

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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Easter Island from Aloft! Photo Presentation by Don and Elaine Dvorak

Thursday, July 18, 6:30 – 7:30pm

See Easter Island from a very different perspective. Don and Elaine have been to Easter Island several times and have worked with archaeologists to photograph numerous archaeological sites using kites to lift a remotely operated camera. *No Charge, however, we ask that you call to reserve your space.*



Lisa Myers' Beginning Birding Workshop #1

Class: Thursday, July 25, 6:30 – 8:00pm
Field Trip: Sunday, July 28, 8:00 – 10:00am

See Page 2 for complete description.



Art by: Kris Crane

3rd Annual Artist Exhibit

Sunday, August 11, Noon – 4:00pm

There are many talented artists among our customers and this is a chance to see their work. Past art has been in oils, acrylics, watercolors and pastels. *Refreshments will be served.*



Connecting Home & Garden with Heart and Soul – a Feng Shui Presentation

Thursday, August 15, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Linda Lenore is a Feng Shui Master and has helped us create a comfortable space for our customers since we opened. Join Linda and discover tips for creating a welcome and nurturing home and garden. Learn to create balance in and around your home with Yin/Yang and Element Theory. Understand how small changes connect you with heart and soul to your home and garden. *No Charge, however, we ask that you call to reserve your space.*



Photo by: Gary Aspenall

8th Annual Photo Exhibit

Sunday, August 18, Noon – 4:00pm

Come join us for an exhibit of bird photography by our talented photographer customers. There are photos from their backyards to across the globe. Many photographers bring greeting cards of their work to sell. *Refreshments will be served.*



Lisa Myers' Beginning Birding Workshop #2

Class: Thursday, August 22, 6:30 – 8:00pm
Field Trip: Saturday, August 24, 8:00 – 10:00am

See Page 2 for complete description and for September's workshop #3.

Another “First on our Ridge”

Years ago we had a very unusual Northern Harrier fly over our ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They are marsh birds and I can only surmise that, in order to get to the Bay, he had to go over the mountain. That was the first “First on our Ridge” article.

Here’s the second. I had just come in from walking Augie on Sunday evening, June 2. In a very loud whisper, John was commanding me to hurry up, to come see a ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK at the feeder outside the living room window. Yes, I hurried and was able to see white triangles on either side

of the tail with white above black flying away. I had to look it up to make sure. YES! Now, would he come back? These birds are not supposed to be here even though customer, Linda Sullivan, had a first-year male over



winter this past year and Lani Christiansen had one at her feeder many years ago. Out came the binoculars and I sat waiting for our new bird to come back, and back he came. Of course, he landed on the back of the Squirrel Buster Plus so all I saw was his pale, translucent beak cracking those black-oiled sunflower seeds. Then he moved forward. His armpits were rosy! To prevent the band-tailed pigeons from landing on the Buster Plus, we have the perches screwed in and they are just a little short for this guy and he was fluttering to keep his balance. He must feel right at home with his many cousins, the black-headed grosbeaks. The babies have started doing the “doo-wop” song of “WeeeOooooo.” Even though nesting season seems to be done, the adult males are still singing loudly and eating an amazing amount of seed. All thirteen feeders are filled every other day instead of the normal twice a week.

The most bizarre part of this story is that the day before, we went to Almaden Lake Park in search of the rose-breasted grosbeak that had been seen there all week. Expert birder, Janna Pauser, heard and saw it briefly but the rest of our large group didn’t see it. We had other great birds like Western tanagers, hooded orioles, red-shouldered hawks, but not the rose-breasted grosbeak. Never did I think that one would fly up to 2700 feet to our feeder. Must be that great seed! Sadly, he didn’t come back for a second visit.

Lisa Myers’ Workshops

We have just completed a full year of birding workshops with field trips taught by Lisa Myers of Let’s Go Birding. Lisa covered many different topics and the classes were well attended. Lisa’s style is easy, humorous and full of great information. The field trips put what was covered in the class to practice in the field.



This year Lisa has created a series of Beginning Birding Workshops, based on suggestions from attendees last year, that cover basics you might not be aware of but make a big difference in the field.

Beginning Birding Workshop #1

Class: Thursday, July 25, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Field Trip: Sunday, July 28, 8:00 – 10:00am

We’ll talk about how to become a better birder and taking your beginning birding skills into the field. Finding the bird, using your optics, what’s the difference between field guides, how to study field marks and much more.

Fee: \$20 per person

Beginning Birding Workshop #2

Class: Thursday, August 22, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, August 24, 8:00 – 10:00am

We’ll continue to talk about how to become a better birder and taking your beginning birding skills into the field. How does one tell the difference between a sparrow and a finch? What is taxonomic order anyway? This will be a fun, easy to understand approach to birding.

Fee: \$20 per person

Beginning Birding Workshop #3

Class: Thursday, September 26, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, September 28, 9:00 – 11:00am

Hawks, falcons and eagles, collectively known as Raptors, are a favorite bird group for many. This workshop will focus on the different raptors that we can see here in the Bay Area from bald eagles to peregrine falcons. Fall is the perfect time to study them as this is the time of year when raptors migrate south for the winter. We’ll break down the raptor groups so you can more easily identify one from another. **Fee:**

\$20 per person

Surfing Steller's Jay, USA!



1

Long-time customer, Laura Czinski, came in with her iPhone to show me something hysterical happening in their backyard fountain. She explained that she and her family had been watching a Steller's jay nest that the parents had built at the top of the brick-sided part of their house. Steller's jays make their nests with twigs and grasses like Western scrub jays, but they add mud to it so that the cup where the babies are is more solid than just twigs. The first photo she showed me was of the nest and the four blue speckled eggs (photo 1). Next were the little bare-skinned babies all huddled together (photo 2). The third, rather triumphant photo, was of the babies out of the nest, standing on the brick wall, calling to their parents to FEED ME!



2

After these photos came the video! All four babies had taken up surfing in their backyard fountain. So that the babies had a way of drinking out of the fountain, Laura's husband, Ron, put a foot long piece of wood in the fountain and the babies took turns landing and, then, riding the board to the other side. The included photo shows the bird on the plank, but it loses in translation. To watch them maneuver the board to the other side by moving their bodies and their wings is pretty amazing. Laura wrote in the accompanying email that "They provide endless entertainment! All four babies are still here hanging out and playing. I've seen them play "tag" with each other."



3

"Surfing" is a bit anthropomorphizing but it is amazing what birds do when you watch them on a continual basis. This year has been over the top with baby activity. Seed sales were down and then, in late May, shot through the roof. Suet sales, which last year peeked in April, went wacko in June this year. I know that it is frustrating if we are out of something when you come in to purchase seed or suet on a Sunday/Monday. When I order seed, I use the previous weeks usage and order as a guide. If the birds/babies suddenly do something different it takes at least a week to adjust, sometimes more.



4

Recipe for De-skunking from *Lucy*, former K-9 Greeter

Ask a human to mix together:

4 cups Hydrogen Peroxide

¼ cup Baking Soda

1 teaspoon regular Dawn dishwashing soap

Have that same human rub the mixture well into your coat and make sure they don't get it in your eyes. Then bathe with your favorite pet shampoo. Towel dry, then run around the house to air dry. Wheww, it's over!!!

Keep these ingredients on hand (do not pre-mix them together) so you will be ready for your next encounter.





**Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series 2013**

Live Critters

Thursday, July 11

For ages 3 to 5: 11am – 12 noon

For ages 6 to 12: 1 – 2pm

Come investigate different beak shapes and find out what they are perfectly designed for as we meet a variety of live critters visiting from Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Don't miss this special opportunity to see, touch and feed these delightful creatures.



Teddy Bear Picnic

Thursday, July 18

For ages 2 to 9: 11:30am – 1pm

(Siblings under 2 free of charge)

Bring your favorite stuffed friend, lunch and a blanket for sitting to



Belgatos Park for our annual picnic. Investigate colors with us as we create spectacular bubbles and go exploring on the trails.

Animal Tracking Painting Workshop

Thursday, July 18

For ages 6 to 12: 2 – 2:45pm

Investigate clues to help you discover what animals have been visiting. Learn to recognize common animal tracks and use some rubber tracks to paint a colorful t-shirt. Bring your own t-shirt to paint, and wear grubbies!



Floating Fun

Thursday, July 25

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30 – 11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 – 2pm

Meet us at Vasona Lake for some floating fun. Experiment with us to discover what floats and why. Search for creatures floating in the water and create your own boat to float. Wear shoes that you don't mind getting muddy.

Dazzling Dragonflies

Thursday, August 1

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30 – 11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 – 2pm

Meet us at Oka Ponds in search of these flying jewels. Discover how they grow and change, and find out what makes them such helpful bug hunters. Search the trails for these colorful flying friends and create your own dragonfly to take flying in your yard.



Fruit Harvest

Thursday, August 8

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30 – 11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 – 2pm

Come to Belgatos Park to harvest fruit from the trails with us. Discover which creatures like to eat fresh fruit and search for signs of them as you eat some yourself.



**Reservations Required
Space is limited.
\$8/child for each class**

**Call to register.
(408) 358-9453**



Belgatos Park

Belgatos Park is located at the south end of Belgatos Road. From the store go east on Blossom Hill Road. Just past Leigh Avenue, turn right on Belgatos Road and follow it to the parking lot at the end. Since the Belgatos Road Sign is small, look for the more noticeable green Mulberry School sign directly below it.

Oka Ponds

We will meet at the gate at the end of Oka Lane. Take Lark Avenue to Oka Road and follow it under Highway 85 to the end. Turn left on Mozart and take an immediate right on Oka Lane. Go to the end of the road and park along the street.

Vasona Lake

We will meet at the gate by the dam on Garden Hill Drive. From Lark Avenue turn onto Garden Hill Drive (opposite the southbound 880 Lark Avenue Exit) then veer to the right at the fork in the road. Meet at the gate at the next bend in the road (before you get to the Santa Clara County Department of Recreation and Youth Science Institute buildings).



LOOK WHAT
FREDDY FOUND!



Sabaku Design T's are now available at Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Long time Sabaku followers from The Indian Store will be happy to know that we now stock your favorite t-shirts.



Tea cups with infuser and absorbant Coasters, back by popular demand.



The metal quail family has expanded to male, female and chicks.



Totes and pouches to hold everything. Among embroidery in two different sized bags.



Big Sky Carver artist, Dean Crouder, has designed some beautiful plates, mugs and wall art with hummingbirds, bluebirds, cardinals and chickadees.



Plates, mugs, key chains... there is so much new stuff. Come see!

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Feeder Cleaning** – Drop off your feeders any day of the week. We clean on Mondays and Thursdays, asking only a donation to one of four charities (Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, and Friends of San Martin Animal Shelter). If possible, please bring your feeders in early in the day. We will call you by closing for pickup.

- **Frequent Buyer Program**, buy 9 bags 20# or higher of the same seed and get the 10th one free. Coupons do not apply.

- **Seed Delivery** in the local area, free for over \$40 total, \$4 charge for under \$40 total. Available on Tuesdays (northern route, e.g. Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino, Saratoga) and Fridays (southern and eastern route, e.g. San Jose, Campbell, Santa Clara.) Los Gatos delivery can be done either day.

- **Monthly children’s nature programs** and children’s programs for pre-schools through 3rd grade. Also great for scout troops. For more information, ask for our new “Educational Programs Insiders Info” Sheet.

- **Outreach to community organizations** about birding. We have birding and “Show and Tell” programs ideal for gardening and other service groups.

- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** - Freddy will come out and see what you have, what you want, and what might work. The consultation is about an hour and the cost is \$20, which will be applied to any purchase of new feeders, seed, baths, or hardware.

- **Birthday parties with Build a Seed Feeder workshop.** Bring 11 of your friends to the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** (or at your desired location) and build a birdfeeder. Learn about the different birds that are likely to come to the small hopper feeder that you construct from a pre-cut wooden kit. (Includes a packet of seed, use of tools, and instruction.) *Cost:* \$15 instructor fee + \$10/child (availability may be limited)

- We offer **Gift Certificates** and our popular “**Drop a Hint**” cards that allow you to choose a selection of gifts you would like (wish list) to be considered and when the gift giver comes in with the list, we know exactly what you want.



- Spend \$100 or more and receive our new **reusable canvas tote** with royal blue handles – quite spiffy! The tote is also for sale for \$3.99 and would make a good “wrapping” for a gift.

- 15% off one item 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. We do not apply the coupon automatically. The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to Frequent Buy purchases.

Annual King’s Court Sidewalk Sale

Saturday, July 13 Noon – 4:00pm

This year’s event will include food samplings, live entertainment, face painting, balloon animals and shopping and dining discounts.

We have been saving up the onesie, twosie things that are left from an order. We are running the “No Sale” report to see what has been “gathering dust.” We also have a large number of used feeders that will be drastically reduced from their original price, Proceeds from these feeders will go to our two wildlife donation boxes. Check out the special mailing/newspaper insert where you will find a coupon for \$5 off a purchase of \$10 or more. Not valid on sale items or optics.

**Mark your calendars!
Watch your mailbox!
Come for the music
and the bargains!**

Los Gatos Birdwatcher
King's Court Center
792 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032

#C8013

/ 2013

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires 8/31/13

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

Field Trips & Outings

Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks

Join us every Saturday morning for an enjoyable meander looking for birds. Call the store Friday nights after 7pm to find out where we are going the next morning. Except for our once a month all-day field trips, we go on a local bird walk from 8 to 10 am and return for bagels and shade grown coffee. Some of the nearby places we go to are Oka Ponds, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, BelGatos Park, Almaden Lake Park, Shoreline and Charleston Slough.



No Charge.

Sunnyvale Audubon walks

First Wednesday of the month
August 7, September 4, October 2
Noon to 1pm

Bring your binoculars (loaners are available) and meet Freddy at the **Sunnyvale Pollution Control Plant** where Borregas and Caribbean meet off of 237. After entering the plant turn left at the first stop sign and continue to the end of the parking area. We will see raptors, shorebirds, and lots of ducks.

No Charge.

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers and look for California Condors

Saturday, July 20, 2013 – 8am to 5pm

During the heat of a California summer, birding can get slow. Birds stay out of the heat and birders have a more difficult time finding their feathered targets. So we'll head over to the coast where temperatures are enjoyable, the views are incredible and we'll be looking for California Condors on our way south to the Big Sur area. We'll stop along the way and check out riparian creek sides, tall redwood forests, rolling woodlands, coastal cliffs and kelp beds. Donations towards the conservation of California Condors will be welcomed and matched up to \$100.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Let's Go Birding and Batting with Lisa Myers to the Yolo Bypass.

Saturday, August 17, 2013 – 11:00am to 10:00pm

This trip was such a success last year that we had to do it again! The Yolo Bypass open space provides important habitat for many different species of birds throughout the year, but each summer, the concrete bypass itself is home to roughly 250,000 Mexican free-tail bats, which may make it the largest colony of Mexican free-tail bats in the state. These bats are migratory and return to California each June to birth their pups and spend the summer. We'll spend the afternoon birding the open spaces around the bypass and we'll remain until the 7:58pm sunset. It is at sunset we'll be able to witness thousands of bats heading out for their evening forage of insects. We may also find a few owls during this time. Last year we saw a pair of barn owls making passes over an open field and Swainson's hawks waiting as the bats flew out. A portion of today's proceeds will be donated to NorCalBats.org.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.



Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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

**Birding Classes
with Lisa Myers
see Page 2**

Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Part-time Canine Greeter

*Catching some rays while
minding the back door!*



photo by Kathleen Kawakami

Dates to Remember

Closed Labor Day – September 2

Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

