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We invite you to join us for upcoming events

We're going birding off shore with Alvaro Jaramillo

Thursday, July 21, The Terraces, 7:00 – 8:00 PM



Come join us as we go out to sea. Alvaro Jaramillo will take us birding 25 miles into the ocean off the San Mateo Coast. That is where you have to go to see the many species of birds that make their living out there, Albatross, shearwaters, storm-petrels and more. The offshore environment is the closest we have in the Bay Area to a true wilderness, like our very own Serengeti. Out there, weather and wildlife still rule, and amazing abundance and mystery remain. Many of these birds are seldom if ever seen from shore here, so we invite you to venture into the deep and learn a bit about these birds, their travel and our unique ocean environment. Alvaro

Jaramillo is a birding tour operator, biologist and lifelong birder. He recently authored the new ABA Field Guide to Birds of California. He has also written the field guide to the Birds of Chile, another part of the world with great seabirds! Each summer and fall he organizes and runs birding boat trips (pelagics) from Half Moon Bay and Monterey to see the offshore wildlife.

7th Annual Artists Exhibit

Sunday, July 24, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

We invite you take time out of your busy Sunday to come down to the store and see the beautiful artwork we'll have on exhibit. This one day event showcases the incredible talent all provided by our customers and local community. The artists will be here too to answer questions and tell you how they created their work. The event is free and we'll also have refreshments.

If you'd like to enter a piece please call the store.

11th Annual Photo Exhibit

Sunday, August 14, 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Getting good photos of birds and nature is a real talent. We'll have a store full of incredible photographs taken by our own customers. We invite you to stop by and take a look and learn what type of equipment the photographers used to get their shot. The event is free and we'll be providing refreshments.

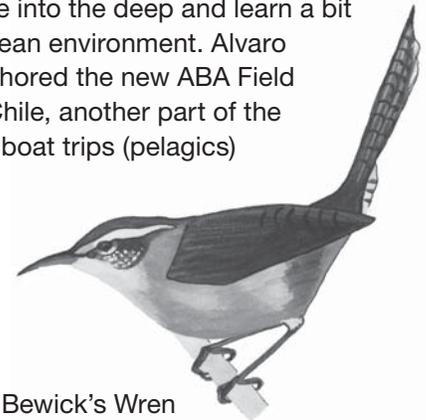
If you'd like to enter a piece please call the store.

Los Gatos Birding in La Rinconada

Thursday, August 18, The Terraces, 7:00 – 8:00 PM



Nature loving neighbors, Linda Sullivan and John Perry will share with us the many different species of birds that live in their Los Gatos La Rinconada community. This beautiful neighborhood has everything our birds need from established trees and shrubs to water and nest boxes monitored by Linda herself. Linda is an experienced birder and longtime friend of the store and John is an accomplished photographer. Together they will share their favorite photos and tell the stories about the birds living in their neighborhood.



Bewick's Wren
by Robin Lazzara



Wilson's Warbler
by Ellen Bateman

Check out our exciting new products!

We have a fun variety of garden picks



We have a great new selection of relaxing nature CD's



Our beautiful Wallaroo hats keep the sun off your skin



A new delivery of Opticon binoculars has arrived



Let us help you with your summer garden

Staff member Linda announces her retirement *by Lisa Myers*

Linda has been working at the birdwatcher for over 15 years, and has probably helped you with your questions many times. Her calm, soft spoken manner and product knowledge has been a great asset for the store. When Freddy retired and I took over, Linda said she too was ready to retire but would stay on for my first six months to help me with the transition. She knew I could use experienced help around the store during this time and she was right. Now that I have 6 months under my belt Linda is ready to retire and spend more time on the tennis courts and with friends and family. Spending time with grandchildren is an ever growing hobby too. I thank Linda for all she has done for the store and our customers and we wish her well in her retirement. I know Freddy & John are having a grand time and I know she will too. We will miss her around the store, but she said she'd be willing to help us out if we find ourselves in a pinch.





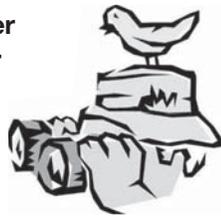
Let's Go Birding is the tour division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

On this page you'll find all the upcoming birding tours we have planned through the store. Let's Go Birding tours get you out of your yard and into different habitats where you can experience a variety of species not found at home.

Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks FREE

Dates and locations of our bird walks will now be listed in the newsletter and on our web page. A reminder to our location will also be found on the store's phone message.

Join us most Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk. You can meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:30 am. Walks end by 10:00 am. These two hour Saturday walks are open to all who are interested in birding. If the forecast calls for an 80-100% chance of rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels.



July 2 No walk scheduled this Holiday Weekend.

July 9 Arastradero County Park
1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.

July 16 No morning walk
(*Raptor Workshop #2 scheduled for this day.*)

July 23 Los Gatos Creek Trail. For trail access, meet at the "Main Street Bridge" in Los Gatos where it crosses over highway 17.

July 30 Lexington Reservoir. Meet at the Alma Bridge Road parking lot just east of the dam.

Aug 6 Calero Reservoir. Meet in the dirt lot north of the entrance booth off McKean.

Aug 13 Stevens Creek County Park meet in parking lot near Chestnut Picnic Area.

Aug 20 No morning walk, please consider joining our tour to Half Moon Bay.

Aug 27 Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, San Jose at the Thorntree Drive.

Sep 3 No morning walk this Labor Day weekend.

Sep 10 Charleston Slough, Mountain View, meet at restrooms on Terminal Blvd.

Tours below require a reservation, please call the store to save your spot, 408-358-9453.

Devil's Slide & Half Moon Bay

Saturday, August 20, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

We will start this trip just south of San Francisco as we bird the Devil's Slide Trail. Once a very dangerous stretch of road, "Devil's Slide" is now closed to auto traffic and has become a beautiful walking trail. We'll take a slow pace as we walk the 1.3 mile trail in search of the many different types of birds visible from the rocky cliffs. We'll be on the look out for migrating land birds, shorebirds and seabird, plus dolphins and whales as we scan the ocean. We'll then get back on the bus and continue south and bird hot spots around Half Moon Bay.

Fee: \$60 Includes Transportation.

Birds & Bats of the Yolo Bypass

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

We are going back to the Yolo Bypass in search of birds & bats. Located just outside of Sacramento, we'll bird the open spaces under the bypass as we look for species that live in the Central Valley. At twilight (6:25 PM) we'll be ready to experience the colony of over 200,000 Mexican/Brazilian Free Tail Bats as they emerge to start feeding for the night. It's an amazing sight. The bats that come here are all females who give birth during their stay. We'll arrive back to Los Gatos around 9:00 PM.

Fee: \$60 Includes Transportation.

Central Valley Birding Weekend

Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4

Let's Go Birding is excited to offer a Central Valley Birding weekend set for December 3 & 4. We'll spend the weekend birding North American hot spots as we visit the Sacramento and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges and open spaces in between. It is here we will find the millions of birds that leave the Arctic to spend their winter in California. Species include Tundra Swans, Greater White Fronted, Snow and Ross's Geese and many species of ducks. In addition to the waterfowl we'll see other fantastic birds including Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, White Faced Ibis and more. All birding levels are welcome. We'll spend the evening in Willows. Trip fee includes transportation, your hotel room, continental breakfast and snacks. Lunch, Dinner and alcohol is not included. Rain does not cancel.

Space is limited.

\$349 for single, \$549 for a couple sharing a room, \$275 per person if you wish to share with another single.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Summer Nature Series 2016

Reservations required, call 408/358-9453. Classes fill quickly. \$10 per child for each class.

Why Bird's Build Nests

Wed. July 6 • 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon (For ages 5–12)

This class will be held inside the store. All birds lay eggs when starting a family, but did you know that different birds make different kinds of nests? Some use mud, while other's use moss and even pet hair. Some birds nest inside of holes and other's build their nests on top of trees. We will have many different types of nests to share.



Teddy Bear Picnic with Freddy

Wed. July 13 • 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (For ages 3–9)

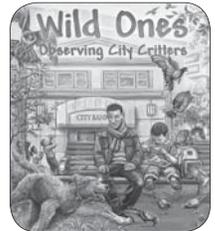


Bring your favorite stuffed friend, lunch and a blanket to sit on to Belgatos Park and discover why animals love the trees. Hear a story, and invest gate the trees in search of animals and clues that they have left behind. Belgatos Park is located at the south end of BelGatos Road. From the store go 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 Lane sign is small, look for the more noticeable green Mulberry School sign directly below it.

Wild Ones: Observing City Critters

Wed. July 20 • 10:30 – 11:30 AM (For ages 3–5)

Come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and we'll sit in a circle and read a beautiful story book by Carol Malnor about observing wild life through the eyes of friendly "Scooter" the dog. We'll learn about all the birds, bunnies, squirrels, snakes and insects Scooter finds along his journey.



Make a Suet Feeder

Wed. July 27 • 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon (For ages 5–12)



Suet is a type of food that provides birds with lots of calories and energy. Birds enjoy suet when raising young, migrating or getting through the winter. You will make your own suet feeder that you can take home and hang outside for your backyards birds. You 'll also learn about the birds that you can attract with your new suet feeder.

The 12th Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival

September 23 – 25, 2016

We encourage you to mark your calendars and visit www.montereybaybirding.org for event updates.



The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's annual California Fall Challenge

September 10 – October 9, 2016

You can participate by joining one of the many guided teams. Our own Lisa Myers will be leading a 4-hour birding tour for SFBBO on **Sunday Oct. 2 from 8 AM – noon.** Visit www.SFBBO.org for more CFC details.



Let's Go Birding tour to the Central American country of Panama

Lisa is planning a trip to this beautiful country, home to the Panama Canal and many spectacular species of birds. We will take time to visit the canal, bird the famous Pipeline Road and then fly to an island resort out of Bocas del Toro where daily excursions will have us birding different habitats by land and sea. *This tour is being designed as of this writing and will take place early next year. Space is limited. For details please email lisa@lets gobirding.com or call the store 408-358-9453.*



Why didn't the bird cross the road?

Traffic noise & its impact on birds

Thank to Perry Koehler for this guest student blog post. Perry explains how researchers created a “phantom road” to study the impact of traffic noise on birds.

Birds have little trouble flying over roads, yet studies have shown that population densities of many bird species decline in the vicinity of high traffic areas. The drop in population density can pose a problem for bird watchers; 83% of land in the United States is within a half mile of a road. Assuming you are not lucky enough to have your feeders secluded from any traffic disturbances, it is important to understand the influence of roads on birds.

Past research has shown that the presence of roads negatively affects the distribution of birds, but that research has not teased out what factors—visual disturbance, collisions, pollution, or traffic noise—impact birds the most. **Recently, a group of researchers set up a “phantom road,” or a line of speakers playing traffic sounds, in an otherwise secluded and wooded area in southern Idaho.** Almost all species normally observed were disturbed by the traffic noise and opted for more circuitous routes to avoid the “road.” Two species in particular, Cedar Waxwings and Yellow Warblers, were not seen at all while traffic sounds played. The research suggests that traffic noise alone negatively impacts birds and that the decrease in abundance would likely be magnified by the other factors of a road such as pollution and visual disturbance.

The location used by the scientists for their “phantom road” was a popular migratory stopover site; however, the added traffic sounds made this location unsuitable for migratory birds. The distribution of migratory birds, compared to resident breeding birds,

is likely to be more heavily affected by traffic because they can easily alter their flight path to avoid roads. Resident birds are less able to avoid noisy areas, so they will still be prevalent at feeders in high traffic areas. The continued expansion of roads into suitable migratory stopover habitats compounds the difficulty of migration. This bi-annual journey is the most dangerous part of a bird's annual cycle. For example, the Black-throated Blue Warbler now experiences 85% of its yearly mortality during migration. Black-throated Blue Warblers have a high mortality rate during migration.

But why does the sound of traffic impact birds? One explanation is that the traffic masks important communication from members of the same species, different species, and predators. Increased predator vigilance is necessary in noisier areas leading to a higher stress environment and decreased food intake. Some species are also more disrupted by traffic because their vocalizations are within the same frequency as the traffic noise. Perhaps Cedar Waxwings and Yellow Warblers cannot overcome this interference by shifting their vocalizations to a higher frequency, as some species of flycatcher have been known to do.

Why didn't the bird cross the road? It turns out the road was too noisy, hindering its communication, so it adapted and chose a more secluded route to the other side. Next time you are bird watching, keep in mind that many birds are sensitive to noisy traffic and look for them where they feel more comfortable.

Sourced from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Feeder Watch
April 12, 2016 | www.feederwatch.org





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Dates to Remember

July 4 – Independence Day (*closed*) • **July 24** – 7th Annual Artists Exhibit Sunday
August 14 – 11th Annual Photography Exhibit Sunday • **September 5** – Labor Day



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