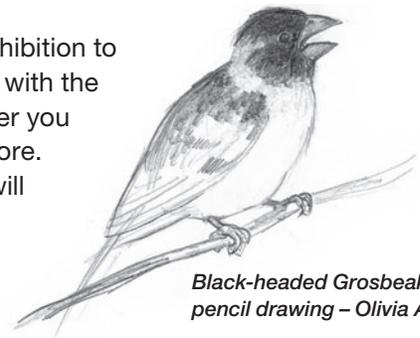
The staff here at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher are experienced in answering all your questions about your birds and backyard bird feeding. We will also help you to ID that mystery bird that landed in your yard. Plus, our 2000 square foot location is a fantastic place to shop for that special gift. And we’ll even wrap it for you!

We’re Getting Ready for Our Annual Art Exhibitions

Calling All Artists, 8th Annual Artist Exhibition

Sunday, July 16, Noon – 4:00 PM

We invite you to show off your artistic talents at our eighth Annual Artist Exhibition to be held on Sunday, July 16. Join other talented artists in sharing your work with the greater Los Gatos Birdwatcher community. Your piece can be done however you wish, we welcome all mediums: pastels, watercolors, pen & ink, oils and more. All we ask is that you have a bird theme as part of your piece. The exhibit will run July 16th from noon–4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. **Call the store to reserve your space. 408-358-9453**



*Black-headed Grosbeak
pencil drawing – Olivia Ady*

Calling All Photographers, 12th Annual Photo Exhibit

Sunday, August 13, Noon – 4:00 PM

We know that many of our customers are talented photographers! Here is your opportunity to share your favorite photo with our birdwatcher community. Enter our twelfth Annual Photo Exhibition to be held on Sunday, August 13 from noon-4:00. We prefer your photo be of a special bird or moment you had in nature. We’d like you to provide information on the location of your photo and the equipment you used – no matter if it was your cell phone or a fancy camera. **Call the store to reserve your space. 408-358-9453.**



Northern Hawk Owl – Judy Bingman

Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Summer Nature Series 2017

Reservations required, call 408/358-9453. Classes fill quickly. \$10 per child for each class.

We're Going Birding

Fri., June 9 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm (For ages 5 to 12)

Local birder, environmental educator and founder of the Bird School Project, Darrow Feldstein will lead a 60 minute bird walk. Kids will learn about the many species of birds found right here in our Los Gatos community. Each participant will be given a pair of optics to borrow along with a bird check-off sheet. Space is limited, so call soon to reserve your spot.



All About Owls

Wed., June 28 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm (For ages 5 to 12)

Come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and learn about owls. Owls are mysterious birds usually found only at night as they hunt after dark in search of rodents. You'll learn how they find their food and what they eat and will dissect your own owl pellet. We will also have "Olive" a live Western Screech Owl here at the store for you to meet.



Why Birds Build Nests

Wed., July 12 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm

(For ages 5 to 12)

This class will be held inside the store. All birds lay eggs when starting a family, but did you know that different birds make different kinds of nests? Some use mud, while others use moss and even pet hair. Some birds nest inside of holes and others build their nests on top of trees. We will have many different types of nests to share.



Make a Suet Feeder

Wed., July 26 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm

(For ages 5 to 12)

Suet is a type of food that provides birds with lots of calories and energy. Birds enjoy suet when raising young, migrating and getting through the winter. You will make your own suet feeder you can take home and hang outside for your backyard birds. You 'll also learn about the birds that you can attract with your new suet feeder.



International Migratory Bird Day – May 13, 2017

Every year a day is dedicated to the long journey our feathered friends have to make as they migrate across the globe. Out here in the west IMBD is celebrated on May 13. The organization, "Environment for the Americas" says it beautifully, "It can be a long journey between non-breeding sites across the Americas and the Caribbean to nesting sites in the United States and Canada. Along the way, migrating birds may need to rest and refuel, and the health and safety of resting sites is critical to the survival of migratory birds. In 2017, International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the importance of these habitats and encourages everyone to get involved in protecting these areas. Join us this year as we Help Birds Along the Way! " Our goal at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is to help you provide a healthy and safe environment for all the birds that fly into your neighborhood. **Drop by the store to get your own IMBD Coloring Page.** Learn more by visiting www.birdday.org





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 will now be 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 8:30 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 an 80–100% chance of rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels.



May 6 Picchetti Ranch Preserve - The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Road off Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Road

May 13 No local walk. Let's Go Birding tour to Henry Cowell State Park

May 20 Los Alamitos Creek Trail (*meet in lot at Camden and Mt. Forest Drive*)

May 27 Los Gatos Creek Trail at the Main Street Bridge

June 3 Santa Teresa County Park
Fortini Rd. Entrance off McKean Rd.

June 10 No morning walk. Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop.

June 17 Shoreline Lake - meet Terminal Blvd. at dead-end

June 24 Overfelt Gardens (368 Educational Park Dr., SJ)

July 1 No walk this 4th of July holiday weekend

July 8 No morning walk. Let's Go birding tour to Santa Cruz

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. 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. 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.**

New Workshop!

Breeding Season in the Bay Area with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday, June 10, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

This is a new workshop based on the breeding time activities that happen right here in the Bay Area. Many different species arrive each spring in order to raise young and will depart by fall. Valuable information has been collected throughout the decades which help us monitor the health of a species and how and where they raise young. Participants will receive a copy of the Santa Clara County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Call the store to reserve your spot. Fee: \$45

Santa Cruz Hot Spots

Saturday, July 8 - 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

We will head to the coast and spend the day birding in and around Natural Bridges State Beach. Natural Bridges is known for its fall concentration of Monarch Butterflies. While this is not the time of year to find these beautiful butterflies, it's a great time to find birds enjoying the breeding season along the coast. There is a lot of habitat to explore from meadows to coastline, as a result we will see a variety of species. Biologist Ryan Phillips and Lisa will co-lead this tour. **Fee: \$65 and includes entrance fees & transportation.**

Raptor Workshop #2 with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Planned for August, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Back by popular demand, Raptor expert Ryan Phillips will concentrate on the summer time activities of Northern California's breeding raptors. We 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 for date and to reserve your spot. Fee: \$45**

Freddy & John To Start Construction

After selling the store in December 2016 John & Freddy stayed in the area. Many of you came into the store and shared your Freddy & John sightings with us as you ran into them all over town. We too got to see them as they came in to purchase seed and answer questions about running the store.

Since retiring, John continued to work on their new home's construction plans and Freddy continued to teach nature classes. They waited to put their Las Cumbres house on the market until 2017 when, after only a few weeks, it sold! So just this past April, they packed up and moved south to Templeton, CA. They will soon start construction on their dream hay bail house. We look forward to their updates and visits back to Los Gatos.



Birds are what the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is all about, but we also love bats!

Like birds, bats too can fly, but they are not related to birds at all. They are mammals just like us. In fact there are over 1200 species of bats which means a ¼ of the world's mammals are bats. We wanted you to know about a 2017 Senate Bill to make the "Pallid Bat" the California State Bat. Naming the pallid bat as the official state bat of California will promote an appreciation of the benefits of bats, more education about their ecological roles, and more conservation for bats in this state. Bats are found in different habitats all over the world and come in different sizes and colors. Some bats eat fruit and some feed on nectar; playing an important part in pollinating plants. Fortunately for us, many bats prefer to eat insects. Hundreds of insects are consumed by bats every night which helps us rid our surroundings of unwanted insects without the need for pesticides. Bats are beneficial and should not be feared. At the Los Gatos Birdwatcher we even sell bat houses you can put up in your garden. Bat houses provide a safe place for bats to sleep during the day.

Bats help agriculture in California

Bats provide an estimated 3.7 billion dollars' worth of pest control management for U.S. Agriculture (Boyes et al. 2011), much of which is located in California. The University of California (UC) Davis researchers are working with walnut growers to help determine the economic value of the bats' pest control management for California farmers.



By eating so many flies, wasps, and mosquitoes, bats help reduce the numbers of bugs that contribute to health risks. Pallid bats eat a variety of insects and arthropods including grasshoppers, moths, beetles, spiders, scorpions, and centipedes. And bats nursing their young, known as "pups" eat up to two thirds to all of their body weight in insects and arthropods every night. That means hundreds and hundreds of insects!

Pallid bat description

Pallid bats are relatively large bats compared with other bats in California. They are light colored, and have fairly long ears. There are two subspecies in California, the large one being the Pacific pallid bat found almost exclusively in California, and the smaller one being the desert pallid bat), found throughout much of the U.S. southwest desert.

Pallid bat ecology

Pallid bats are crevice roosting bats and spend their daytime in the crevices of rocks, cavities of trees and behind bark, and occasionally in barns, bridges, and other suitable structures. Females typically have 1 or 2 young per year and are expected to live for 10 to 15 or more years in the wild.

To learn more and to sign the petition please visit www.ipetitions.com/petition/pallid-bat-as-the-california-state-bat

Upcoming Free Events – All Are Welcome

A Closer Look at Our Feathered Friends

Thursday, May 18, 7–8 pm at The Terraces

Barry Boulton is on the board of the Central Sierra Audubon Society covering Calaveras & Tuolumne Counties. Barry is also the Chapter's newsletter editor with an interest in bird behavior. This interest led Barry into the area of high definition videography. He travels throughout the world to film birds in nature. Barry enjoys sharing his presentations on avian behavior. His presentations provide people with a better understanding of the avian world, which he hopes will lead to increased awareness for their conservation.



Barry Boulton
Checkerboard Mesa, Utah

A Re-cap of the Let's Go Birding Trip to Panama

Thursday, June 15, 7–8pm at The Terraces

Store owner and tour leader Lisa Myers led a birding tour to Panama January 17 – February 6. Lisa will share with us the adventure she and her 11 trip participants had as they birded around this Central American country. Along with seeing over 200 species of birds, they also enjoyed the local flowers, reptiles, mammals and even the fish found there. The end of the tour included staying next to the Panama Canal and having a chance to learn what it took to build the canal, in addition to watching several ships going through the locks.



Birding Panama by Boat

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. We can also do "show & tell" of the many items we carry in the store.

- **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.

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

- **15% off one item** – 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. We do not apply the coupon automatically.

The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to frequent buyer program purchases.



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



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Dates to Remember

It's breeding season.... so take care when gardening!

- May 13 – International Migratory Bird Day
- May 14 – Mother's Day
- May 29 – Memorial Day (closed)
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 18 – Father's Day
- June 21 – First Day of Summer
- July 4 – Independence Day (closed)



LOS GATOS
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Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires June 30, 2017

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

#NC06302017

Store Hours

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



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