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What's New at the Bird Store! *by Lisa Myers*

It's been a busy five months since John & Freddy officially retired and I took over the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. During this time, thanks to all of you, we made it through a fantastic holiday season and had a great start to the New Year, and we have been busy ever since. You will notice an updated logo for the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. The cat retired too, but left his binoculars behind, a most important tool for nature enthusiasts and birdwatchers. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee sits on top! An active, animated bird only found in the west. They are sweet little visitors to our feeders and our gardens, and a favorite of many of our customers.

Upcoming Events

A Photo Tour Throughout Central & South America – Bill Walker

Thursday May 19, The Terraces 7:00- 8:00 pm

Bay Area wildlife photographer Bill Walker has been birding for two decades and photographing wild birds and their environment since 2003. His work is published on flickr, at birdwalker.com.

Please join Bill as he takes us on his journeys to Central and South America. He'll show his favorite photos taken in Belize, Ecuador, Trinidad, and Galapagos Islands. He'll share how he made them, where he found them, and their natural history as well. **The event is free. Please call to reserve your seat, 408-358-9453.**

Bird Photography Field Workshop with instructor Bill Walker

Saturday, June 11, 8:00 - 11:00 am

Charleston Slough/Palo Alto Duck Pond

In this workshop, we'll look at the fundamentals of wildlife photography as it pertains to birds. We'll start by talking about field techniques and how to approach birds while respecting their health and safety. I'll show you to control exposure for different lighting conditions, how to compose pleasing images by attending to both the foreground and background. The workshop is aimed primarily at photographers using DSLR cameras. However, much of the material is pertinent to fold doing digiscoping or using fixed-lens cameras. **Call the store to sign-up. Participants will meet at the Palo Alto Duck Pond. Fee is \$40.**



Photographic Adventures – Darrin Underwood, Nature Photographer

Thursday June 16, The Terraces 7:00-8:00 pm

Every weekend, Darrin explores new locations in search of wild animals and natural scenes to share with family, friends and fellow photographers. Adventures include locations like Yosemite, Bryce or Zion National Park, and sometimes they are right in one's own backyard. No matter where Darrin ends up, he finds the opportunity to capture something uniquely exciting. Darrin will share photographs from some of his favorite adventures.



We're Getting Ready for Our Annual Art Exhibitions

We only have room for 30 participants, its first come first served, so call the store at 408/358-9453 to reserve your display space and receive additional details.



Bewick's Wren
by Robin Lazzara



Wilson's Warbler
by Ellen Bateman

Calling all Artists!

We invite you to show off your talent at our seventh **Annual Artist Exhibition to be held on Sunday, July 24**. Join other talented artists and share your work with our Los Gatos Birdwatcher community. We ask that you have a bird theme as part of your piece. Over the years we have had work in pastels, watercolors, pen & ink, oils and more. The exhibit will run **July 24th from Noon-4:00 pm**. 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 eleventh **Annual Photo Exhibition on Sunday, August 14**. Many of our customers are very talented nature photographers and its an honor to host an exhibition of their work. We prefer it be of a special bird or moment you had in nature. Have you taken a nature photo that transports you back to when you took it? The photographs are amazing! Now is the chance to share it with everyone.

Check Out Our New Look...

The next time you come into the store you will notice some big changes. We installed new registers and the equipment necessary to do business. This required new wiring. Since we had to re-wire the place we decided to move the counter to the back wall. This allowed us to take advantage of the beautiful mural Freddy had painted years ago. We also moved our gift items and some other products to new locations around the store. This move allows us to easily greet you when you come in the door and we have some extra room between displays.

We have also built a new work corner in the back of the store. This corner is home to all the parts we keep in stock to help you maintain your feeders. We also use this corner to gift wrap and do our weekly feeder cleaning.



Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series 2016

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

Learn About Owl

Wed. June 22 • 11:00 am–12:00 noon
 (For ages 5 • 12)

Come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and learn about Owls. Owls are a mysterious bird usually found only at night as they hunt after dark in search of rodents. You'll learn how they find their food and what they eat and will dissect your own owl pellet.



Kid's Photography Hike with Freddy

Wed. June 29 • 10:30 am–11:30 am
 (For ages 6–12)

You'll meet Freddy at nearby Vasona County Park and go adventuring on the trails taking nature photos. Everything from Butterflies to flowers to honey bees and birds. Bring any camera or your cell phone and learn tips to help you get great pictures. We'll meet at the gate by the Vasona Park 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.)



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 investigate 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 am–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.



So Why Do You Watch Birds?

In our last newsletter we asked customers *why they enjoyed watching birds?* Below are several of the answers we received.

“To watch for and experience all the birds in my back canyon for the yearly Cornell, “Great Backyard Bird Count.” I love contributing to such a huge international effort!?”

– *L. Barna*

“I have always enjoyed watching bird feeders in front of my office window. Those hummingbirds are fighters and show-offs to the birds that invade his territory.”

– *B. Meyer*

“I get peace from watching birds and enjoy seeing how they share the feeder. I like to see what kinds of birds I attract with my food and yard. I watch them because it brings me joy!”

– *C. Sampino*

“I enjoy watching birds because they soothe my soul. In our society of worry, rush and competition, their spirited activity is to be admired. Birds tend to their business of feeding, vocalizing and nurturing. They symbolize a purity - nature at its nest. Their loyalty to the flock is an example to be followed.”

– *J. Kearly*

“Because its entertaining. I like to see the pecking order between Acorn Woodpeckers and the Steller’s Jays, and also how they gang up on the squirrels. We also see visitor’s such as Black-headed Grosbeak and Lesser Gold.”

– *B. Weselby*



The Los Gatos Birdwatcher staff recently spent the morning birding Coyote Valley Open Space. It was a “team building” morning outside of the store. Because everyone works different shifts, many staff members seldom actually see each other, and sadly, don’t get the chance to go birding. Coyote Valley Open Space provides a beautiful habitat with rolling hills and Oak Trees. With Spring in the air, we enjoyed bird song, birds nesting and males declaring territory!

We want to thank all of you who turned in your answer. We did our drawing and B. Wesley received a \$50 gift certificate to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

• **Feeder Cleaning** – We want to help you maintain a healthy environment for your backyard birds. That is why we offer this service to clean feeders on Mondays and Thursdays. Bring your feeder into the store in the morning and we’ll have it ready before closing. While we clean feeders for free we do ask that you consider making a minimum donation of \$5 per feeder to one of the Bay Area charities we support. You’ll find collection boxes at the store.

• **Frequent Buyer Program** – Buy 9 of the same seed bags of 20# or higher at full price and get the 10th bag free. Coupons do not apply.

• **Outreach to community organizations about birding.** We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups. We can also do “show & tell” of the many items we carry in the store.

• **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** – We will come out to your home and talk about what you can do to attract more birds to your yard. What species you can attract, where to set-up feeders, bird baths and nest boxes are just some of the topics we’ll cover. There is a \$25 consultation fee per visit. With your visit you’ll receive a \$10 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate.

• We offer **Gift Certificates** and complimentary gift wrapping.

• **15% off one item** – Newsletter 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. One coupon per household. We do not apply the coupon automatically.

The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to frequent buyer program purchases.



Let's go Birding

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. For now our trips are planned throughout Central California, but in the future we'll plan birding adventures to birding hot spots farther afield. *Stay tuned!*

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.



May 7 Rinconada Park in Los Gatos - this will be a "Big Sit." So bring a comfortable folding chair and we will sit and observe as many birds as we can from our comfortable location. This will be a great morning for those new to birding.

May 14 West Valley Collage in Saratoga. Meet off Fruitvale in front of the Fox Center.

May 21 No morning walk. (*Raptor Workshop scheduled for this day*)

May 28 Picchetti Ranch Open Space, Cupertino

June 4 Bernal Historic Ranch - 372 Manila Drive, San Jose

June 11 Belgatos Park in Los Gatos

June 18 No local walk, (trip to the coast scheduled this day)

June 25 Geng Road in Palo Alto off the Embarcadero - Meet at the Bayland's Athletic Center

July 2 No walk scheduled this Holiday Weekend.

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

Birding the California Coast

Saturday, June 18

8:00 am–5:30 pm

Lisa will be joined by Wildlife Biologist Ryan Phillips as we head to the coast. Our first stop will be Moss Landing Harbor for where we will stop to see the species nesting at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough. We will continue south and look for species around Garrapata State Park, Hurricane Point and we'll end the day near Andrew Malera State Park. *Fee \$60 Includes transportation.*

2nd Raptor Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday, July 16

8:00 am–12 noon

We filled the May raptor workshop so quickly that we knew we had to offer another. You will meet in the south San Jose birding hot spot known as Coyote Valley where we will concentrate on the spring time activities of Northern California's breeding raptors. Carpooling will be encouraged. Ryan will discuss the different raptor families - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons. We will be on the lookout for newly fledged clicks. Call the store to reserve your spot.

Fee: \$30 per person, fills at 25.



LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

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email: info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com
website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



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Dates to Remember

It's breeding season.... so take care when gardening!

May 8 – Mother's Day • May 14 – International Migratory Bird Day • May 30 – Memorial Day (closed)
June 14 – Flag Day • June 19 – Father's Day • June 20 – First Day of Summer • July 4 – Independence Day (closed)



Loyal Customer Discount
Mention this coupon and take...
15% off one item
Expires June 30, 2016

#C0616 One Coupon per customer please.
Excludes sales items, excursions and optics.
Not to be combined with any other offers.

Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday: noon to 5 pm



LOS GATOS Birdwatcher