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We are *Essential*

by Lisa Myers

We learned in March that the Bay Area would shut down in the midst of the pandemic and "essential" became a new word for us all. It defined whether a store could remain open or had to close. Because we sell seed we fall into the category of essential and we get to remain open, but how do we do this responsibly? We immediately cut store hours by 40% and closed on Sunday. All optics are locked away, there's no more gift wrapping, no more passing of the ink pen and constant washing of hands, wiping down surfaces and maintaining social distancing. We now concentrate on the many ways we can get seed to our customers. Customers call from the parking lot and we take their orders out to their trunk. Our goal – to keep people safe while helping everyone keep their feeders full. Customers are thanking us profusely for being here for them and their backyard oasis. And we know how fortunate we are as a small business that is allowed to remain open.

Watching nature just outside the window is helping everyone cope with sheltering at home. Parents too have asked for assistance as they create bird centric lesson plans for their home-schooled children. Everyone is feeling the joy from their observations; birds at their feeders, birds making nests, birds sitting on eggs and some feeding young. The birds have no idea that our world has changed, they just keep doing what they always do and this pandemic is happening during their breeding season; this is a time for migration, song, mating and raising young.

Special SHELTER LIFTED



Coupon

For use once the order has been lifted.

15% off your entire order

Cannot be used on optics, consignment items or be combined with items already discounted. Limit to 2-20 Lb. or larger bags of seed

Expires 07/31/2020 #Covid19-073120

The Breeding Season is Here - Enjoy!



Chestnut Back Chickadee
- Edward Rooks



Tree Swallows
- Brooke Miller



Bewick's Wren
- Brooke Miller



American Robin
- Tom Grey



Dark-eyed Junco
- Tom Grey

April 22 – Celebrating Earth Day from Home



The first Earth Day took place 50 years ago on April 22. Twenty million Americans protested across our nation in a unified response to the crisis the environment was facing and is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher celebrates our Earth everyday as we help to educate our community to live harmoniously with nature. With everyone sheltering at home we hope you will find a way to celebrate Earth Day in your own neighborhood - watch the birds in your yard, take a moment to see what may now be in bloom, plant those seeds you have tucked into a drawer, start a compost pile... The theme for 2020 is “climate change.” Interestingly enough, with everyone staying home reports are in that the air is cleaner. Fewer cars on the road and facilities on hiatus means fewer emissions into the air.

So, while our society is living through a health crisis, our Earth is experiencing a bit of environmental relief. For this Earth Day we have provided a quiz. Return your completed quiz by May 22, and get all 10 answers correct, you will be entered into our raffle to receive a \$25 gift certificate to the store. Eight lucky customers will be selected.



Quiz – Return Your Quiz By May 22 to be Entered to win!

1. Studies revealed if everyone kept this household pet indoors it would be healthier for their pet and it would save millions of birds every year. _____
2. This hummingbird species has the longest migration route of all North American Hummingbirds and can be spotted in the Bay Area for a few weeks every spring on its route to its breeding grounds as far north as Alaska. _____
3. Can you name this shy “Neotropical Migrant” that winters in the tropics and returns to our backyards every spring and drinks sugar water just like a hummingbird? _____
4. Which North American Raptor, which eats insects as a major part of its diet, migrates to the farm lands of California every spring after wintering as far south as Argentina? _____
5. With a 22,000 mile round trip journey every year this migrating bird sees more daylight throughout the year than any other creature, and spends most of its time in the air. _____
6. This favorite backyard bird has a Crayola crayon named after the color of its eggs. _____
7. Naturalist George Grinnell’s 1886 Forest & Stream editorial led to the first Audubon Society. About what fashion industry was he writing? _____
8. This quiet and unassuming group of birds only eats dead things. The California Condor is in this group. _____
9. This is a friendly little bird that we find in our local parks, local mountains and gardens and is the bird depicted on the Los Gatos Birdwatcher logo. _____
10. This owl found throughout North America is at the top of the food chain and eats all types of mammals including skunks, plus other birds including smaller owls and even raptors as fierce as the Peregrine Falcons. _____

World Migratory Bird Day *Birds Connect The World*

Every year World Migratory Bird Day reminds us to celebrate the long-distance journey many of our feathered friends make annually as they travel across the globe. For 2020 the World Migratory Bird Day theme is, "Birds Connect Our World". By using new state of the art tracking technologies, ornithologists are able to better explore the routes our migratory birds take as they cross the globe. Scientists are able to observe threats they face along the way and work with communities on the ground that may be able



to protect them. This knowledge is then used to make conservation decisions. As we better understand where the birds are going we learn what areas are vital to their success.

Birds Connect Our World
Las Aves Conectan Nuestro Mundo

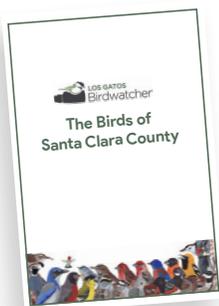


If the "Shelter in home" order is lifted in time the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will be celebrating WMBD with food and a visit by the volunteers from the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center. We will also have the 2020 World Migratory Bird Day T-shirt available for purchase while supplies last. And for all the kids out there, we will be giving away a free coloring page which features this year's theme.

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center WERC – May 9 *Tentatively Scheduled*

We are very excited to have the volunteers from the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center returning to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher on May 9 from 11 AM – 2 PM. WERC is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. The WERC volunteers will be here with their non-releasable ambassador birds.

You can get up close to the types of birds we can find out in nature. The folks at WERC will be happy to answer all your questions about their amazing birds. They also go out to schools and visit other organizations to educate the public on how to peacefully coexist with nature. Please plan to come down to the store and meet the volunteers from WERC and their educational animals. We ask you to bring some extra cash to drop into their donation bucket. All money raised allows them to continue to do their good work for the animals that need help.



The Birds of Santa Clara County

We will soon have available a checklist of the birds that can be found in Santa Clara County. This new booklet will list the species of birds that have been observed in Santa Clara County and the time of year and in what frequency they can be found here. The species that we often find in our yards and at our feeders will be in bold for your reference.

Covid-19 precautions may impact all dates



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.**



- April 1 - May 3** No walks
- May 9** World Migratory Bird Day in search of Swainson's Hawks - Rancho San Vicente Open Space, 21151 McKean Road, San Jose.
- May 16** Worcester Park in Los Gatos. Park at the loop off Vista Del Monte
- May 23 No walk because of the Memorial Day weekend
- May 30** No Walk, There's a Birding-by-Ear Workshop with Lisa Details page 6
- June 6** No Saturday Morning walk (join our Summer Breeding Bird Workshop on Sunday June 7, Details page 5. \$45)
- June 7** Join Lisa & Ryan for a birding tour to Loma Prieta
- June 13** We'll be looking for American Dippers - meet at the Main Street Bridge in Los Gatos
- June 20** Stevens Creek County Park – Chestnut Picnic Area (parking fee)
- June 27** Meet-up - Guadalupe Oak Grove Park at Thorntree Dr. San Jose
- July 4** Closed for the 4th of July

Bird ID Workshops
– 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'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 and field guide with you for class. Call the store to save your spot: **408-358-9453.**

- Thursday, May 14**
– Four Warblers: Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Orange Crowned & Wilson's
- Thursday, June 18**
– Western Kingbird, Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, Caspian Tern



Black-headed Grosbeak
– Nancy Turek

If You Find A Baby Bird

"Eighty percent of baby birds that come into a rescue have basically just been kidnapped," says Melanie Furr, education director at the Atlanta Audubon Society and a licensed rescue volunteer. "They need to be taken back. Wandering from the nest is exactly what fledglings—which are just learning to fly—are supposed to do," she says. "It's a normal part of a bird's development, and though these chicks might appear abandoned, they're likely under surveillance by their parents nearby". However, 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. You can refer to our home page for rescue organizations.

POSTPONED

Nature Photo Presentations

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor entertaining and educational nature photo presentations each season for our local community next door at The Terraces. Presentations are currently postponed until later this year.

RESCHEDULED



Let's Go Birding Spring Migration tour to Texas

Let's Go Birding rescheduled Texas tour to 2021.

For details email:
lisa@letsgebirding.com

Summer Breeding Bird Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Sunday, June 7
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Workshop fills at 15

We will spend the morning within the highest peak of the Santa Cruz Mountain Range at Loma Prieta with highland bird specialties and sweeping views of the mountain and Monterey Bay (if clear!). Ryan will focus on specialty breeding species in the area including how to document and record breeding behaviors and activities.



Target species include Bell's Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Purple Martin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and many others. Away from suburbia, this environment will be alive with breeding bird activity within many unique habitats. To minimize our impact on the environment we ask that folks be willing to carpool from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Lisa will also join in on the fun.

Call the store to sign-up, 408-358-9453. **Fee: \$50**

Birding-By-Ear Big Sit with Lisa Myers

May 30 • 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Spring is the time of year that birds really start to sing. It's about finding a mate and declaring territory and all the things a busy bird needs to do during the breeding season. They say developing chicks in the egg can hear the songs happening on the other side of the egg shell and they recognize their parent's song even before they hatch. Many of you wish you could identify your birds by their song so this workshop is for you.

The workshop will be a little different as we do a "big sit". We will sit in one location and note how many different species we hear. The workshop will be at Guadalupe Oak Grove Park where we will be away from city and street noise. It will be a learning exercise in observation with our ears! We'll be listening for Northern Mockingbird, Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Spotted Towhee, Oak Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, California Thrasher, Red-shouldered Hawk, California Scrub Jay, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Flicker, Swallows and more. All levels welcome. Call the store to sign-up, 408-358-9453. **Fee: \$25**



Kids Helping Condors, One Piece of Litter at a Time

One day a very outgoing, enthusiastic young lady came into the store with her mother and asked if we would display a sign in our window that told about the California Condors. I shared with her that we love condors and asked the nine-year-old Celestine what she was doing to help the condors? This is what she said.

LG Birdwatcher: *Celestine, how did you learn about the condors?*

CC: I've been traveling to Big Sur since I was a baby. On one visit, I saw a display about condors at the Big Sur Lodge. It talked about the issues that threaten condors—and all wildlife. I've always loved and wanted to protect animals, so I wanted to help. I went back to my cabin and started making a lot of signs about condors and how their chicks are harmed by micro-litter. I took these signs to near-by restaurants and asked them if they would hang them in their windows and they all said yes. That's how it started two years ago.



LG Birdwatcher: *That's wonderful! When we met, you mentioned your Condor Scouts. Tell us about that group and how it started.*

CC: During that trip, a waitress at Big Sur Bakery told me about the Ventana Wildlife Society—a group that works to bring back the California Condor population. She said they had a webcam I could watch to see a condor chick in its nest. That was it! For months I watched a chick named “Pasquale”. I was determined to do something to help. I told a few friends asked them to help me pick up litter. The next thing you know, my friends in the neighborhood and at my martial art school were picking up litter every day. It only takes a few minutes, and we collect piles of junk and micro-liter. We decided to call ourselves “The Condor Scouts”.

LG Birdwatcher: *Do your Condor Scouts have any other activities besides picking up litter?*

CC: Yes! Lots of things. I asked Ventana Wildlife Society if I could be a volunteer for them, and they gave me a nice VWS bag full of their flyers about what they do. I carry that bag around town while wearing my Condor Scouts hat, and anyone who asks me about my hat... they get a flyer and the condor story! I also asked my mother if I could study wildlife biology and specifically ornithology, so I've been learning nonstop about birds. I'm doing an unofficial Big Year this year, and I've already seen more than 60 species, including golden eagles, bald eagles, yellow-billed magpies, American kestrels, a peregrine falcon, a great blue heron, snowy egret, and many more beauties! I visit Ventana Wildlife Society and The Los Gatos Birdwatcher for their events as much as possible to learn more, and to be around other people who love birds and are helping them.

Big Sur
California
Condor
- Brooke Miller

LG Birdwatcher: *Celestine, that's super! We're glad you share our love of birds and look forward to seeing more of you and your Condor Scouts at our events! You are making a difference for nature and if we all did this we could change the world. Thank you.*

To learn more about the folks at the Ventana Wildlife Society please visit www.ventanaws.org

Our New Compostable Bag Is A Success!

To offer more options for our customers, we take our 20, 25 and 40 pound bags of seed and manually re-bag the seed it into smaller quantities. For many months we have been trying to come up with an acceptable alternative to the plastic bags we were previously using. We tried many unsuccessful options until we found the “Zenith Natural Z” solution!

This new bag is made from a variety of recycled, compostable and biodegradable papers. The bag is lined with polylactic acid (PLA) which is a corn-based polymer and keeps the seed oils from seeping through the bag. And these new bags are 100% compostable. We are excited about our new find and have been getting positive feedback! We are proud to be able to offer a green packaging solution, and help be a part of the recycling and composting programs. Thank you all for your patience.



Easy & Lisa are happy about the solution



You ready for Mother's Day & Father's Day

We have all kinds of unique gift items for your parents. From clothing and jewelry to field guides and binoculars. Or how about a new bird bath? Everyone already knows we have high quality seed and the best bird feeders around.



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.
- **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.
- **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.

25 birds Word Search

created by Lisa Myers

S	V	K	U	A	C	R	A	N	E
W	N	I	V	A	R	A	W	H	G
A	N	I	R	U	O	V	R	A	R
N	T	U	P	E	W	E	E	W	E
J	A	Y	I	E	O	N	N	K	T
U	H	Z	P	A	R	U	L	A	Q
N	C	K	I	G	U	L	L	V	J
C	O	O	T	L	H	C	N	I	F
O	S	P	R	E	Y	L	O	O	N
T	I	T	W	A	X	W	I	N	G

See page 8 for the full list of words



We invite you to share your photos to our Facebook page and we will provide feedback.

Nest Cams Bring Birds Up Close & Personal

Located in Ithaca, New York, the Cornell Lab Of Ornithology is a world renown resource for all things bird. We are one of their supporters and we wanted you to get to know them too. We want to share with you the link to the Cornell Lab Bird Cams, "providing a virtual window into the natural world of birds and funded by donors."

They have several live bird cams from all over the world for you to enjoy - it's free and great fun. Cameras are strategically placed in nest areas and feeding stations. Simply visit the link provided and enjoy www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams/ The Los Gatos Birdwatcher will soon be technologically hooked up to be able to feature nest cams here in the store.



Red-tailed Hawk
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Word search word list

ANI, AUK, CHAT, COOT, CRANE, CROW, EAGLE, EGRET, FINCH, GULL, HAWK, JAY, JUNCO, LOON, OSPREY, PARULA, PEWEE, PIPIT, RAVEN, SNIPE, SWAN, TIT, VIREO, WAXWING, WREN



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

- April 12 – Easter Sunday
- April 22 – Earth Day
- May 9 – World Migratory Bird Day
- May 10 – Mother's Day
- May 25 – Closed for Memorial Day
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 20 – First Day of Summer
- June 21 – Father's Day
- July 4 – Closed for Independence Day



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Coupon Expires June 30, 2020

#NC06302020

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

Store Hours

Please visit
www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

