

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Events	1
Next Chapter	2
Welcome Back	2
Avian Housing Update	3
Services Available	4
Greeting Cards	4
Other Upcoming Events	5
Look What Freddy Found!	6
Coupon / Field Trips	7
Adventures with Marley	8



Photo Presentation – Highway 17 Wildlife Safe Passage

Thursday, September 18, 6:30 – 7:30pm at The Terraces

Tanya Diamond of *Pathways for Wildlife* presents a fascinating project to give mountain lions, bobcats and deer a safe way to cross Highway 17 that will help ease the habitat fragmentation that is creating genetic isolation in the mountain lion population. Photos from field cameras let us see the mountain lions people rarely see.

No charge but call to reserve your seat



Beginning Birding Workshop with Lisa Myers – Look Who’s Coming

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

Field trip: Saturday, September 27, 8-10 am

September puts us in the midst of the fall migration and we’ll review all the species that are on their way back to spend the winter in your neighborhood.

Fee: \$20/per person



Photo Presentation – Birding in California

Thursday, October 16, 6:30 – 7:30pm at the Terraces

Beth Hamel, back by popular demand, takes you on a photographic tour of some of California birding hotspots near and far. We are so lucky to have a broad diversity of bird life: year-round residents, migratory visitors and accidental wanderers.

No charge but call to reserve your seat



Beginning Birding Workshop with Lisa Myers – How do you tell a Raven from a Crow?

Class: Thursday, October 23, 6:30-8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday October 25, 8:00-10am

Ravens and Crows belong to the same family as Jays and Magpies, collectively *corvidae*. All the species found in this family are known to be rather aggressive and we find them throughout our city, parks, campgrounds and mountains.

Fee: \$20/per person



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society presents the 23rd Annual Wildlife Education Day!

Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 10am-3pm at Blackberry Farm in Cupertino

There will be birdhouse building, nature arts, environmental groups from around the bay areas, and the ever-popular “early bird” shorebird walk at Charleston Slough (8am.) For details about the events visit www.scvas.org.

The Next Chapter Unfolds for Los Gatos Birdwatcher

"The time has come, the walrus said, to speak of many things, of shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings" ...and retirement!

The BIG problem is - how can we leave our wonderful, loyal and long-standing customers without access to quality seed and products and caring service and information?

Enter our long time friend, partner and co-worker Lisa Myers! Lisa met us soon after we opened, introduced herself and asked for an informational interview about how she, too, could 'open such a store. Back then the franchise was not viable for her so we partnered with field trips, workshops, marketing assistance and general brainstorming on projects and events.

Besides her ten years of owning and operating her birding tour business, Let's Go Birding, Lisa's previous business experience was in her family's local high school senior portrait company, Sanford and Myers. She spent



twenty years growing the business, managing the staff and studio, coordinating with school administrators, the student and their parents. Her customer service credentials are sterling and her birding skills are expert so having Lisa work in the day-to-day store situation was the next step.

We are being proactive about this and are taking our time with the transition. The

goal is to officially transfer **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** to Lisa on November 31, 2015 but we will be supporting her in many ways after that so this is not a drop and leave type of situation. We are all working very hard to make this changeover smooth and seamless. You will be advised through the newsletter as the process progresses. Please be excited and happy for everyone because this is truly a win-win-win – John and Freddy get to retire, Lisa gets to make a longstanding dream come true and you, our wonderful customers, continue to have a great place to buy quality birdseed and everything that goes with it.

Welcome Back Olivia and Terra

Olivia Ady is back with us while taking some extra classes in her passion of jewelry making. Her return was perfectly timed for all of us.

Terra Freeman is back with us, too, even though most of you didn't know she was here the first time. Terra was our program assistant and worked with Education Coordinator, Christine Wolf, during our 2009-2010 summer series. She is now our official seed bagger and is learning about the rest of the many products in the store. She has just started at West Valley College and we are delighted to have her on the team.



Olivia



Terra

Lee Pauser – Avian Housing Advocate, an update

In the September/October 2010 issue of our newsletter, I wrote an extensive article about Lee Pauser who monitors nesting boxes for the Cavity Nesters Recovery Program through Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Four years have passed and Lee is still at it and has updated his graphs on all the boxes and who fledges from them.

When he took over his wife, Janna's trail in 2002, he started with 12 boxes. In 2010, Lee monitored 216 boxes. In 2014 that number is up to 446 and includes boxes that house Chickadees, Bluebirds, Screech Owl/Kestrel, Wood Duck and Barn Owls.

Originally, the target species was the Western Bluebird and the majority of his boxes are Bluebird nest boxes. Lee explains, "Since the Bluebird nest box is an artificial cavity with a 1.5" entrance hole, any cavity nester that can fit through the hole may use it. I've had twelve other species utilize the Bluebird nest box."

Because Lee is diligent about weekly monitoring, he can document the many hazards in nature that account for a 75% mortality rate in the first year for most birds. One of his photos, included here, shows why not every nestling fledges. A gopher snake climbed a tree, *snaked* down to the box, and entered the box to consume four Western Bluebird nestlings. The good news is that shortly thereafter, the adults built another nest in the same box and laid four eggs that hatched and fledged. The next photo shows the extent Lee goes to in helping these and other Western Bluebirds fledge. As often as every three days, when the food is scarce at the end of the season, he provided most nesting adults, other than Swallows, a pantry stocked with water, elderberries, and/or dried mealworms. The inside walls of the nest box were stained purple after the nestlings fledged proving the adults fed the berries to the nestlings. He often witnessed the adults eating a few mealworms and taking some inside to feed the hungry nestlings.



(Ed. Note: We had many folks feeding live mealworms to Robins, Chickadees, Titmice, California Towhees and, of course, Western Bluebirds this spring and summer.)

The grim reality of nature is that not all eggs hatch and not all nestlings fledge. Lee's statistics show that this year, of the total songbird losses, 33% were eggs (up from last year) and 67% were nestlings (down from last year.) He says, "Eggs disappear, are abandoned, are found broken or don't hatch. As far as the nestlings, they disappear, are abandoned or die."

Lee supplies our magnificent Barn Owl boxes that include a vestibule to prevent predators from getting to the young, mounting board, clean-out, ventilation and drainage. If you have gophers and a good bit of property, come see if the box is right for your home.



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 six charities (Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, Friends of San Martin Animal Shelter, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife, and Henry W. Coe State Park Bat Project.). 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.

- **Children's nature 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 + \$15/child.**

- 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 \$4.99 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.

Greeting Card Selection Expands

There is something very special about opening the mailbox and finding a handwritten greeting card. When Fiori's closed several years ago, we increased our card selection to be able to offer you a more diverse card selection.

Our greeting card lines now include Leanin' Tree, Pumpnickel Press, Legacy/JQ and Artists to Watch. In addition to these lines Kathleen has found several specialty lines from local artists and photographers. We are also carrying a line of whimsical bird cards that Lisa found on a trip to Minnesota to visit her brother.

So when you need just the right card for anyone who likes birds, check out all our special cards.



Other Upcoming Community Events

Understanding Bird Song with Author and Naturalist David Lukas

Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, 2:30-4pm

Presented by

Environmental Volunteers

Location: The EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto

David is a renowned naturalist and author of *Bay Area Birds* and *Sierra Nevada Birds*. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to learn more about the range of bird vocalizations and how to identify and interpret them. There will be a short walking tour of the Baylands to listen and observe local birds. This program is free and is recommended for ages 12 and up.

For more information call: 650/493-8000 ext. 345 or email Eric@EVols.org.



Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center's 19th Annual BBQ and Auction

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014 12-3pm

For those of you who enjoyed the WERC avian ambassadors' fundraiser last spring, here is another chance to support this great group. Lunch served between 1:00 and 2:00pm. Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, 16450 Murphy Ave., Morgan Hill. Check out www.werc-ca.org for all the details.



Birding in Costa Rica with Lisa Myers of Let's Go Birding

March 21 – April 1, 2015

This will be Lisa's fifth guiding trip to Costa Rica and she will team up with Erick Castro of Cotinga Tours to show you ten days of magical birds and wildlife in Northern Costa Rica. Some of the places you will visit are Sarapiquí, La Sleva Biological Station, Arenal Volcano National Park, Carara National Park and Cerro de la Muerte. The trip fills with 12 people so check your calendar and contact Lisa at www.lets gobirding.com for complete details. The comments from her last trip were superlative: "Awesome, spectacular, unexpectedly wonderful, wish I could do it all over again." G. M. "You have a very favorable ratio of birder to guide with six birders to one guide. The trip was well planned, organized and executed. Fabulous." C.



What Bird Is... ?

Expert birder and friend, Kendric Smith, was cleaning out some files and found a great "mind teaser" quiz about different birds. We will be running five questions in each newsletter. The answers are on page 7. Have fun and good luck.

- 1 What bird is a highway sprinter? _____
- 2 What bird sees with precious metal? _____
- 3 What bird must precede digestion? _____
- 4 What bird is a famous magician? _____
- 5 What bird is a country? _____





New Bali shirts

Fall Chickadee Top

– Fall colors in your favorite styles and scarves, too.



New bird baths – Hanging and stake-mounted ceramic



2015 Calendars

– Huge selection this year...

- Birds
- Bugs
- Wildflowers
- Squirrels
- Hummingbirds
- Owls
- Unlikely Friends
- Audubon

– Charlie Harper

- Pocket, Sticker
- Wall, Mini-Wall
- Engagement.



New bird baths

– Hanging Bamboo in fun colors



Socks

– Ghoulies, Ghosties, and Turkeys *Come soon, these will fly out the door!*



Christmas Cards

– I know it's early but...

Come soon for the best selection.

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

#C1014

/ 2014

Pay to the order of *Our Loyal Customer*

15% Off One Item

Memo: *Expires 10/31/14*

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 most 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. Our local bird walks are from 8 to 10 am and we return to the store 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

October 1, November 5, December 3

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.

All-Day Field Trip Update

We are excited to announce that we are now going to provide transportation for all of our all-day field trips. In the past we have found that pulling over to find that special bird was becoming increasingly difficult with six cars. No more missing the bird that the first car sees.



This way we are all together in air-conditioned comfort. We thank all those folks who have been willing to drive in the past and now want to provide convenience and comfort for all. We will now go in one commercial tour bus, which provides comfort, huge viewing windows and security as the professional driver will always remain with the bus.

The price per trip will be a little more than the \$30 plus share of gas that we now charge. Instead of monthly field trips we will schedule 4-6 trips a year to bird the seasons and their special target birds. For example cranes, condors, wintering waterfowl and spring migrants. Be sure to keep in touch about the November trip to see the Sandhill Cranes.

Answers to What Bird is...? From page 5

1. Roadrunner; 2. Golden Eye; 3. Swallow; 4. Merlin; 5. Turkey

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE, CA
PERMIT NO. 10

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



Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Adventures with Marley

Sage willed her "Bat Wings" and an entire month of Halloween bandanas to Marley!



Dates to Remember

9/22	Autumnal Equinox
10/13	Columbus Day - we are open
10/31	Halloween
11/2	Dia de los Muertos
11/2	Daylight Savings Ends
11/4	Election Day - VOTE

Store Hours

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

