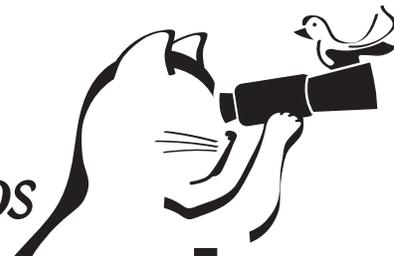


Los Gatos Birdwatcher



IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Events	1
Small Business - Big Applause	2
Summer Nature Series	3
"Dead Crow" Program Update	4
Pandemonium Aviaries	4
Services Available	5
What Bird Is...?	5
Look What Freddy Found!	6
Field Trips	7
Adventures with Marley	8



Photo Presentation – Evolution: Ken Benjamin’s Life journey

Thursday, July 17, 2014 – 6:30-7:30pm at The Terraces

“Evolution” is a compilation of Ken Benjamin’s best photographs. Photos taken over a forty-five year period from many parts of the world. The show begins with landscapes and progresses through the scenic world of animals and mankind in their daily lives of laughter and friendship. *No Charge – Call to reserve your spot. No reservation needed for Terraces residents.*



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

Art by: Kris Crane



4th Annual Artist Exhibit

Sunday, August 3, 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. Exhibitor space is still available if you have a piece you are proud of. Call the store for information to be sent.



Photo Presentation – Judy Bingman goes to Antarctica

Thursday, August 14, 2014, 6:30-7:30pm at The Terraces

Not sure you will ever make it to the land of the Penguins? Join Judy on a trip of a lifetime as she travels with Cheeseman’s Ecological Safaris to the land of ice and black and white birds. *No Charge – Call to reserve your spot. No reservation needed for Terraces residents.*

Photo by: Gary Aspinall



9th Annual Photo Exhibit

Sunday, August 17, 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. Exhibitor space is still available if you have a photo you are proud of. Call the store for information to be sent.



Beginning Birding Workshop – Vultures

Class: Thursday, August 21, 6:30 – 8:00pm / Field Trip: Saturday, August 24, 9:00 – 11:00am

The group of birds known as vultures are often misunderstood, yet they play a vital role in the world’s eco-system. We’ll focus on the vultures found in the USA including the California Condor and also learn about the old world vultures found in Africa. We’ll also talk about some of the species of birds that, like vultures, prefer to eat carrion.

Fee: \$20 per person – Reservations Required

Small Business – Big Applause

On Monday, May 19, 2014, the Town of Los Gatos honored John and Freddy and Los Gatos Birdwatcher with Mayor Steve Leonardis's new program to recognize small businesses that have contributed to the Town of Los Gatos. Lisa Myers, our partner who owns Let's Go Birding and works in the store, Al Lowder, who helps John haul seed and KC Harris, one of our friendly employees attended the ceremony.

Also attending was Cynthia Biasca, long time customer and Terraces resident, who played a very important role. Freddy's mother, Rhoda Barber, was our inspiration for starting the store and it was her legacy that allowed us to make it happen, but she never saw the store as she died three years before we started. Cynthia agreed to be "the mother energy" and she did a great job. Thank you to all our wonderful loyal customers who have been with us through thick and thin and who inspire us every day. Thanks also to our great employees, past and present, for making it all happen.

The Commendation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Los Gatos Birdwatcher is owned and operated by John and Freddy Howell, who opened this location in October 1995 as a part of the Wild Bird Center Franchise, then left the franchise in January of 2010 to become the independent business that it is today; and

WHEREAS, Los Gatos Birdwatcher provides customers and fellow birdwatchers with everything needed to attract birds to their yards. From seed and feeders, baths and hardware, optics and books, nature-themed gifts and clothing, Los Gatos Birdwatcher has it all; and

WHEREAS, Los Gatos Birdwatcher has been teaching children's classes at the store and at local schools since opening, and enjoys sharing the love of nature and birds with children of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher also educates the greater Los Gatos community



Photo by: Lisa Myers

through presentations for organizations such as Kiwanis, rotary, Live oak Adult Day Services, gardening groups and church groups, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and its customer base play a vital role in the survival of various bird species and the promotion of natural pest control by encouraging birds as bug catchers instead of pesticide use.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS does hereby render with special appreciation a commendation to Los Gatos Birdwatcher for over 18 years of dedicated service to the Los Gatos community.

In his remarks, Mayor Leonardis was very kind and related the family story that his mother-in-law's first requested stop when she visits from out of town is our store. His daughter says that "we are nice to kids" and that their house is full of products from the store.



**Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series** 2014

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

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

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.



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.



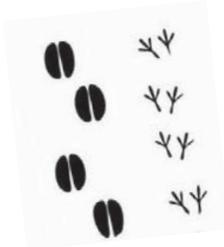
Fun Feet

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.



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.




Summer Series Directions

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.

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).

“Dead Crow” Program Update – Nesting Crows

Since this is our first nesting season using the *Dead Crow Program*, we are learning that if you have a pair of crows nesting in your yard, don't put the dead crow out because it won't be effective as the parents will not leave the nest and their babies. They should be done nesting and the babies fledged by mid-August so hold off until then.

The stories of the results of our *Dead Crow Program* have been interesting, gratifying and sometimes very humorous. One of our customers, Sherry Shepherdson, lives on a golf course and they used the crow at their house with good results. The major problem, however, was on the golf course itself at the Ninth Hole Snack Shack. The crows would harass the golfers and “storm” the golf carts to steal the food from the golfers and from the carts if left unattended. Sherry now brings our crow and puts it on the seat of the cart. Problem solved. The crows get very agitated and leave their cart alone.

For those of you unfamiliar with our *Dead Crow program*, here is a brief synopsis. Several years ago, I read about an idea that seemed to work at getting rid of crows. Put out a fake crow in a “dead” position and the crows would have a “funeral” and leave the

area. We suggested this to several customers, but finding the right “dead” crow proved to be difficult as fake crows were only available during Halloween and were usually thirteen inches or smaller. I looked in different catalogs, online and all I could find were the smaller than life-size or life-sized and very expensive. Finally I found the perfect crow in the catalog of an existing vendor. Our employee, KC Harris, suggested our rental program and we brought eighteen into the store. I knew that crows were a huge problem for many people and that crows were responsible for much of the songbird nestling decline, but I had no idea quite how widespread and intense the problem was. From August 2013 to July 2014 we have sold over one hundred crows and have six rentals going all the time. Granted, it is not one hundred percent. What in nature is? However, it has been startling how effective it has been. We are learning as we go and, since these are very smart birds, so are they. So the “dead” crow may have to be put out (remember to do at night so the scout doesn't see you) multiple times or passed around the neighborhood, but anecdotally it is an effective way of seeing the crows off your premises!



Pandemonium Aviaries *By Michele Raffin, Executive Director*



Nestled in the Los Altos hills is an unusual non-profit bird conservation organization named Pandemonium Aviaries (PA.) For the past fourteen years, PA has provided life long care for more than 350 exotic birds. For the past four

years, the organization has been breeding six of its rare species for eventual release into the wild. Among the birds that it is breeding are the modern-day Dodo birds – the Crown pigeons of New Guinea.

Why save New Guinea birds in the USA? While breeding birds in their natural habitat is the preferred method, at this time it's not possible to do it on-site in New Guinea. There are a number of factors including limited land rights, a tradition of hunting these birds

for meat and feathers and the destruction of forest in order to build palm oil plantations.

PA has achieved recognition for its work in a number of ways: Awarded Model Aviary Program status from the Aviculture Society of America; National Geographic photographer, Joel Sartore, recently visited PA to photograph four species for NG's “photo ark” program; Algonquin Press is publishing a book called *The Birds of Pandemonium* which will be on bookshelves on October 7, 2014.

While the sanctuary is closed to the public in order to protect the privacy of the birds, it relies on volunteers and donors to continue its work. You can help Pandemonium save species by donating supplies and equipment. Los Gatos Birdwatcher has a donation registry that lists our “wish list”. Saving a species takes a community. Join the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and Pandemonium Aviaries's effort to save birds. For more information, check out our website, www.pandemoniumaviaries.net or www.savebirds.org.

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.

- **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 + \$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.

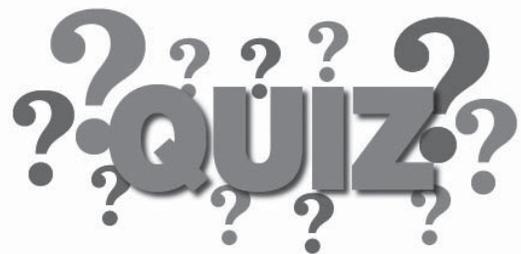


- Spend \$100 or more and receive our new **reusable canvas tote** with royal blue handles – quite spiffy! The tote is also for sale for \$4.99 and would make a good “wrapping” for a gift.

- 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.

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 an outfielder? _____
- 2 What bird is where a gardener plants extra seeds? _____
- 3 What bird is what thieves are doing? _____
- 4 What bird is a regal angler? _____
- 5 What bird is very, very fast? _____



Blossom HB feeder
– Small and Cute



Extended reach shepherd's hook
– Because squirrels can reach!



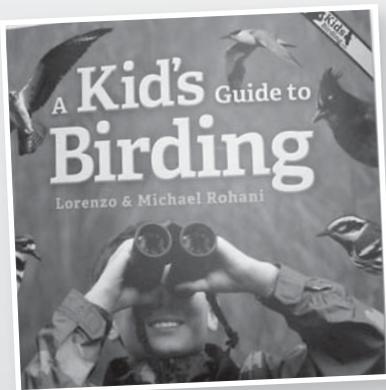
Glass daisy baths & feeders
– Colorful and Pretty.



New cards
–Bright and cheerful, just the right card to send to a friend



New Glass hummingbird feeder
– Simple and stylish



Kid's Guide to Birding
– Written by a 12 year-old. Adults can learn too!



Bird Note Journals
– with pen - small and tall



Hiking Sticks
– Hike in style

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

#C0814

/ 2014

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires 08/31/14

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 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 6, September 3, October 1

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 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 now is 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 6:00pm

We're going back to Big Sur in hopes of finding the magnificent California condor. With their 104" wingspan, this vulture is not a bird you will ever forget seeing, especially since the birds we experience today were brought back from the brink of extinction. This area of California offers spectacular habitats consisting of riparian creek sides, tall Redwood Forests and rolling woodlands, not to mention coastal cliffs and kelp beds. Come help us find one the North America's largest birds, along with many other species in between. (Los Gatos Birdwatcher will match up to \$50 in donations collected this day to donate back to Ventana Wilderness Society.)

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

From page 5

Answers to What Bird is...?

1. Fly Catcher; 2. Spar Row; 3. Robin; 4. King Fisher; 5. Swift

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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

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

Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Adventures with Marley



Beware of FoxTails!

Marley started scratching her ear Sunday afternoon. When she went to Day Care (at Los Gatos Dog and Cat) on Monday, I asked if someone from the vet side of things could take a look. Sure enough her lovely furry ears had scooped a foxtail into her ear. When we picked up our groggy little girl I was chagrined to see not only the foxtail out of her ear but seven others from between her pads. And I had checked her feet! So, be careful and check those furry feet after walks in the grass!

Store Hours

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

