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Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to bring fun, entertaining and educational photo presentations to our local community. Presentations include topics of public interest and/or locations from around the world. Birds are most often the theme, but we also experience all kinds of wildlife, and at times learn about the nature saving efforts being made by local organizations. We thank all of the folks that help bring these presentations together for you and we invite you to mark your own calendar and join us.

They are *always scheduled on the third Thursday of each month except December.* We are grateful to The Terraces of Los Gatos for allowing us to use their theatre. The Terraces 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, but you are welcome to call the store with any questions.

Upcoming Events

The Nature of Trinidad and Tobago: Culture, wildlife & geography – Edward Rooks

Thursday Sept. 15, 7 – 8 PM at The Terraces

Edward Rooks is a naturalist and wildlife artist now living in San Jose, but he grew up on the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Edward worked at the Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad before he and his wife moved to the US. He works as a freelance wildlife artist, teaches drawing workshops and leads nature tours back to Trinidad and Tobago.



From Stanford Professor to Nature Photographer – Tom Grey

Thursday Oct. 20, 7 – 8 PM at The Terraces

Tom Grey is a birder, photographer and retired Stanford Law School Professor. While he is known as a leading legal theorist and historian he is also a birder and also well known for his outstanding bird photography. Though he retired from teaching in 2007, Tom still lives on the Stanford campus and regularly takes pictures of birds, mostly in the Bay Area, but also around North America and occasionally overseas. He will present for us some of his favorite bird photos and tell us how he got the shot! *(photo – Black-bellied Plover)*

The Sport of Bird Watching – A class for beginners with Lisa Myers

Wednesday night Oct. 5, 6:30 – 8 PM with field trip Saturday Oct. 8, 8 – 10 AM

In this class we'll review all the different things you'll need to know to get into the sport of birding. From field guides, apps and optics, to area hot spots, taxonomy and what to look for to ID a bird. Did you know it's not advisable to wear white when you go birding? There are also established ethics all birders should know. We'll review all these topics and more during a 90 minute evening class at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We'll then use our new birding skills out in the field for a two hour Saturday morning bird walk set for Oct. 8 8:00 – 10:00 AM. **Call the store to reserve your space. Cost \$40.**



Check out
our exciting
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wall clocks



Socks for election time

The Bird Store Is Gearing Up For The Holidays.

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is approaching 21 years at the Kings Court Center. From the start we have been known for the highest quality seed you can provide for your backyard birds, and an excellent resource to learn about your birds and purchase quality bird feeders. But, we are also known as the “go-to” place for unique and special gift items. With the holidays fast approaching you will soon see the store transform into

a convenient, local location for your holiday gift giving. We'll soon be jam packing the store with everything from clothing and jewelry to holiday cards and ornaments. As always, we will have extra folks on hand to gift wrap your special items! You can avoid the malls and do your part to support small business. We thank you for shopping 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

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. **A reminder to our location will also be found on the store's phone message.**



Sept. 10 - Charleston Slough in Mt. View. Meet on Terminal way near the restrooms

Sept. 17 - No morning walk as we'll be birding the Yolo Bypass. Call for details

Sept. 24 - Sunnyvale Baylands in partnership with SCCGov. Beginning birders welcome. Meet inside the entrance at 999 East Caribbean Dr. near the test garden.

Oct. 1 - Vasona Park - Meet in 1st parking lot to your left after entering main entrance off Blossom Hill Road.

Oct. 2 - Participate in the SFBBO Birdathon fundraiser. Details provided.

Oct. 8 - No morning walk. Special beginning birding class field trip. Call for details.

Oct. 15 - Oka Ponds off Lark Ave.

Oct. 22 - Alviso County Park in partnership with SCCGov. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at the end of Hope Street next to the restrooms.

Oct. 29 - Los Capitancillos Ponds in South San Jose. Meet on Singletree Way off Camden. Meet at PG&E power station

Nov. 5 - No Morning walk. Bus tour to the Lodi Crane Festival. Call the store for details.

Nov. 12 - Los Gatos Creek Park in partnership with SCCGov. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at Dell entrance.

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

Birds & Bats of the Yolo Bypass

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

We are going back to the Yolo Bypass in search of birds & bats. Located just outside of Sacramento, we'll bird the open spaces under the bypass as we look for species that live in the Central Valley. At twilight (6:25 PM) we'll be ready to experience the colony of over 200,000 Mexican/Brazilian Free Tail Bats as they emerge to start feeding for the night.

Fee: \$60 Includes Transportation.

SFBBO California Fall Challenge

Sunday, Oct. 2. 8:00 AM to noon.

The California Fall Challenge is an important fundraiser to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Please consider joining Lisa Myers as she leads the Gallinago Go Go's for the 12th year. There is a \$50 donation per person required to join the team. To sign-up please email SFBBO directly. CFC@SFBBO.ORG. This provides a great opportunity to see several different species and help the bird world. All birding skill levels are welcome!

Lodi Crane Festival Saturday

Nov. 5 – 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

New tour! The Lodi Crane Festival is an annual event in celebration of Sandhill Cranes. This new tour provides a complete venue for birders and nature enthusiasts. Going via chartered bus provides a fabulous way to get to this years festival and its the perfect opportunity for those that have never been to a birding festival! We will arrive in time to meander throughout the exhibit hall filled with wildlife artists, merchants and several non-profits with a common mission to help nature. We'll have time to get in one of their featured speakers before heading out into the field for our own private docent led crane tour before the sun sets.

Fee: \$60 includes transportation, gas & docent.

DATE CHANGE – The **Dec. 3 & 4 Central Valley Birding Weekend** is now set for **Saturday & Sunday, January 7 & 8.**

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 the Arctic to spend their winter in California. We'll spend the evening in Williams. Trip fee includes transportation, your hotel room, continental breakfast and snacks. Lunch, Dinner and alcohol are not included. Rain does not cancel. Space is limited. \$349 for single, \$549 for a couple sharing a room, \$275 per person if you wish to share a room.

Wish Them a Safe Journey South by Lisa Myers

“Neotropical Migrant” birds are those species that migrate hundreds to thousands of miles back & forth between the tropics and North America every year. There are over 200 such species that migrate north each spring to breed in North America and then migrate south at the end of summer or early fall to spend the winter in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Some of these migrants have spent their summer with you and are now on their way south. We wish for them a safe journey.



Black-headed Grosbeaks arrive to our area in April for the breeding season. They like habitats with a combination of large trees and an active understory. This includes cottonwoods or aspen on floodplains or stream margins, or broken pine forests or deciduous trees. They have a beautiful song and both the male and female sing. They eat insects, seeds and fruit. By September most have migrated out of our area to similar habitats found south in Mexico.



Hooded Orioles are one of the first neo-tropical migrants to arrive to our area. People start to report them in March. Just like hummingbirds, they too enjoy sugar water and will use both Hummingbird and Oriole feeders to drink sugar water. Orioles are expanding their range as landscapers plant Date Palms. Hooded Orioles nest in Date Palms and actually use palms fibers to construct their nests. They start to leave our area in early August as they migrate south to Mexico, Guatemala and Belize.



Wilson's Warblers are one of the few warblers we get in the west. They arrive each spring and while we do not often see them in our yards, they can be found on bird walks in overgrown riparian habitats near streams, creeks and bogs. The male has a loud song as compared to the size of his tiny warbler body. Warblers are insect eaters, so you may see them gleaning bugs off your trees. By September most have migrated out of our area as they work their way south to Central America and as far south as Panama.



Caspian Terns are a large gull-like bird you may encounter as you spend time on any trail around the San Francisco Bay Area. They arrive each spring to have their young. They nest on the ground near salt water marshes or fresh water lakes. The adults look for fish in all of our reservoirs. They hunt by diving dramatically into the water and if successful then fly up and away with a fish in their bill. It takes awhile to learn this fishing technique and young stay with their parents for months. All start their migration south in August. They winter along the edge of the Gulf Of Mexico, Florida and Cuba.



Swainson's Hawks are a fantastic species that we are lucky to now see in Santa Clara County. They are a hawk of the open country, the exact type of habitat over which we often build. We now get to see them flying over the county and one pair has nested in Coyote Valley for several years. If you travel the Central Valley via 99 or I-5 you can find them throughout the summer hunting over open farm lands. In September they start their 6000 mile migration south as they head for their wintering grounds in Argentina.

Photos provided by **Tom Grey**. Come see Tom give our October 20 Presentation next door at The Terraces.

Let's Go Birding Tour to the Central American Country of Panama Panama – The dates are set January 28 – Feb. 7, 2017

This Panama birding tour will offer a new adventure every day. The tour will be based out of the Tranquilo Bay Resort on an island near Bocas del Toro, Panama. This 'ultra-luxury' resort is home to 400 bird species plus other wildlife including colorful Poison Dart Frog! The tour is filling fast so please call to find out if we still have room.

Leaders Lisa Myers and Glenn Crawford.

\$3950 per person, does not include airfare to Panama.



Bats and Vultures are Halloween Favorites!

Bats get a bad wrap.

Around Halloween they get used in all kinds of spooky ways. In reality, they are a very valuable part of the ecosystem. There are over 1,100 different species of bats in the world making up a quarter of the world's mammals. They are warm blooded just like us and give birth to babies called "pups".

Momma bats nurse their babies for weeks before they venture off on their own. Bats can be found on all continents except the Arctic and Antarctica and are primarily insect eaters, but some species also eat nectar, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Some are as small as a bumblebee, but the flying foxes in India have a wingspan of six feet. The insect eating bats of North America eat between 600-1000 bugs an hour making them a great benefit to farmers. Where healthy bay colonies exist, fewer pesticides are needed and everyone benefits from that. Since bats hunt for bugs during the night, they need a safe place



to sleep during the day. Putting up a bat box on your property is one way you can help. We sell different sizes of bat boxes at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. If you find a bat on the ground it means it is probably sick and you should never pick it up. Put a cardboard box over the top of it and call animal rescue to safely take the bat away.



Vultures also get a lot of attention during Halloween.

While vultures may be kind of ugly, they serve an important purpose. Most vultures do not have the ability to kill their own food, so they are always on the hunt for something that has already died. In today's modern age, this usually means vultures dine on road kill or what is left over after a predator finishes off a meal. The fact that vultures can eat rotting flesh without contracting botulism, anthrax, cholera, or salmonella is attributed to their excellent immune system. Vultures do not have feathers on their heads

which is an evolutionary benefit considering the food they eat. The Earth is a better place for having vultures, since they clean up dead things!

Here Are Some Fun Facts About The Movie "The Birds"



Crows waiting at the school playground – from the movie "The Birds"

The movie "The Birds" was directed by Alfred Hitchcock and released May 28, 1963. It was based on the book written by Daphne Du Maurier. Hitchcock wanted Grace Kelly to be the star of his film, but she went off and married Prince Rainier of Monaco, so Tippi Hedren got the role of socialite Melanie Daniels. Rod Taylor played her leading man Mitch Brenner. And we have to mention Ethel Griffies who played Mrs. Bundy, the not so glamorous ornithologist.

The movie was filmed in Bodega Bay. The horror of this film is all about birds attacking people. To film such attacks robotic model birds were used in addition to trained birds and a lot of special effects. In fact, the movie was up for

an Academy Award for special effects, but lost to "Cleopatra" starring Elizabeth Taylor. In reality, unless you get too close to their young, birds do not attack people. It is believed Hitchcock based his movie on the reports of disoriented sea birds flying into buildings in Monterey Bay in the late 1950's. At that time there was no explanation for this very strange behavior. Over the decades researchers now believe those disoriented birds had probably consumed toxin-making algae. When this type of algae is consumed by people or wildlife all become disoriented and ill.



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Dates to Remember

9/5 Labor Day • 9/11 Grandparents' Day • 9/22 Autumnal Equinox • 10/10 Columbus Day
10/31 Halloween • 11/6 Daylight Savings Ends • 11/8 Election Day



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