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Staff Go Off to College *by Lisa Myers*



This summer two of our team members, Terra and Olivia, start new adventures which will take them away from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Terra has been helping at the store since she was in her early teens, but did not start to work for Freddy until she was in high school. When I took ownership of the store, Terra continued to help me while attending West Valley College. She has been a great asset to the store with so many years of experience, but it's now time for Terra to venture north to Humboldt State to get her bachelor's degree. Rumor has it she

will be back during the holidays to help us get through the gift giving season. Olivia came to us as a sophomore, but after graduating with the Los Gatos High School class of 2018, she is now off working with youngsters. She is a camp counselor at Saratoga Springs. She enjoyed working with customers here at the store and has a passion for nature, so we know she will do a fantastic job in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

SUMMER COUPON

Mention this coupon and take...

10% off one item

Expires September 30, 2018
#SUMMER2018

One time use Coupon per customer please. Excludes seed, sale items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.

9th Annual Artist Exhibition

Sunday, July 22 • Noon – 4:00 PM



On July 22, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will be filled with artwork and artists. The theme is always about nature! The artwork will be a variety of mediums from pastels to watercolors, pen & ink, oils and more. Local artists will be here to talk to you about their work and their passion, and some of their work will be for sale. We will also have a drawing every hour and a lucky customer will win a piece of artwork. Please plan to come by and enjoy the show. And if you yourself are an artist and wish to exhibit your work, please call the store, and we'll provide you with all the details. Refreshments will be served.

Pencil sketch of American Bittern - *by Matthew Dodder*

13th Annual Photo Exhibit

Sunday, August 19 • Noon – 4:00 PM

On this day, the store will be filled with 30 talented photographers as they share their photos of something they photographed in nature. And if you are a photographer, here is your opportunity to share your favorite photo with our birdwatcher community. It's a fun day as photographers have conversations about camera preferences, lens types, apertures and how they got their shot! Refreshments will be served. We will also have a drawing every hour and a lucky customer will win a photographic card. Photographers, please call the store to reserve your space at **408-358-9453**.



Moss Landing Snowy Plover - *by Tony Woo*

The “Biggest Week in American Birding”

by Lisa Myers

This last Spring I took time out to visit Ohio and experience the birding festival known as the, “Biggest Week In American Birding.” The festival is located along the southern coast of Lake Erie and coincides with the Spring migration as millions of birds return to North America after wintering in Mexico, Central and South America. The event is packed full with speakers, workshops, walks and tours and is organized by **Kimberly and Kenn Kaufman**, two world renowned birders and authors. Many Los Gatos Birdwatcher customers had been to this event and came back raving about all they had seen, so I knew it was time for me to go.

Too often people do not get into birding until they are “older”. This is often the case because folks are too busy to take note of all the birds until they retire. But I would ask you to take a moment out of your busy lives and have some compassion for a tiny bird’s ability to fly thousands of miles twice a year; once in spring and again on its return flight south in the fall.

Kenn Kauffman wrote about it in 1997 in his book, *Kingbird Highway*. He was birding along the Gulf of Mexico waiting for the birds to arrive.

“Here were the migrants, thousands of small birds, streaming north from the coast of Yucatan- taking off at nightfall for an overwater flight of twelve to eighteen hours, a flight that could eventually take 24 hours if they were slowed by weather over the gulf. Here were the radar stations at Lake Charles and New Orleans, the sweep of the radar detecting



Chestnut Sided Warbler – by Thomas Dunkerton

the incoming migrants as they approach the coast, picking up their echoes as much as 50 to 75 miles off shore. Here were the migrants again, arriving midday over the coast of Louisiana; some would come down to the first patch of cover, but most depending on weather would continue to fly for miles inland, crossing the coastal prairie to the forests of the interior... after landing at noon, they might depart again at dusk that very night to continue northward. Here among

all the numbers, was a hint of the awesome scope and magnitude of the migration.” Page 171 *Kingbird Highway*.

At this festival, we all station ourselves at hot spots along Lake Erie and experience the migration first hand. As Kenn wrote in this book, birds arrive to North America to raise young; many landing in your own neighborhood and even your own yard. It is our quest at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher to help you help nature’s feathered friends succeed with a safe yard, clean water, great cover, no pesticides and good food. Pretty soon, as summer ends, they will be on the move again as they make their journey south. A tiny bird in a big world just doing what it has always done for millennium.

This beautiful Chestnut-Sided Warbler winters as far south as Panama and returns to North America to breed. This species is very rare in the west.

If you want to learn about all the birding festivals throughout North America they are listed on the Cornell Web site - simply visit www.allaboutbirds.org/birding-festivals.

Have You Noticed The Nesting Boxes at Vasona?

by *Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Kathleen Kawakami*

For many years, Jeff, a Los Gatos Birdwatcher customer has been in charge of monitoring the nest boxes you may have noticed hanging from trees as you walk the trails of Vasona County Park. Jeff is a volunteer for the California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP). Throughout the years Freddy and I helped Jeff with his surveys when he went on summer vacations.

I had such a great time walking the park from nest box to nest box, observing

all the birds and other wildlife, that I considered adopting a Bluebird box trail myself to monitor. Then Jeff walked in the store this spring with the announcement he was moving out-of-state. He wondered if I would be interested in taking over his Bluebird Box trail? I thought this was a great opportunity to step up. It seemed my idea in taking over a trail became a reality.



The CBRP was founded in 1994 to help Western Bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds have a fighting chance from the very aggressive, non-native House Sparrows. These

sparrows were introduced to North America in the early 1900's and took over much of the available nesting locations which caused the bluebird population to plummet. The CBRP built nesting boxes with entrance holes too small for the sparrows to use, but ideal for bluebirds. Success! I am now monitoring 13 nest boxes at Vasona.



Bluebird chicks inside the nest box - Ray Kawakami

Monitoring starts with the beginning of the spring breeding season. By the end of June I had six weeks' worth of data. I collect data once a week as I walk the trail checking the boxes which are scattered throughout the park. As of this writing, 44 baby Bluebirds and 12 baby Violet-Green Swallows have fledged (successfully left the nest). Three boxes are currently holding six baby Bluebirds and five baby swallows, all getting ready to

fledge. Three more boxes have new grasses added, holding the promise of more bluebird babies to come. To check each box I pull them down carefully, one by one, with a pole contraption that allows me to lift each box off the tree limb. I carefully open each nest box to quickly observe and count eggs/babies and then carefully put the box back up on its limb.

Usually, the parents are very near, letting me know they are not happy with my actions. I reassure them I mean no harm and want to protect their babies. Nesting season is over by mid-July. My plan is to place at least ten more nest boxes at Vasona this fall in anticipation for lots more Western Bluebirds and Swallows next year. If you would be interested in monitoring nest boxes please let us know.

The CBRP is always looking for volunteers. This program has been very successful and is responsible for increasing the Western Bluebird populations throughout the Bay Area and the state. Many of our customers now have Western Bluebirds coming to their yard.



Let's go Birding

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. Walks end by 10:00 am. Dates and locations are listed on our web page.



You can meet 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 to our location will also be found on the store's phone message at 408-358-9453.

- 7/7 Vasona County Park meet at the boat dock
- 7/14 Bernal Historic Ranch Park 372 Manila Dr. San Jose
- 7/21 Summer Raptor Workshop with Ryan Phillips
- 7/28 Call the store Friday night for location
- 8/4 Lexington Reservoir. Meet at the Alma Bridge Rd lot just east of the dam.
- 8/11 Tern Workshop with Ryan Phillips
- 8/18 Stevens Creek County Park meet in parking lot near Chestnut Picnic Area
- 8/25 Arastradero County Park Interpretive Center, Palo Alto
- 9/1 No Walk Labor Day Weekend
- 9/8 Call the store Friday night for location
- 9/15 Let's Go Birding tour to Devil's Slide
- 9/22 Join Lisa's fundraising team for SFBBO
- 9/29 Palo Alto Baylands, meet at the duck pond
- 10/6 Call the store Friday night for location

Binoculars Enhance Nature Watching by Lisa Myers

My Let's Go Birding tour to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons was a wonderful adventure. I partnered with Adam Brubaker of Tied To Nature and Chris Brown of Wildside Nature Tours, so three guides for 11 birders was exceptional. We traveled in two vans and stayed



in several geographically ideal locations throughout Wyoming and Montana so we could experience the different habitats. We ended our tour with 130 species of birds and most of the mammals that make this part of the world their home including Wolves, Grizzly and Black Bears, Mountain Goats, Big Horn Sheep, Moose, Elk, deer, plus Pikas, Marmots and Long-tailed Weasels. Before we left California, some goodhearted folks warned us about the crowds that vacation in Yellowstone each summer, but we were up too early to be impacted by the tourists and we seldom found ourselves stuck in a, "Bear Jam". In fact, quite often it was our group that caused the traffic jams. Cars stopped to ask what we were seeing.

I selected this time of year because the birds would be nesting and the bears would be out of hibernation, and we observed all kinds of babies throughout the park. Did you know that baby bison are called "red dogs"? As we traveled throughout the park I was saddened to see how many people did not have binoculars. While everyone had a cell phone, the majority did not have optics. How could this be? All these tourists from all over the world spent time and money to get there, yet, they had no means to see so much of the splendor before them. And it's no wonder the birds are often missed by many because it takes optics to bring to your eyes the beauty of a Western Tanager, Red-Naped Sapsucker or Lazuli Bunting. Did you see the dancing Sandhill Cranes, that nesting Trumpeter Swan sitting on her eggs or the courting American Pipits? Without binoculars, you probably missed them. And if you just cannot wrap your mind around birds, optics also help you see the baby Pronghorn Antelope suckling from its mother, or what about the momma Grizzly walking at the meadows edge in Lamar Valley with her two cubs. So if you enjoy nature, be it in your own backyard or off on a wild trail, please do yourself a favor and get a pair of binoculars. Maybe they would be the perfect gift! They will bring greater joy to your nature experience. We have scheduled an optics workshop just for you. **See page 6.**

Summer Raptor Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips 

Saturday, July 21 • 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Everyone loves raptors, and Ryan is our local expert. Ryan will concentrate on the summer time activities of Northern California’s raptors. Location to be determined closer to the date. Carpooling will be encouraged. Ryan will discuss the different raptor families found in the Bay Area each summer including - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons. **Fee: \$35 per workshop.**

Bird Identification Workshop

– Open to all levels Hosted by Lisa Myers

These workshops have proven extremely popular and fill at 25 participants. Workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:30 – 8:30 PM (Free). These one hour workshops will focus on four different bird species we can expect to see in our local area the month of each workshop. 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. You will need to have a field guide with you for class. Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453. **Thursday, August 2 Workshop:** Black Phoebe, Western Bluebird, California Scrub Jay, White-Breasted Nuthatch

One Good “Tern” deserves Another – Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday • August 11 • 8 AM - 12 noon

The Bay Area provides such a variety of habitats that creating new workshops is easy. This new workshop will focus on the family of birds known as Terns. Many different species of Terns come to the area each Summer. Because they have similar field marks they can be a challenge to identify. We will spend the morning at the bay learning the differences between the many different terns that come through. We will be on the look out for Caspian Tern and Forster’s Tern. There will also be a chance to see Least and Black Terns too. Call the store to sign-up 408-358-9453. Location to be determined closer to the event depending on reports. Participants will meet at the workshop or carpool from the store.

Fee: \$35 per workshop.

Let’s Go Birding tour to San Bruno Mtn. and Devil’s Slide with Biologist Ryan Phillips and Lisa Myers

September 15 • 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

We will spend the day birding the dramatic habitats of two north bay open spaces. We will spend the morning on San Bruno Mountain. This open habitat provides an oasis in the middle of our highly populated San Francisco Bay Area. There will be some walking as we look for the birds that use this habitat to escape the city below. After lunch we will head to Devil’s Slide. This once considered “very dangerous” stretch of road is no longer used for cars and is simply an open space for nature lovers. We will walk the road as we look for birds along the rugged coast below and on the hill side throughout the slide. We may experience both fog and sunshine throughout our day. \$65 Fee includes transportation & entrance fees.

**Save The Date
The Dec. 1 & 2 Let’s Go Birding
Central Valley Birding Weekend
with Lisa Myers**

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 their northern breeding grounds to spend their winter in California. We’ll spend the evening in Williams. Trip fee includes transportation, hotel, continental breakfast and snacks. Lunch, Dinner, alcohol and driver tip are not included. Rain does not cancel. We’ll experience over 70 species including Tundra Swans, Ross’s & Snow Geese, Greater White Fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagle, and White Faced Ibis. Space is limited. Email your questions. Pricing detail *to come*.

info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

**The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
“California Fall Challenge”**

September 9 – October 8

You can participate by joining one of the many guided teams. Our own Lisa Myers will be leading a 4-hour birding tour for SFBBO on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 8 AM – noon.” Visit www.SFBBO.org for more CFC details.

Entertaining and educational photo presentations

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor a entertaining and educational photo presentation each season for our local community. Presentations take place next door at The Terraces which 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.

Arctic Summer with Bill Walker

Thursday, July 19 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

Join photographer Bill Walker for an exploration of life during the brief summer near the Arctic Circle. We'll look at the lives of long distance migrants and a few hearty year-round residents spending the summer in Orkney, Iceland, and Alaska. Find out more about birds make the most of the long days to nest, rear their young, and prepare for the coming winter. Bay Area wildlife photographer Bill Walker has been photographing wild birds and their environment since 2003. He has taught photography for Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Point Reyes Birding Festival, and the Coastside Land Trust. His work is published on Instagram, flickr, at birdwalker.com, and in his annual BirdWalker wall calendar.



Atlantic Puffin

How to select the right optics with Nikon Specialist Mike Freiberg

Free Workshop Sunday, Sept. 9 - 9:00 AM - 12.

We will start in the store followed by 90 minutes in the field.

Customers often ask, “how does one select a great pair of optics?”, so we designed this special event just for you. Come join Lisa and Nikon’s birding specialist Mike Freiberg. Mike will share with us the different features of each pair of binoculars and have you understanding what optics are best for you. Will you be watching birds, bison or butterflies? Everyone will have a chance to look through many different Nikon models. The event is free but space is limited, so you’ll need to reserve your space. And if you purchase a pair of Nikon optics on this day you will receive a 5% discount on each pair. 408-358-9453.



Let's Go Birding through Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons with Lisa Myers

Thursday September 20 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

This last June, Lisa Myers led a Let's Go Birding tour throughout Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Please plan to join Lisa as she presents a photo re-cap of her group's adventure. The presentation will include photographs taken by her 11 participants and guides. The tour traveled over 1,000 miles throughout Wyoming and Montana where they found over 125 species of birds and all the great mammals that make this beautiful park their home including wolf, grizzly's and antelope.



Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series 2018

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

All About Owls

Wednesday, July 18 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm
 (For ages 5 to 12)

Owls are mysterious birds usually found only at night as they hunt after dark in search of rodents. Because of that we have created a wonderful class. Come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and learn about owls; learn how they find their food and what they eat. You will get to dissect your own owl pellet. And we invite you to come meet “Olive”, a live Western Screech Owl here at the store from the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.



We're Going Birding

Wednesday, August 8 • 11:00 am–12:00 pm
 (For ages 5 to 12)

Bird tour leader and store owner/educator Lisa Myers will lead a 60-minute bird walk at Rinconada Park in Los Gatos. Kids will meet at the birding location and will look for the species of birds found right here in our Los Gatos community. Birds will be viewed through high powered spotting scopes. Space is limited, so call soon to reserve your spot.



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@logatosbirdwatcher.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**.



LOS GATOS
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Dates to Remember

July 4 – Independence Day (closed) • **Sunday, July 22** – 9th Annual Artists Exhibit – **Sunday, August 19** – 13th Annual
Photography Exhibit • **September 3** – Labor Day (closed) • **September 23** – First day of Autumn



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Mention this coupon and take...
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Expires September 30, 2018

One time use Coupon per customer please.
Excludes seed, sale items, excursions & optics.
Not to be combined with any other offers.
Expires September 30, 2018

#NC09302018

Store Hours

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

