

IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Upcoming Events	1
New Products	2
Community Education	2
Let's Go Birding	3
Services	4
Veterans Day	5
How Birds Survive Colder Months	5
Coupon	6



Small Business Saturday Kicks Off Our Anniversary Celebration!

– Lisa Myers

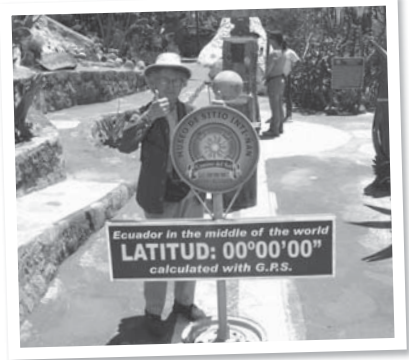



Small Business Saturday is November 26. Small Business Saturday encourages everyone to do their holiday shopping at small, local businesses like the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. It is also the day we will kick-off our one year anniversary celebration! That's right - December 1st marks my one year anniversary as owner of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. While the store is celebrating 21 years at the Kings Court Shopping Center I took over last December when Freddy & John retired. In celebration of the anniversary and a thank you to all our customers, we have an exciting raffle planned. For every \$10 you spend between Nov. 26 and Dec. 1 you will receive a raffle ticket. We will have special raffle packages displayed throughout the store and you decide how to use your tickets. We will pick the winners on Friday, Dec. 2. Raffle items include a binocular-birder raffle package, a children's nature package, a hummingbird feeder package, a bird feeder package and a bird house package.

A Journey Throughout Ecuador – The Country, its Culture and Birds

Thursday, Nov. 17, 7:00 – 8:00 PM at The Terraces

Kendric Smith is a retired Professor from the Stanford University School of Medicine. He started birdwatching in 1991, and then went to 21 countries to see their special birds. Kendric now lives at The Terraces with his wife Marion. Marion is also a retired Professor and birder, and she accompanied Kendric on his travels all over the world. Kendric will share the pictures of the country side, and of the birds taken by the five people who were on his 2007 Sierra Club trip to Ecuador. **No charge.**



 *The holidays are a busy time for everyone, so there will be no presentation in December, but join us Thursday, Jan. 19, 7– 8 PM when we return to The Terraces.*

Let's Go Birding to Panama!

January 28 - February 6, 2017 – only a few spaces left.


This Panama birding tour will offer a new adventure every day during our stay at the luxurious Tranquilo Bay Resort. The 'ultra-luxury' Tranquilo Bay Resort is one of Central America's hottest new rainforest destinations for birding in Panama, and is home to 400 bird species, reptiles and colorful Poison Dart Frogs. Lisa Myers will co-lead this tour with local leader Glenn Crawford. Trip is \$3950 per person – everything included except your flight to Panama and alcohol. Email or call for details info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com.



Red-Lored Parrot
–Pati McGann

Holiday Store Hours

Saturday, Dec. 17 9am – 6:30pm | **Sunday, Dec. 18** 11am – 5:00pm | **Monday, Dec. 19** through **Friday Dec. 23** open 9:00am – 6:30pm | **Saturday, Christmas Eve – Dec. 24** 9am to an early closing time of 3:00pm | **Closed Sunday Dec. 25.** | **Saturday Dec. 31 New Year's Eve,** 10am – to 3:00pm an early closing time. **Closed Sunday New Year's Day**



Check out what we have for your holiday gift giving!



Special Seed Houses, Wreaths, and Bells
- To be hung outside for your backyard friends



Assortment of Beautiful Garden Art
- Turkeys, roosters, ducks, quail, cranes and roadrunners



Haitian Steel Drum Art
- We received a new shipment before Hurricane Matthew



Featured Artist
- Barbara Prodanuik's clay quail, ravens and sheep



Christmas Cards
- We have holidays cards available by the box and as singles



Gift of Quality Seed
- 8 lbs of our most popular seed in a sturdy bird lover tin

Holiday Sale
December 19 - December 24

All Holiday items - ornaments, paper goods, calendars will go on sale at 20% off. This special holiday savings cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons.

Community Nature Education

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher has been involved in educating our local community about nature since the store opened in 1995. More recently we have started to partner with the Youth Science Institute whose mission is to inspire enthusiasm for science and a love of learning. They are a local, hidden gem in Los Gatos! In fact, the Youth Science Institute (YSI) is right down the street in Vasona Park.



YSI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and fulfills its mission by offering hands-on, nature-based, science education to children, families, and the general public. YSI offers School and Group Programs, Summer Science Camps, weekend Science Safaris, and annual community events. Many of their programs include live animals and nature hikes. Each year, YSI delivers inquiry-based life, physical, earth, and social science to nearly 30,000 pre-K to sixth-grade students, many of whom are low-income children from Title 1 schools. Since its founding in 1953, YSI has served hundreds of thousands of children. To learn more about how you can get YSI into your schools please check out their website. Or if you are looking to make a contribution to help support science education and children, please give them a call 408-356-4945 or visit www.youthscience.org/giving.



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. Unless you have a county or senior parking pass, some locations require a parking fee. A reminder to our location will also be found on the store's phone message. Just call 408-358-9453.



Nov. 5 – No morning walk - All day tour to the Lodi Crane Festival – call for availability

Nov. 12 – Los Gatos Creek park partnership with www.sccgov.org

Nov. 19 – Palo Alto Baylands – Meet at the Duck Pond

Nov. 26 – No morning walk, it's Small Business Saturday. Come see us in the store.

Dec. 3 - No morning walk, Lisa's niece is getting married today!

Dec. 10 – Coyote Valley Open Space meet at the end of Palm.

Dec. 17 – Vasona Park – meet at restrooms at "Circle Group Area". (Parking Fee)

Dec. 24 – No morning walk - Christmas Eve

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve – Sanborn Park, above Saratoga. Meet at Costanoan Group Area. (Parking Fee)

Jan. 7 – No morning walk - Weekend tour to the Central Valley. Call for availability

Jan. 14 – Oka Ponds off Lark – we'll look for wintering ducks

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

Central Valley Birding Weekend January 7 & 8, 2017

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. We will experience the millions of waterfowl that leave the Arctic to spend their winter in California. We'll also find birds of prey that also enjoy the abundance of wintering species. All birding levels are welcome. Trip fee includes transportation, hotel, 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 with another single

Panama January 28 – Feb. 6, 2017
Details on page 1

Reservoir Run
Saturday, February 25,
8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Biologist Ryan Phillips will help Lisa co-lead this tour. We'll spend the day in south Santa Clara County visiting the many reservoirs found tucked away in beautiful, birdy habitats. The route will be finalized closer to the trip. Possible stops include Calero, Coyote and Anderson reservoirs.



Just some of the species we will be looking for include, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Wood Ducks, and wintering songbirds. **\$65 and includes transportation.**

Red-Tail Hawk, Colusa NWR
-Tony Woo

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **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.
- **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.
- **Feeder Cleaning** – We want to help you maintain a healthy environment for your backyard birds by offering feeder cleaning on Mondays 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.
- We offer **Gift Certificates** and complimentary gift wrapping.

Thanks for Giving Week, November 15th – 21st



Los Gatos Birdwatcher is partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties to bring hope, relief and security to our neighbors struggling with hunger. Our food drive will help the Food Bank stock their pantries for Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays. We will have a collection bin ready to receive your donation of meals in a can (stew, chili, soup), peanut butter, 100% fruit juices, low sugar cereals, tuna or canned meat and canned fruits and vegetables.

Now Is the Time to Trim Trees

Every Spring we get calls from people who are frantic when they find a nest with baby birds or baby squirrels in a tree they are about to trim. Or worse, they already trimmed a tree or shrub and destroyed a nest with babies. People call asking what they can do to save the young family. It's a heartbreaking phone call. To avoid this very emotional situation the Los Gatos Birdwatcher encourages you to trim your trees and shrubs during the fall and winter.



There are many benefits to doing this in addition to avoiding the breeding season which starts again next February. We have partnered with the Bartlett Tree Experts. They will come out to your home and provide a free consultation and work with you to avoid hurting the birds and the wildlife in your yard. And if you mention this newsletter to them they will give you 10% off your tree trimming services. Call Bartlett today at **1-877-BARTLETT (1-877-227-8538)** to set up an appointment.

We're Honoring Veterans: Friday, November 11th.

A day to honor those who served for our country goes back to 1919 after the end of World War 1. It was called Armistice Day. Unfortunately we have had many more wars since that time. Today its called Veterans Day, 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 would like to honor all vets on Friday, Nov. 11. When you come into the store that day please let us know you are a vet and in which branch of the military that you served and we will give you 10% off your most expensive item. We'll also thank you for your service to our country!



How Birds Survive the Colder Months

Do you ever look out your window during the fall or winter and worry about your backyard birds? How do they get through cold days and months? Birds make their living outside and have evolved to get through all the seasons in a year. Here are just some of the adaptations that help our feathered friends make it to spring and also ways you can help them.



*Horned Lark
-Bill Schmoker*

Feathers: Birds' feathers provide insulation against the cold. Some species have another group of feathers called "down". Down feathers grow underneath the other feathers and offer an extra layer of warmth. The oil that coats birds' feathers also provides insulation & waterproofing.

Legs and Feet: Birds' legs and feet are covered with scales that minimize heat loss. Birds can control the temperature of their legs and feet separately from their bodies by constricting blood flow to their extremities. This also helps birds that spend time in cold water.

Fat Reserves: Birds can build up their fat reserves which add to their insulation and provides extra energy for generating body heat. You may have watched your birds gorge at your feeders during the fall giving them an extra fatty layer to get them started with winter.

Fluffing: Birds will fluff out their feathers which make them look puffy. This extra space under the feathers creates warm air pockets providing additional insulation in cold temperatures.

Tucking: You will often observe a bird standing on one leg. With one leg tucked, it's using its feathers to help shield it against the cold. Birds also tuck their bill under a wing. This helps keep them warm and allows them to breathe in warm air.

Sunning: On sunny winter days, birds will turn their backs to the sun and raise their feathers slightly. In this way they absorb the heat and the sun warms their skin and feathers.

Shivering: Birds will shiver to raise their metabolic rate and generate more body heat as a short term solution to stay warm in extreme cold temperatures.

Roosting: Many birds both large & small will come together at night to share body heat. Such places include trees, a hedge, shrubbery or even an empty bird house or tree cavity.

What can you do to help?

- Offer High Quality Seed Mix and Suet
- Keep Feeders Clean and Full
- Offer Clean Water
- Keep Cats Indoors
- Provide Shelter via coniferous trees, brush piles or roosting box

*Golden-crown
Sparrow sunning
-Lisa Myers*





LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

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408/358-9453
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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Special Store Hours

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Monday, December 19 through Friday Dec. 23 open 9:00am – 6:30pm

Saturday, Christmas Eve – Dec. 24 9am to an early closing time of 3:00pm | Closed Sunday Dec. 25.

Saturday Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, 10am – to an early closing time of 3:00pm. Closed Sunday New Year's Day



Loyal Customer Discount
Mention this coupon and take...
15% off one item
Expires December 31, 2016

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

#NC123116

Store Hours

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



LOS GATOS Birdwatcher