



Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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Photo Presentation–Travel to new places in Costa Rica

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 6:30 – 7:30pm at The Terraces

Join Beth Hamel, with her husband, Tom, for an exciting look at Costa Rica that takes you to some new locations. Their adventure covered five birding sites: Nosara, Tarcoles, Cerro de la Muerte and Turrialba transecting Costa Rica from west to east.

No charge – Reservations Required



Photo Presentation – The Magic of Monarch Butterflies

Thursday, June 19, 2014, 6:30 – 7:30pm at The Terraces

Ashank Singh unravels the magic of Monarch butterflies. Despite weighing less than an ounce and having a wingspan of merely four inches, millions of these butterflies take flight on an epic journey which spans thousands of miles over terrain which they have never before encountered. How do these creatures perform such a feat year after year with such precision? What fuels such a migration?

No charge – Reservations Required

Photo Presentations



Due to the popularity of our monthly Photo Presentations, The Terraces, 800 Blossom Hill Road, next door to King's Court has graciously offered their newly remodeled assembly room to us. Since parking at The Terraces is tight, we recommend that you park at King's Court and make the short walk down Blossom Hill to the main driveway, turn right and walk to the main entrance on the right.

The assembly room is straight ahead. If you need closer parking, there is parking off the driveway and more if you drive further on, turn left and then right into the parking lot they share with the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos.



Beginning Birding with Lisa Myers – Owls

Class: Thursday, June 26 6:30 – 8:00pm (No Field Trip)

Owls are a beautiful and often mysterious group of birds because most people never get to see one. We will review the many different species of owls living around the Bay Area. Hunters of the night, they are very specialized to live a life in the dark.

You'll learn interesting facts about owls and learn their different calls.

Fee: \$15 per person – Reservations Required

Lisa Myers' Beginning Birding Workshop – Herons

Class: Thursday, July 24, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, July 26, 8:00 – 10:00am

Great Blue Herons are one of the largest birds we can observe in our area and a favorite of many. Many folks follow their nesting in the eucalyptus grove in Vasona Lake Park. This workshop will focus on the birds that fall into the family including the night herons, egrets and bitterns. We will also discuss a few more herons that live in other parts of the U.S.

Fee: \$20 per person – Reservations Required

Nature's Music and the Words to the Songs!

Birds make sound all year long. Sometimes it is their alarm call to warn of danger such as cats, hawks or humans. Other times we only hear their *chip* notes. In spring and summer, it's noisy out there!

Male birds, which do most of the singing, sing for two reasons: defining territory and advertising for a nesting partner. The interesting thing is that it is one song that means two different things depending on who is doing the listening.

All our winter visitors have left and our summer friends have arrived so our brains have to adjust to the new sounds. The robins sing their "*cheerio, cheerio*" song and add a "*whinny*" or two. The black-headed grosbeaks are doing their jazzy robin imitation. I like to call them the Charlie Parker birds because the jazziness goes on and on just like Charlie Parker's playing. The oak titmouse's song goes from the raspy chickadee mimic to a loud "*sweep-it, sweep-it*" or "*dooo it, dooo it*." Dark-eyed juncos are sitting at the top of the tallest tree trilling away. If you hear a trill you can count, it is the junco. If it is too fast a trill, then it is a spotted towhee. Everyone has a tale of the mockingbird that sings all night long. Their song is multi-themed and mimics other birds, cell phone rings, car alarms and timers.

Another distinctive song is the chatter of the orioles. We have two species visiting us now: the northern oriole (Bullock's oriole) and the hooded oriole. Both have a buzzy chatter that usually precedes their visit to the nectar feeder in the backyard. The Bullock's oriole also has a lovely musical song that the male sings from the top of tall trees. Orioles are quite adept at drinking out of a hummingbird but their eight-inch

body works better with a larger feeder especially designed for them.

When I first started learning bird songs, I listened to a CD by the Peterson Institute called "Birding by Ear." I was in a muddle trying to remember the different calls until the narrator started the pneumatic section. I could remember that the California quail sounded like it was saying "*Chicago, Chicago*" and "*sit right down*" when the male was sounding the alarm call. A friend then also described it as "*ha-HA-ha*" and that worked too.

Over the years I have developed quite a dictionary of "sounds likes." During the summer, when we're coming down Black Road and the car windows are open and we hear a particular group of three notes, my husband and I smile and in unison say "*Quick, Three Beers*" and greet the olive-sided flycatcher. I've only seen this bird three times in my life yet I hear it often every summer. The field guide describes the song as "*wick WEEDER*", however, I find "*Quick, Three Beers*" much easier to remember.

One of our winter visitors that has something to say with his song is the golden-crowned sparrow. When they arrive we get many customers asking, "who sings the plaintive three note song of "*Oh, poor me?*" They are still here in early spring and starting to sing more and more as their yellow head spot gets brighter and brighter. Another occasional winter visitor, the white-throated sparrow has a patriotic song if you are Canadian. It is the first four notes of "*Oh, Canada*." One of our bird walk members was trying to call in a white-throated sparrow that had been spotted and sang "*Oh, Canada*" and the bird sang back!



Black-headed grosbeak

When we have our walks near a creek or lake we often hear the song sparrow singing his "*maids, maids put on your tea kettle-ettle*." This one takes a bit of imagination because the song sparrows all have a slightly different call. If you hear two strong notes to start, a burble sound followed by a trill, a song sparrow is probably what you're hearing. The fun part is to then find the bird and see it singing on a reed or branch with its telltale spot on its chest.

The American goldfinches are finally back in the area with many customers watching their nyjer and sunflower chips being eaten at a stunning rate. Listen carefully as they fly over or sing in the tree or on the feeder - "*potato chip, potato chip, potato chip*." The call is very high pitched and not as whiney as the lesser goldfinch.

One descriptive translation of a winter visitor is quickly becoming obsolete. The ruby-crowned kinglet is an itty-bitty, flitty bird that never stays still in one place for long. Usually the only way to see it is to hear it first. My description is that it sounds like an electric typewriter, specifically an IBM Selectric. Yes, I am dating myself and I'm afraid that there are fewer and fewer folks that know the sound to recognize it. So now how do I describe the song to a seven-year-old?

Since we've been talking about Crows...

I have received the following from two separate customers, Marty Empringham and MaryLea Baisley, and I hope you find it interesting.

Crow Facts... Interesting

Researchers for the **Massachusetts Turnpike Authority** found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu.

A bird pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian

Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts.

However, during the detailed analysis, it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the birds' beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate

percentage of truck kills versus car kills.

He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill, they always have a lookout crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "Truck."



Call for artists and photographers

Calling all artists!

– Show off your work at our fifth **Annual Artist Exhibition on Sunday, August 3.**

Join other talented artists for our fifth annual Artist Exhibition. The artists work in pastels, watercolors, pen & ink, and oils. If you have a talent for painting birds and would like other people to see your work, mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 3 from 12 – 4pm.** The deadline to enter is Friday, July 25 and is limited to the first 30



WERC's Clarabell
by: Kris Crane

artists. Please call the store to get your name on the list. Details will be emailed. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to be a part of this fun event.

Calling all Photographers!

– Here's your chance to shine! Enter our ninth **Annual Photo Exhibition on Sunday, August 17.**

Many of our customers are very talented nature photographers. For the ninth year we will be hosting an exhibition of their work. Have you taken a nature photo that transports you back to when you took it? Now is the chance to share it with everyone. Our participants have varied and grown over the years. The photographs are amazing! We are soliciting photographs of birds that you would like to exhibit. We are limiting the number of photographers to 30 and are asking you to submit only one entry



Northern Harrier
by: Gary Aspenall

(maximum size 16 x 20 inches framed). First come first served so call now to reserve your display space.

The deadline to enter is Friday, August 8 and space is limited. The event will be held on **Sunday, August 17, from 12 – 4:00pm** at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to be a part of this fun event. Please call the store and we will send you the entry form and information.



2014

Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Summer Nature Series

**Reservations Required Space is limited. \$8/child for each class
Call (408) 358-9453 to register.**

Fantastic Feathers

Thursday, June 19

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1:00-2:00pm

Come to Los Gatos

Birdwatcher to investigate an amazing variety of feathers.

Visit a live dove as we find out about lots of different things feathers can do.

Create some special feather art, too.



Live Critters

– This class fills up fast, so call now.

Thursday, July 10

For ages 3 to 5: 11:00am-12:00 noon

For ages 6 to 12: 1:00-2:00pm

Come to Los Gatos **Birdwatcher** to meet some live



visitors from Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Find out about all sorts of eggs as we look at eggs from our collection and visit the frog, turtle, duck and owl. Make your own special egg.

Tails Teddy Bear Picnic

Thursday, June 26

For ages 2 to 9: 11:00am-12:30pm

Meet us at **Belgatos Park** for a delightful picnic discovering what different animal tails are designed for. Bring lunch, a blanket to sit on, and a stuffed friend with a tail. Hear a story and search for creatures with tails on the trails.



Bone Detectives

Thursday, July 17

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1:00 to 2:00pm

Come to Los Gatos **Birdwatcher**

to investigate all sorts of animal bones. Dissect an owl pellet to discover what an owl ate for lunch. Bring in any bones that you may have found for us to guess what they are.



Kids' Photography Hike

Thursday, June 26

For ages 6 to 12: 1:30-2:30pm

Meet us at **Oka Ponds** to go adventuring on the trails taking nature photos. Bring any camera that you like and learn some simple tips to help you get great pictures. Make a frame for one of your favorite photos.



Fun Feet

Thursday, July 24

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30am

For ages 6 to 12: 1:00-2:00pm

Meet us at **Vasona Lake** to find out about animal feet.

Search for critters and discover what their different feet are designed for.

Look for tracks and make some of your own. Wear shoes that you don't mind getting wet.



Flying Friends

Thursday, July 31
 For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30am
 For ages 6 to 12: 1:00-2:00pm

Come to **Belgatos Park** to find out about all sorts of flying friends and their different styles of flight. Hike with us on the trails to find butterflies, damselflies, bees and birds. Color your own bird airplane to fly across the field.



Super Smellers

Thursday, August 7
 For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30am
 For ages 6 to 12: 1:00-2:00pm

Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** to discover how different creatures smell. Visit a live snake and some backyard bug friends. Investigate scents and test your own sense of smell.



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).

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 five charities (Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife 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.

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

- 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 **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.



LOOK WHAT
FREDDY FOUND!



Bench and Pillows
– Relax in style



Foxgloves
– Gardening gloves in original, grip and gauntlet



New Wall Art
– Original bird art from a young artist in Seattle



Los Gatos Greeting Cards, Postcards and Memo Pads



Spring Dish Towels
– Brighten up your kitchen



Tote Bags
– Dick and Jane and Knitting Scene



Loofah Scrubbers
– Lots of new styles, smile while you wash dishes



New Tops from Bali
– Hoodie, Tunic, Jacket and Scarves

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

#C0614

/ 2014

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires June 30, 2014

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

June 4, July 2 | Noon to 1pm

Potential cancellation due to construction, please call 408-730-7575 to confirm if walk will be held.

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 to Portola Redwoods State Park of Coastal San Mateo County

June 21 8:00am to 4:00pm

Portola Redwoods State Park is a beautiful and rugged natural basin forested with Coast Redwoods, Douglas Firs and Live Oaks. In the shadow of the tall evergreens, trails are often dripping with mountain moisture and are home to ferns and lots of Banana Slugs. This day won't be about a quantity of species, as much as a day looking for few secretive species that live in this type of habitat. We'll select one of the many trails and bird on foot. Working our way through the forest and along creek beds we'll be looking for Pacific wren, golden-crowned kinglets, thrush, pileated and hairy woodpeckers and we'll learn about the marbled murrelets. Rain cancels this trip. **Fee: \$30 + share of gas**

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to Burleigh Murray State Park and Wavecrest in Half Moon Bay

July 19 8:00am to 4:00pm

Burleigh Murray State Park was a former ranch and is now open to the public. The old ranch road now serves as the trail that runs from the parking lot up to the old barn. The various habitats allow lots of cover allowing for many different species of birds. After our morning walk here we will move over to the coast to check out the open spaces of Wavecrest where we hope to find both raptors and shorebirds. **Fee: \$30 + share of gas**

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to see the Condors

August 16 8:00 to 5:00pm

More details next issue or on Lisa's Let's Go Birding website.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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recycled paper

Adventures with Marley

*From escape artist to sun junkie
– unattached leash outside the store's back door!!*



Dates to Remember

5/26 Memorial Day (observed) CLOSED
6/15 Father's Day
6/21 Summer Solstice

Store Hours

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

