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We Are Proud To Kick Off Our 24th Year Of Business!

2019 is the start of the 24th year of business for the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. A store like ours attributes its success to many things which includes a hard-working staff, incredible creativity, superior customer service and most importantly, our loyal customers, many of whom have made a commitment to shopping local. Competition today is not about the store next door, it's an invisible store keeper, an un-known entity with a business in cyber space. It's a fact; the e-commerce world is slowly killing off local business. Brick & mortars have to work that much harder to convince you it's worth your time to walk through our doors. The Los Gatos Chamber says it beautifully, *"Love Where You Live - Shop Local, Dine Local, Be local."*



This awareness project is all about the importance of reinvesting money back into our own community. All small towns including Los Gatos will disappear if the community ceases to buy local. "Buying local becomes a habit if you do it for a few weeks and it feels good. Buying on line is easy, but none of what you spend circles back to your own sales tax revenue

totals. Did you know that 68 cents of every dollar you spend in Los Gatos stays here? Our local businesses employ local residents, including high schoolers and seniors. Also, shopping and dining locally requires less transportation, so it is better for the environment. And lastly local businesses support our local non-profits. We are all part of the circle. Those reinvested dollars add up and make a difference." Here at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher we raise thousands of dollars annually for local non-profits; YSI, WERC, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, NIKE, and Injured & Orphaned Wildlife.

How Do You Deal with the Neighbor's Cat?

Did you know that cats are the number #1 killer of birds all over the world? We are often asked by our customers how to keep their neighbor's cat away from their bird feeders? Customers feel powerless when they look into their own private yard and witness someone else's free roaming cat snatching birds off the bird bath or feeder. It's hard to watch, is very upsetting and has a huge impact on wild birds. There is a great need for a solution and/or a product, so we are soliciting your feedback. We want to help find a win-win solution. if you feed birds and have discovered a successful way to keep unwanted cats away from your wild birds please share via emailing info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com.



A Feel Good Bird Story to Start Your Year

Re-told by Lisa Myers

Tom Gibbons is a local businessman, nature lover and fan of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. He called the store last July asking for our assistance after finding an injured Red-Tailed Hawk. As Tom was driving on Shannon Road in Los Gatos, he stopped to let a group of wild turkeys cross in front of him. He then noticed what looked like a pile of feathers on the side of the road. Thinking it an injured turkey, he got out of his car to investigate and found the badly injured adult Red-Tailed Hawk. He carefully picked up the raptor, making sure he had a hold of the talons, and took it the short distance home. He then tried to find help for the bird. We know all too well at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher that our local wildlife rescue organizations work hard to save as many animals as they can and at times it can be hard to get help over the phone. Tom eventually reached Norma Campbell of "Injured and Orphaned Wildlife". Norma put Tom in touch with Jeanne Fouts, a Mountain View raptor expert. Tom met Jeanne in Cupertino where he transferred the bird to her care. Jeanne did an assessment of his health and injuries and found him too weak to stand. She safely administered subcutaneous fluids and some pain medicine.

Jeanne decided the bird was probably a male based on his weight. At first he was too weak to eat and received a special elemental diet nutrition through a feeding tube. This allowed him to gain weight without expending energy to digest. Jeanne had a camera on him so she could keep tabs on his progress without disturbing him. Raptors in particular easily



Injured Red-Tailed Hawk in cage

stress when humans are near and he needed all of his energy to heal.

On August 4th, he was transferred to a larger 8' x 10' x 8' cage with perches at varying heights so convalescing birds can more easily move around. Although he was not yet able to fly, he quickly figured out the route to the 6' high perch. As he got stronger he was placed in larger cages and by September 3rd he could fly and was moved to a larger cage in Portola

Valley. Owned by falconer Valerie Baldwin this new cage measured 24' by 30' by 8'. She monitored his movements and made sure he was exercising his wings and legs while gaining muscle tone. Before he could be released back to the wild everyone needed to feel confident he could catch his own live food so they introduced pet store mice. By September 15th he was successfully eating all the live mice, but needed more flight time to build up his stamina.

Then on October 2 it was determined he was strong enough to be released back to where he was found, back to his territory. Jeanne brought the hawk to the corner of Shannon Road and Sky Lane and waited for Tom & his wife to arrive. The beautiful Red-tail was carefully pulled out of its travel box and released. Everyone watched as he flew around and eventually flew out of sight. Success!

We wanted to thank Tom for taking the time to save this bird. And we are grateful to all the folks that played a role in bringing this bird back to health.

Injured & Orphaned Wildlife is a local 501c3 non-profit established in 1987. They do hands-on care of local wildlife in the private homes of skilled volunteers who have made themselves available 24/7, 365 days a year. Volunteers specialize in specific species and thus give the best of care, out of their private homes and yards. Animals and birds are then released back into their proper habitat. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher appreciates all they do for our local community. They are self funded and welcome any donations, which are all tax deductible.

Keeping Seed Fresh During the winter

by Lisa Myers

Birds do not mind wet weather, but we have to take extra precaution with our feeders. Any seed allowed to get wet and soggy will eventually get moldy. To prevent this, during the winter we suggest you fill your feeders half as much and fill them twice as often. This way your birds will eat the seed before it sits too long in a moist environment. When you re-fill your feeder be sure to empty out the remaining bits of shell or seed before you put new seed in because you do not want to put fresh seed on top of old, partially eaten, or damp seed. Old wet seed can also clump together preventing the free flow of seed. "Feeder Fresh" is a product we carry that you add to your seed feeders. It helps keep your seed dry because it absorbs excess moisture. Ask us about it the next time you are in the store.

Another way to protect your seed from the rain is with a weather dome also used as a squirrel baffle. Like an umbrella over your feeder, they help keep your feeder and seed dry. The birds also seem to like the added protection. However, if we experience high winds, a baffle will not be able to keep all the rain off your feeder.

This year the goldfinch have returned to many yards in great numbers. If you have a Nyjer/thistle feeder

for your goldfinch, shake the seed up and down in the feeder on a daily basis when it's raining. This moves the seed around and gets air into the feeder. If you have attracted a large flock of goldfinch to your yard you may want to increase the number of Nyjer/thistle feeders. Because of their propensity to flock, they are susceptible to diseases like salmonella. By offering several feeders this will spread out your flock and this can reduce the spread of disease. Also, it is important to clean up any seed that accumulates under the feeder to prevent ground feeders like sparrows and dove from getting sick. We carry a product called "Seed & Hull Digester" which safely makes your discarded seeds and hulls disappear. We also recommend you clean your feeders on a regular basis, but please remember we clean feeders here in the store.

If you use "hulled" (no shell) seed you will have to take a little more time to monitor your feeders. Hulled seeds are more susceptible to becoming soggy since they do not have an outer protective shell. Suet and seeds with shells hold up longer in wet weather, but you still have to keep an eye on your feeders to make sure the food you are offering is fresh.



New Year's Suet Sale!

We got a fantastic deal on 3 flavors of suet: "*Berry Treat*", "*Seed Suet Dough*" and "*Orange Treat*" and we're passing it on to you – while supplies last! This is the perfect time of year to offer your wild birds suet. Getting through the winter is quite a task for birds and suet offers a high energy food source loaded with extra fat and calories. And if you *purchase a case of 12, you will also receive an additional 10% case discount*. Sale only applies to the three flavors listed below.



Valentine's Day is February 14!

At the risk of sounding a tad sexist, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is a favorite store for women. In fact, we call it the Home Depot for women. Wives and mothers tell us all the time that they wish they received gifts from the store. So if you are looking to get something special for the Valentine in your life, we invite you to let us help you. And remember, we wrap for free!





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.**



Winter Raptor Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips February 9 8:30AM – 12:30PM

Eagles, hawks and falcons are all considered raptors. They are always a favorite because of their impressive field marks, and their hunting lifestyle. This is the time of year we have a higher concentration of Northern California raptors. Many different species of raptors escape snow country and spend their winter in the Bay Area. We will spend part of our morning at the new south county open space known as Rancho San Vicente and end in Coyote Valley.

Ryan will discuss the different raptor families found in the Bay Area this time of year. We will be on the look-out for Bald & Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tail and Ferruginous Hawks in addition to Peregrine & Prairie Falcons, American Kestrels and Merlin. Carpooling will be encouraged. Lisa Myers will also be there to help spot birds.

Fee: \$45.

American Kestrel – *Tony Woo*

- Jan. 5** Call the store Friday night for location
- Jan. 12** Let's Go Birding tour to the Merced NWR
- Jan. 19** Los Gatos Creek Park meet off Hacienda on Dell Ave. at Vandell Way.
- Jan. 26** No morning walk (*join our Duck Class with Lisa Myers*)
- Feb. 2** Belgatos Park off Blossom Hill Road
- Feb. 9** No morning walk (*join our Raptor Workshop with Ryan Phillips*)
- Feb. 16** Oka Ponds in Los Gatos off Lark
- Feb. 23** Lexington Reservoir - Off 17 Take the Bear Creek Road exit and meet at the dam
- Mar. 2*** Meet up McClellan Ranch – Cupertino (*SCVAS headquarters*)
- Mar. 9** Sanborn County Park, Saratoga
– meet at Costanoan group area (*fee required*)
- Mar. 16** Martial Cottle Park opens at 8 AM
– Meet at Visitor Center 5283 Snell Ave San Jose
- Mar. 23** Let's Go Birding tour to the Santa Cruz Mountains
- Mar. 30** Geng Road in Palo Alto off the Embarcadero
– Meet at Bayland's Athletic Center
- Apr. 6** Call the store Friday night for location

Bird Identification Workshops 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 and into the Bay Area. Workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:00 – 8:00 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.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 Workshop

Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Western Screech Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl

Tuesday, March 12 Workshop

Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Violet Green Swallow, Purple Martin

Birding the Santa Cruz Mountains with Leaders Biologist Ryan Phillips and Lisa Myers

March 23 • 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

We'll take advantage of our proximity to the Santa Cruz Mountains and spend the day looking for early migrants returning to our area to breed. We will also be on the look-out for the resident breeders that make the mountains their home. There are many wonderful open spaces throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains including Castle Rock State Park. We are hoping the new Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space will open by this date! Our final route will be decided before the tour.

Fee: \$70, includes transportation & entrance fees.

Bay Area Duck Class with Lisa Myers

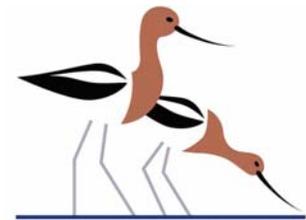
Every winter the San Francisco Bay Area becomes a magnet for many different species of ducks. With our salt water bay and fresh water ponds, birders can observe many great species of waterfowl. Ducks are also a lot of fun to identify. Male ducks have striking field marks which make their ID much easier than many of the other bird groups. This class will consist of two evening lectures at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and one Saturday morning field trip.

Two Thursday nights:

January 17 & 24 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Saturday Jan. 26 from 8:30 AM - Noon

Fee: \$55



Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society
Established 1926

SCVAS Spring Birdathon

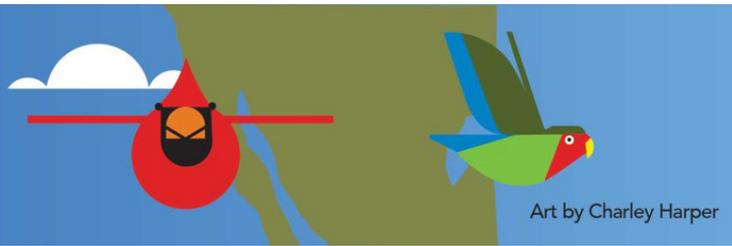
March 31 – May 5, 2019

Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society holds their most important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate you can form your own Self-Guided team or join one of the already prearranged Guided Teams. Our own Lisa Myers has been leading team "Persistent Picidae" for many years. She welcomes your support if you would like to sponsor the team, or you are welcome to join the Picidae on **Saturday, April 20** when they will bird from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Visit www.scvas.org to learn more about this year's event.



Female Bufflehead Ducks – Tony Woo

The Great Backyard
Bird Count
 February 15–18, 2019



Art by Charley Harper

Species	Count	Species	Count	Species	Count
Canada Goose	___	Downy Woodpecker	___	California Thrasher	___
Mallard	___	Pileated Woodpecker	___	European Starling	___
California Quail	___	Peregrine Falcon	___	Cedar Waxwing	___
Wild Turkey	___	American Kestrel	___	House Sparrow	___
Ring-necked Pheasant	___	Merlin	___	House Finch	___
Great Blue Heron	___	Black Phoebe	___	Purple Finch	___
Great Egret	___	Hutton's Vireo	___	Evening Grosbeak	___
Red-shouldered Hawk	___	Yellow-billed Magpie	___	Pine Siskin	___
Red-tail Hawk	___	California Scrub Jay	___	Lesser Goldfinch	___
Turkey Vulture	___	Steller's Jay	___	American Goldfinch	___
Cooper's Hawk	___	American Crow	___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	___
Sharp-shinned Hawk	___	Common Raven	___	Townsend's Warbler	___
Killdeer	___	Tree Swallow	___	Spotted Towhee	___
Rock Pigeon	___	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	___	California Towhee	___
Band Tailed Pigeon	___	Oak Titmouse	___	Song Sparrow	___
Mourning Dove	___	Bushtit	___	White-crowned Sparrow	___
Eurasian Collared Dove	___	Red-breasted Nuthatch	___	Golden-crowned Sparrow	___
Greater Roadrunner	___	Pygmy Nuthatch	___	White-throated Sparrow	___
Great Horned Owl	___	White-breasted Nuthatch	___	Fox Sparrow	___
Barn Owl	___	Brown Creeper	___	Lincoln's Sparrow	___
Western Screech Owl	___	Bewick's Wren	___	Dark-eyed Junco	___
Anna's Hummingbird	___	House Wren	___	Western Tanager	___
White Throated Swift	___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	___	Red-winged Blackbird	___
Belted Kingfisher	___	Western Bluebird	___	Brewer's Blackbird	___
Red-breasted Sapsucker	___	American Robin	___	Brown-headed Cowbird	___
Nuttall's Woodpecker	___	Hermit Thrush	___	Western Meadowlark	___
Northern Flicker	___	Varied Thrush	___		
Acorn Woodpecker	___	Wrentit	___	Other	_____
Hairy Woodpecker	___	Northern Mockingbird	___		
	DAY _____		TIME _____		

HOW TO COUNT THE BIRDS

You can count birds anywhere you like. We recommend at LEAST 15 minutes—or even longer if you wish. Keep track of the numbers and species of birds you see and how long you watched. Make your best estimate of how many birds you saw of each species.

For example, 2 American Robins, 7 American Crows. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable. Enter your list(s) online at **BirdCount.org**.

Put in a new checklist:

- for each new day
- for each different location
- for the same location, same day, if you counted at a different time of day

Note: Look for the “Submit Observations” tab at gbbc.birdcount.org or eBird website. You can start entering bird lists at midnight local time on the first day of the count from anywhere in the world. If you want to enter your list via eBird, refer to gbbc.birdcount.org for instructions on how to set up your eBird account. Have fun!

Entertaining and Educational Photo Presentations

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor entertaining and educational nature photo presentations each season for our local community. Presentations take place at The Terraces which is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. 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.

Salmon Restoration in Our Local Streams with Dr. Brian Allee

Thursday Match 21 • 7 PM at The Terraces

Dr. Brian Allee grew up in Oakland and graduated from the University of California Berkeley majoring in zoology and received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in fisheries science. He has 45 years in the field of fisheries biology specializing in salmon research, restoration and enhancement in freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems in Alaska, Washington and Oregon and most recently has been providing fisheries guidance and advice for the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition on salmon restoration in our local urban streams. He will talk about the life histories of salmon including reproductive biology, salmon homing, salmon hatcheries, and finding salmon in our urban streams like Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. He will also talk about salmon as a healthy seafood.



Salmon artwork - **Rene Reyes**

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**.

Now Is the Time to Trim Your Trees

During the winter the days are shorter and the nights are colder, and it's not the time of year for most birds to nest. However, if you have tree trimming on your "to do list", this is a great time of year to get that done. Do it now before the birds start their nest building and incubation. That way no birds or babies are harmed. Birds will start to look for nesting spots in February and the breeding season will be underway in March and April. So if you can **get all your trimming done by the end of February**, it will be better for you and the birds!



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

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

Find us on 

Dates to Remember

- **January 21** – Martin Luther King Day
- **February 14** – Valentine's Day
- **February 18** – President's Day
- **March 10** – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- **March 17** – St. Patrick's Day
- **March 20** – 1st Day of Spring

New Saturday Hours

*The store will now close at
5:00 PM on Saturdays.*



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires March 31, 2019

#NC03312019

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

Store Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 am to 6 PM
Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM
Sunday: Noon to 5 PM

