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We're Turning 25! by Lisa Myers

Can you believe it?! And in this new world of sheltering at home we are going strong as we help everyone enjoy their birds. It was a love of birds that motivated Freddy & John Howell to open the store in 1995. Originally a franchise, eventually the store became independently owned by the Howells. When they first opened, Freddy was interviewed by the Los Gatos Weekly Times and shared, "We want to involve the community, that is why we have nature walks and we want to give something back." And after 25 years, these values continue.

We strive to offer a tranquil destination where people want to visit, will stop in to shop and learn about nature. While we hope we can help you with your gift giving needs, education is a big part of our mission as we answer in-store questions throughout each day and take people outside to watch birds throughout the Bay Area.



I was impressed with Freddy and her store the moment we met back in 2004. I can still remember the "informational interview" I conducted with her. I was grateful when she offered me the opportunity to lead the store's birding tours and teach classes. Classes included all topics for getting folks excited about birds.

After two decades, the Howells were ready to retire and in 2015 offered the store to me; a little intimidating, but so is taking people out birding. Becoming the store owner was a dream come true. A lot has changed in the last 25 years, but our goals remain the same, proof that brick & mortar stores are a valuable, community resource. We are very thankful for our bird loving customers. We will continue to provide fresh seed and do our best to keep the shelves stocked while giving back to the community that has given so much to us.

Because we cannot have a blow-out anniversary party, we decided to celebrate for the entire month of November! Everyone who purchases at least \$20 in-store will qualify for a raffle ticket. You get to choose which item you hope to win - A new pair of Nikon Prostaff Binoculars, some free bird seed, a Studio M Birdbath, or a morning birding trip for two with me! Winning tickets will be pulled on Dec. 1, 2020.

In November we will also have available our **limited-edition Paper Shark Flour Sack Towels**. We are selling them at the special low price of \$6.00 (*normally \$10.45*) per towel while supplies last.





LOS GATOS
Birdwatcher

Fall COUPON

Mention this coupon & take...



15% off one item

Excludes all food items or seed, sale or consignment items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.

Expires Dec. 31, 2020 #FALL123120



Effects from the Santa Cruz Wildfires

Many of our customers have been personally affected by the Santa Cruz Mountain wildfires. They share their stories with us and often ask what will become of the birds affected by fire? We wanted to share below excerpts from a longer article written by: Andrea Jones, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon California and Joanna Wu, Avian Ecologist at National Audubon Society (ca.audubon/news)

HOW WILL THE FIRES IMPACT BIRDS?

Research shows that bird lungs may be more susceptible to respiratory distress from smoke, potentially causing long-term implications for some populations. Though we don't know how smoke impacts bird's ability to hunt or migrate, we do know that it's an added stressor as they flee forests, grasslands and scrublands that are aflame and then must compete with resident birds for limited food and water in new habitats.

HOW WILL THE FIRES IMPACT MIGRATION?

September into October is the songbird migration season. Millions of birds are coming south through California along the Pacific Flyway, looking for their usual resting spots, particularly along river corridors. When they find these areas burned, they continue on their way in search of reliable habitat, or they fly further south without an important stop to rest and refuel. If we remove these links in the chain, birds will have difficulty completing their journeys. In New Mexico this past September, biologists witnessed record numbers of dead migratory songbirds and have speculated that in addition to some unusually cold temperatures, the cause of death may have been related to fires in the West, leaving birds in a weakened condition for migration.

HOW WILL THE FIRES IMPACT BIRD HABITAT?

Fire is a natural part of almost every California ecosystem and is important to its health. But the intense, frequent fires that California has seen in recent years are not normal, and sometimes not



Let's Go Birding 2013 tour in the Sierras. At the sight of an old forest burn, participants look for Black-backed Woodpeckers.

healthy for habitat. Nesting habitat will be at a premium in the parts of the state that have burned in recent years and this could impact an entire generation of birds in some areas if they are unable to find suitable habitat.

SOME BIRDS HAVE ADAPTED TO BURNED HABITATS.

It is important to note here that wildfires are a natural and healthy part of California's forest, shrubland, woodland, and grassland ecosystems. Fires cycle nutrients and allow natural areas to regenerate properly... Birds such as the Black-backed Woodpecker, which are found in California's Sierra forests, are known to move into severely burned areas to forage on dead trees. Fires can create snags (dead standing trees) that the California-endangered Great Gray Owl, Spotted Owl, and other large birds nest in.

3 Things You Can Do to Help Your Birds In Fall

1 It has been so very dry in California and all birds need water. So keep your bird baths filled. They will use this water to both drink and bathe so all you have to do is keep it clean. You can also consider other ways to offer water. The saucers under your potted plants' turn into great little birdbaths. And if you have a water filled ant moat above your hummingbird feeders you may notice birds like chickadees, titmice and wrens taking a drink.



2 While birds use nest boxes in the spring to raise their young, many birds will also tuck into a nest box during a cold or wet night. Usually by fall your birds are no longer using your nest boxes to nest in, so you can safely take them down and clean them out by removing all the old nesting material. If you find the inside of your box really soiled you can use vinegar or the "Birdhouse & Feeder Cleaner" we use here in the store. Once clean, put the box back outside where the birds can use them if they need a place to hunker down for the night.



3 Native birds have adapted to eat from native plants and that is why many people replace manicured lawns and hedge rows with native plants. It is a different look that some neighbors may not truly appreciate, but it saves on water and brings in the birds. During the fall some plants can start to look messy, as flowers go to seed, but this is also a great time for the birds who eat seeds. So if you can, let parts of your yard stay messy. And as the leaves fall off of your trees, perhaps you can find a safe location in your yard to let the pile remain. These piles are often full of little bugs that our insect eating birds need.

1. Chestnut-backed Chickadee bathing & Red-breasted Nuthatch drinking from an ant moat - **Brooke Miller**
2. You can find "Birdhouse & Feeder Cleaner" products at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher
3. Steller Jay bug hunting on the ground – **Ron Machado**

SFBBO's California Fall Challenge

Saturday, October 3, 2020

8:00am – 12:00pm

This will be the 16th year Lisa will lead her team, the Gallinago Go Gos' in the SFBBO California Fall Challenge! Because of social distancing we can only allow 10 participants and all spaces have been filled, but the Go Gos' and SFBBO still welcome any financial support you can offer. This is an important fundraiser for the organization.

Lisa's team will spend the morning birding the walking trails found throughout Charleston Slough and surrounding areas. All donations to SFBBO are tax deductible. To learn more about this year's event and ways you can participate please visit <https://www.sfbbo.org/california-fall-challenge.html>



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY**

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS MAY IMPACT ALL DATES

Because of unpredictable Covid-19 restrictions, we have cancelled extra curricular activities normally planned during the fall. We are discontinuing presentations at The Terraces until future notice. We have planned fewer birding activities and the bird walks and workshops we have scheduled will be held outside and limited to fewer people so we can follow social distancing guidelines. Everything will be subject to change. The losgatosbirdwatcher.com website will be the best place to look for updates.



Let's go Birding

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



The Saturday morning bird walks were discontinued because of Covid-19 restrictions, but as things “open back up” we will try and do two Saturday bird walks a month. Because we cannot gather in large groups we need to restrict the number of participants to 10. Please call ahead to sign-up. Everyone will have to drive themselves. Locations will be selected based on easily accessible trails allowing for social distancing and with enough parking. There will be no sharing of optics and everyone will be asked to wear a mask. Walks start at 8:15 AM on location and end by 10:00 am.

Oct. 3 Birding the Bay 8 AM – 12 - Join Lisa's fundraising team for SFBBO \$60 details. More on page 3, details visit SFBBO.org

Oct. 17 Ulistac Natural Area, Santa Clara

Nov. 7 McClellan Ranch SCVAS headquarters

Nov. 21 Los Gatos Creek Park

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 No Walks during busy holiday shopping month

Jan. 2 Start the New Year with a Bird Walk
– Lexington Reservoir County Park

Bird ID Workshops

- Open to all levels

These workshops have proven extremely popular as customers learn how to identify the birds coming to their yards and into the Bay Area.

These free workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Because of Covid-19 precautions we are holding these workshops outside.

During the fall these workshops will take place in the morning from 8:30 AM- 9:30 AM. These one hour workshops will focus on four different bird species. We'll go over the field marks you can use to make the ID. We'll also talk about behaviors, food preferences and even vocalizations. We ask that you bring your own folding chair and field guide with you for class. To allow the proper social distancing the class will be limited to 10-12 people.

Call the store to save your spot.
408-358-9453.

Saturday Oct. 24

– White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture

Saturday Nov. 14

– Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant



Pacific Loon
– **Tony Woo**

Project FeederWatch Starting in November

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. It's a fun way to learn about your backyard birds and contribute to a 30+ year-and-running data-set of bird population changes. Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries.



Yellow-rumped Warbler at suet feeder

– Nancy Turek

FeederWatch is a winter-long (November-April) survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. With FeederWatch, you become a scientist in your own backyard and your counts become part of something bigger.

You can count birds as often as every week, or as infrequently as you like: the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds. Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). Visit their website to learn more. feederwatch.org

Santa Clara Valley Audubon – Our Local Educational Resource

Many have suggested Lisa start teaching via Zoom, but there is already a fantastic resource, our local SCVAS. They have been working hard these past months in translating a passion for birds and birding into a social distancing appropriate format. Their programs include virtual field trips, talks on the basics of birding and species troubleshooting.

All are available for free on their website SCVAS.org and YouTube channel. With this year's wildfires and the shelter in place, opportunities to get outside safely became hard to come by, so SCVAS has committed to bringing the outdoors to the public. SCVAS is excited to be able to offer these programs to its members and all who want to expand their birding knowledge.

So tune-in to their channel and explore their library of topics and watch for new videos every week as they help us all explore our local birds and favorite birding sites.

The screenshot shows the SCVAS YouTube channel page. At the top, there is a logo of a bird in flight and the text "SCVAS 112 subscribers". Below this, there are tabs for "HOME", "VIDEOS" (which is underlined), "PLAYLISTS", "CHANNELS", and "DISCUSSION". Under the "VIDEOS" tab, there are two sections: "Uploads" and "PLAY ALL". The "Uploads" section displays three video thumbnails: "Birding Basics: The Osprey" (19:59), "Birding Basics: The Kingfisher(s)" (14:51), and "ASK BIRDGUY 17: The Terns of Summer" (26:38). Below these, there are two more video thumbnails: "Carter Gasiorowski: Joseph D Grant Virtual Field Trip" (5:55) and "Birding Basics: Hirundinidae" (20:09). At the bottom right, there is a thumbnail for "Speaker Series - Ben Pearl" (1:26:32).

We are Here to Help this Holiday Season



Wind Chimes
& Crystals

Come Check out Our
Holiday Card Selection



Gifts Made Out
of Bird Seed



Gift a Bird
House

Jabebo Earrings



Honoring Veterans

**WEDNESDAY NOV. 11
IS VETERAN'S DAY**

If you are a Veteran and you come shop with us between **Monday Nov. 9 – Saturday the 14th** we would like to give you 15% off your entire purchase. Just let us know that you served. It's a small way to thank you for your service to our country and for being a loyal customer to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.



Ways to Describe Color on a Bird

Created by Lisa Myers

V	T	H	G	I	L	P	A	L	E	D
I	Q	D	L	O	B	R	H	G	D	O
B	R	D	Y	T	F	O	S	L	E	T
R	T	I	A	F	J	N	A	O	L	C
A	H	S	D	R	F	O	W	S	K	I
N	G	T	F	E	K	U	X	S	N	L
T	I	I	A	Z	S	N	B	Y	I	L
Y	R	N	I	W	Q	C	V	B	R	A
X	B	C	N	S	H	E	E	N	P	T
M	O	T	T	L	E	D	J	N	S	E
H	B	R	I	L	L	I	A	N	T	M

BOLD, BRIGHT, BRILLIANT, BUFFY, DARK, DISTINCT, DOT, FAINT, GLOSSY, IRIDESCENT, LIGHT, METALLIC, MOTTLED, PALE, SOFT, SHEEN, SPRINKLED, PRONOUNCED, WASH, VIBRANT

Have an old Gift Certificate?

Gift Certificates from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher make a great birthday or holiday gift; many of you have them on account. We wanted to encourage you to use them. Its money just sitting there! And if you no longer have the actual paper certificate please let us know and we'll look into our records and find the data.



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 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bring your feeder into the store in the morning and we'll have it ready before closing.

• HELP YOU TO ID YOUR BIRDS

– We can help you ID that mystery bird in your yard. Just take a photo using your cell phone and email it to info@losgatospbirdwatcher.com, or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.

• 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.



We invite you to share your photos to our Facebook page and we will provide feedback.

LOS GATOS BIRDWATCHER

A Scout Project to Benefit Nature



Garrison is an 8th grader and nature enthusiast. While sheltering at home this summer he took advantage of the down time to earn seven scout merit badges. The perfect fit for the bird store, one badge involved bird study. After much discussion with family and friends he came back into the store to ask us about bats! He thought they would make a great study and hoped others would find them awesome too.



Building a bat box would be the perfect project to fulfill the "Mammal Study Merit Badge". The goal for each scout is to learn something new and provide an end result that would also benefit the animal. Garrison found directions online and with the help from dad he made a bat box that will eventually be installed up in the Sierras. Congratulations Garrison on keeping busy all summer earning merit badges, and the bats appreciate your help too.



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

Find us on

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 31– We're open on Halloween
- Nov. 11 – We're open Veteran's Day
- Nov. 25 – Closing early 10–3 PM
- Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving (closed)
- Dec. 10 – Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve 10–3 PM (closing early)
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day (Closed)
- Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve 10–3 PM (closing early)
- Jan. 1 – New Year's Day (closed)

Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Coupon Expires December 31, 2020

#FALL12312020

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

Store Hours
Please visit
www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

