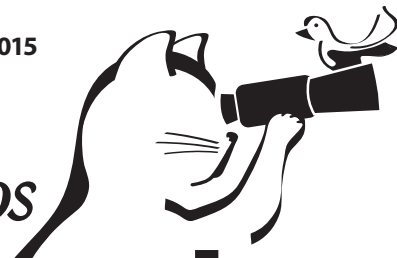


# Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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## Photo Presentations

### Experience Wildlife Up Close and Personal

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Terraces



Photo – Judy Bingman

Have you ever been so close to a Polar Bear that you could smell his breath? Have you ever had the opportunity to snorkel with Humpback Whales? Had a baby Humpback Whale come up to you and look you in the eye? Had a Wolf tug at your jacket while you were trying to capture a great Wolf Portrait? How about sitting on the ground only 5 feet from a Yellow Anaconda capturing an incredible snake portrait? Standing out in the cold surrounded by Aurora Borealis dancing over head. Flying in a little airplane around Alaska’s Mount McKinley, the tallest mountain in North America? Please join professional wildlife photographer & retired Los Gatos High School teacher Judy Bingman as she takes us around the world via her photography. Learn how to keep your camera gear and yourself still functioning at -42 degrees.

### Learn about the conservation efforts of the Belize Raptor Research Institute

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Terraces



After spending three years in the Central American country of Belize working on The Peregrine Fund’s Harpy Eagle Restoration Project, Wildlife Biologist and De Anza College faculty member, Ryan Phillips was inspired to form the Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRI). During his time in Belize he realized that Neotropical raptors (hawks, eagles & owls) were virtually unknown and faced many threats. His founding of BRRI represented the culmination of a lifelong goal to create a conservation organization. During Ryan’s talk you will learn about BRRI’s cutting edge research projects, such as the Solitary Eagle Project, Stygian Owl Project, Hook-billed Kite Project and the first Raptor Watch Program in Belize.

Ryan currently teaches in the Environmental Studies Department at De Anza College where he shares his passion about biodiversity and conservation biology.

## Transition Update

Freddy & John planned their retirement based on the end of their lease set for Nov. 30, 2015. That date signifies 20 years at the King’s Court Shopping Center. The store has been located here for as long as most people can remember. Prior to becoming a birding store, the space was previously a woman’s lingerie store known as Olga’s. With the store transitioning over to Lisa Myers, one of Lisa’s first tasks was to secure a new



lease at the present location or find a new spot to open shop. Lisa has been working with the property management group for the King’s Court Shopping Center and it looks very promising that the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will get to stay right where it is! We have customers coming to us from all over the Bay Area and many suggested we move closer to them, but the store has become a big part of the Los Gatos community and really did not want to move out of the area.

# Here are 10 Reasons Why Your Birds Love Seed from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher



People come into the store all the time and ask us why our seed is different than the seed they buy elsewhere? Customers admit that at times when their feeders go empty they'll pick-up seed from other sources like a hardware store or big box store. When they fill up their feeders with this other seed the birds would not eat it. They realize the seed they purchase from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is eaten quickly as birds flock to their feeders. Our customers end up throwing away this other seed and coming back into the store to re-stock with our seed. We wanted to let you know what sets our seed apart from the rest.

- 1 We use experience and historic records to determine how much seed we'll need for the week ahead and we place an order every Friday with our supplier, Volkman Seed Factory.
- 2 According to the quantity of seed we order, Volkman takes that specific amount and blends our mixes the following weekend.
- 3 Our freshly bagged mixes (Pure Patio, Just Hearts, Birder's Choice, Songbird Delight, Garden Mix, Finch Blend) are then delivered to the store the following Tuesday.
- 4 With each Tuesday delivery, we carefully stack each bag and if there are any bags remaining from the previous week's order, we rotate them by date received.
- 5 There are no fillers in our seed. This means there is no Milo, or other filler seed that our birds out here in the west simply do not eat.
- 6 When you purchase seed from big box stores you do not know how long it was in a warehouse, or how long it's been on the shelf.
- 7 Seed has a moisture content that the birds can detect. If the seed is too old the birds won't eat it.
- 8 The big box stores do not necessarily have staff that can help you ID your birds or help you select the seed that is ideal for your specific birds.
- 9 The various types of feeders are designed for specific types of seed. We can help you pick the right mix for your feeders and your birds.
- 10 Remember, we keep a record of every 20 lb. bag of seed you purchase and after you purchase 9 bags of the same seed mix you'll get the 10th bag free.

## Recap of the Belize Raptor Tour

*By Lisa Myers*

August included the Let's Go Birding / Belize Raptor Research Institute birding tour that took place throughout the Central American country of Belize. In addition to visiting ancient Mayan ruins, over 250 species of birds were experienced. We also stopped for other creatures found in nature from butterflies to iguanas plus bats, fox, tarantulas, geckos and coatis, just to name a few.

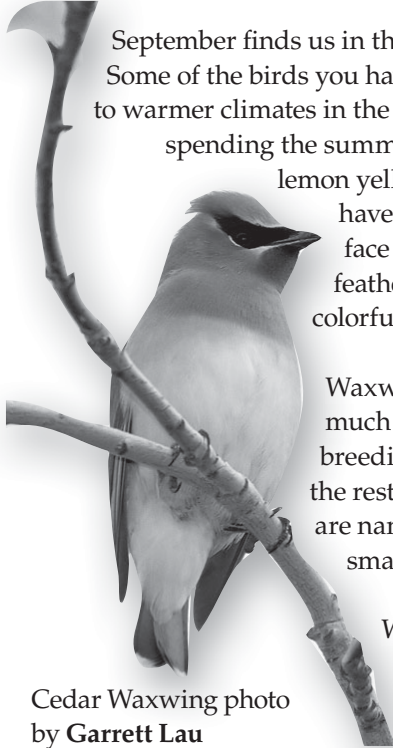
We conducted a Raptor-A-Thon on August 13 where finding different raptor species was the goal of the day. Including owls and vultures, we ended with a final count of 17 different species. Just ask me for the list. This tour also included evening presentations where we learned of the efforts being made to save vital habitats, end the illegal poaching of Scarlet Macaws (Scarlet Six Biomonitoring team) and parrots, and the efforts being made to provide environmental education to the Belize community. If you want to learn how you can help please visit [www.belizeadubon.org](http://www.belizeadubon.org) or [www.belizeraptorresearch.com](http://www.belizeraptorresearch.com)



*Birding by boat at Crooked Tree, Belize*

# The Fall Migration is Underway and the Cedar Waxwings are Coming Back

By Lisa Myers



Cedar Waxwing photo by **Garrett Lau**

September finds us in the beginning of the fall migration. It's amazing how quickly the seasons pass. Some of the birds you have been enjoying in your yard, or nesting amongst your trees, are now departing to warmer climates in the south. However, the Cedar Waxwings are just now returning to our area after spending the summer months breeding throughout Canada. They are a beautiful little bird, tan and lemon yellow in color, that can live in your neighborhood without being noticed. They do have a tail dipped in bright yellow, a fancy tan crest and a "Zorro" like striking black face mask. Waxwings get their name from the waxy red tip found on their flight feathers. Easier to see on the folded wing, without a pair of binoculars you may miss this colorful detail.

Waxwings are social birds so we almost always find them together in flocks. They spend much of their time at the tree tops which makes them hard to see from below. During the breeding season Cedar Waxwings will supplement their diet with insects, but throughout the rest of the year, when they are in our area, they feed almost exclusively on fruit. They are named for eating cedar berries, but we find them eating pyracantha berries and other small fruits and berries.

We cannot tell the males from the females, as they all look alike. Cedar Waxwings are vocal and they can be heard chatting amongst themselves as they sit together in a tree, or when they are flying overhead, but, their song is at such a high-pitch not everyone can hear it.

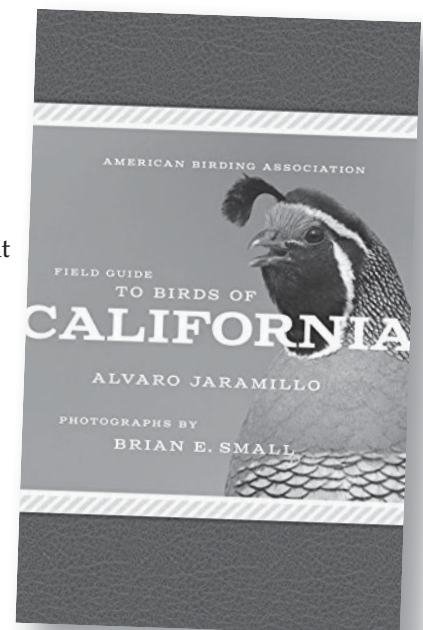
Cedar Waxwings will use a bird bath and eat from fruiting trees and shrubs. You don't want to use pesticides because that negatively impacts all the wild birds that feed from your yard. And of course, if you can keep your cats inside that will save many lives. So keep your eyes out, the Cedar Waxwings are just now returning and will be around until next May when they will again leave for their northern breeding grounds.

## Field Guide to the Birds of California

by SFBBO's *Alvaro Jaramillo*

California is a wonderful place to be a birder because the golden state offers many different habitats from San Diego to the Oregon border, and the Pacific Ocean to the Sierra Mountains. Thus, California is home to hundreds of different species of birds throughout a year. We are excited to announce that a new California field guide, written by Bay Area resident **Alvaro Jaramillo, M.S.**, is now available. Alvaro is an experienced world traveler and an expert on California birds. He is also a senior biologist for SFBBO.

The "American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of California" includes more than 300 species birders are most likely to see in the state. Illustrated with nearly 450 crisp, color photographs, it includes clearly written descriptions along with tips of when and where to see birds by an expert Californian birder. To learn more visit [www.alvarosadventures.com](http://www.alvarosadventures.com).



## 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 our 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). 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 or birthday parties. If you would like more information please ask.
- **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** - We 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.
- 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.
- 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.*

## It's time for SFBBO's "California Fall Challenge"

It's that time of year again for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's (SFBBO's) biggest fundraising campaign of the year, the Annual California Fall Challenge (CFC). This will be the 19th year for this event and SFBBO's 2015 goal is to raise \$30,000. The CFC goes on for a month and they make it easy to participate.

You can become part of the fundraiser by joining a guided bird trip or by competing in the bird-a-thon. You can also donate to the band-a-thon, compete in the Click Off photo contest, participate in the Kids Bird Art Contest, or purchase an owl bracelet designed by ArtHouseUnited. Everyone who donates \$50 or more is eligible to receive the 2015 CFC T-Shirt, this year's design will be of a Burrowing Owl. Please visit [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) to learn more about the organization and the research they do here in the Bay Area and get more information on this year's California Fall Challenge.

## August Exhibits Were a Grand Success!

We want to thank all the talented artists and photographers who participated in our August exhibits. We also want to thank all of you who dropped by the store to enjoy the photographs and meet the artists. How the photographers got their shot, and what techniques were used by each artist were all part of the conversation shared throughout the store.



SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

# Miss Christine On To a New Adventure

By Freddy Howell

In May of 1996, I went to an event at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Alviso. The store was brand new and I was still learning all about birding education. One of the presentations I attended was by their Interpretive Specialist, Christine Coy. She also worked with Sulphur Creek Nature Center and had brought several live birds. On her arm was the most beautiful Great Horned Owl I had ever seen. Christine told the audience of mostly children all about the owl and its habitat. All the kids (and this adult) were in rapt attention, listening to her every word. I was so impressed that I made sure I introduced myself to her. We worked closely on a couple of projects in the next year and became fast friends.

In February 1998, Christine left the EEC and became the Preschool Director for Sulphur Creek Nature Center in Hayward. She also agreed to work with us and she developed an education program that allowed us to teach the children in our community all about nature. This exciting program included monthly "Kid's Corner" classes, our popular "Summer Nature Series" and the many different school programs we take on the road as we go into the schools and work with preschool through first grade students.

Christine and I have had so much fun through the years teaching area children about birds, reptiles, animals and the wonderful nature around them. She created our famous "silly" puppet shows and invented many crafts using recycled materials that reinforced the lessons of the programs. We have all been lucky to experience getting "up close and personal" with ambassador owls, snakes, turtles and other animals from Sulphur Creek.

It is so gratifying to see six-year-olds who attended those early classes now grown into young men and women who still remember to open their eyes to nature because of Miss Christine. Not long ago, I ran into a young man and his mother in the grocery store. They had come to our classes for many years starting when he was three. He is now in college and working in real estate, still likes to watch birds and remembers Miss Christine fondly. In 2010, Christine and her husband, David, welcomed Luke into the family and I became "Grandma Freddy!" While Christine continued doing classes on Thursday, Luke stayed at the store being doted on



by customers and employees alike. When he became mobile, I took him to Vasona, Oak Meadow, the library and many, many construction sites. He and I are heavy equipment nuts and had a great time watching backhoes, front loaders, graders and slam-bangs.

Now, however, Luke is five and a half and ready for kindergarten. Since they live in San Leandro, timing and traffic are much more problematic and Christine is no longer able to commit to coming down to us for classes. "Miss Christine" has been an amazing asset to the store, teaching me, as well as thousands of area children, so much about birds, animals and nature. I learned from her excellent example how to excite children to look around them and observe, listen and be amazed. Christine and Luke have been such an important part of the store's history and of my life. We will miss Christine but her legacy lives in the wide-eyed wonder of all the children she has touched with her sweet nature and amazing knowledge. Thank you, Miss Christine!

## Maybe you can help...

While Freddy will continue to be a part of the school programs through 2016, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is looking for interested teachers who would like the opportunity to teach children, part time, about nature. If you would like a job description, or more information about the program please email Lisa at [lisa@letsgobirding.com](mailto:lisa@letsgobirding.com). Thank you.



**PILLOWS**

– New pillow designs – outdoor fabrics and pretty enough to use inside too.



**2016 CALENDARS**

– Folks are starting to schedule for 2016 and you need a place to write your appointments. We have many different styles to choose from.



**FREDDY IN JACKET**

– Stylish Jacket for birding & travel. Weather resistant, lightweight and folds itself into its own pocket.



**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

– Yes, it's early, but folks are asking. So come get "first dibs" on all our new designs.



**CHICKENS**

– Free Range Chickens by local artist Melanie McNulty. Put them on a shelf or get one of their cute wooden benches.

**Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society's Annual Wildlife Education Day!**

Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10am-3pm at Blackberry Farm in Cupertino  
21979 San Fernando Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014

Sponsored by SCVAS, Wildlife Education Day has become one of the premier festivals in the Bay Area where families get to come together to celebrate nature. Over a dozen nature-oriented organizations will provide live animals demonstrations, educational presentations, free hands-on activities, early morning bird walk, nestbox and bird feeder construction. Everyone in the family gets to learn about birds, nature, ecology, wildlife and more. For details about the events visit [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org).



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

##C1015

September / October 2015

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer  
**15% Off One Item**

Memo: Expires 10/31/15

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 mornings 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 coffee. Some of the nearby places we go to are Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, BelGatos Park, Almaden Lake Park, Shoreline and Charleston Slough.

**No Charge.**

### Sunnyvale Audubon walks

First Wednesday of the month  
Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

Noon to 1pm

Freddy will continue to lead this walk for Santa Clara Valley Audubon on the First Wednesday of the month. So look for updates after the holiday season. 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.

**No Charge.**

### Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to San Bruno Mountain Saturday, Sept. 19, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

San Bruno Mountain is located at the northern end of the Santa Cruz Mountains and is the 1300' foot peak visible from throughout the San Francisco peninsula. The mountain is home to a 2,378 acre park with 360 degree panoramic views of the entire Bay Area. This high mountain habitat is also a great place to look for fall migration activity. As the birds work their way south for the winter they often take refuge in this open space high above the heavily populated cities below. This day will include some walking as we bird from several of the trails found in the park.

**Fee: \$60 Includes transportation.**

### Let's Go Birding Half Moon Bay Weekend Adventure Sat. & Sun., Oct. 10 & 11, 2015 details provided – wait list

This is a new Let's Go Birding weekend adventure and we are headed to the coast where we'll bird areas from Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay. We'll spend the night in Half Moon Bay.

*Email [lisa@letsgobirding.com](mailto:lisa@letsgobirding.com) for more information.*

### Let's Go Birding – Merced NWF

Sat. Nov. 21, 2015. 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The Merced National Wildlife Refuge includes 10,258 acres of wetlands, native grasslands, vernal pools, and riparian areas and hosts the largest wintering population of lesser Sandhill cranes and Ross' geese along the Pacific Flyway. Each fall more than 20,000 cranes and 60,000 arctic-nesting geese migrate to this area to spend the winter. This is also a great area to find eagles and hawks. We are headed to the Merced NWR to discover what species have returned. Very little walking on this tour.

**Fee: \$60 Includes transportation.**

# Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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792 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, California 95032  
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email: [info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com)  
website: [www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com](http://www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com)



Return Service Requested



Printed on  
recycled paper

## Going on a Snipe Hunt!



Customer **Kris Powell** found a Wilson's Snipe July 6, while visiting Graeagle, in the Sierra Nevada. This elusive shorebird breeds in mountain meadows and is returning to our area right now in order to spend the winter.

### Dates to Remember

- 9/7 – Labor Day closed
- 9/23 – Autumnal Equinox
- 10/12 – Columbus Day – *we are open*
- 10/31 – Halloween
- 11/1 – Daylight Savings ends
- 11/3 – Election Day

### Store Hours

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

