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From Plastic to Paper

Doing Our Part by Lisa Myers

Plastic is becoming a real problem for the environment. Plastic does not break down and that is exactly why it is used in so many ways all over the world. If not properly recycled, it often ends up somewhere in nature and poses a risk to wildlife. The theme for the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day centered around plastic, According to the Environment for the Americas, "91% of plastic is not recycled, but rather discarded as waste, accumulating in landfills and the natural environment." These 2019 statistics motivated the Los Gatos Birdwatcher to make a change. Our staff spends much of everyday re-bagging our 20 lb. bags of seed into four 5 lb. bags. These smaller bags are what many of our customers use.



Historically, the 5 lb. seed has been packaged in plastic, zip lock bags. Going forward we will now package our 5 lb. bags of bird seed in heavy weight paper bags. These paper bags are made out of renewable, recyclable and sustainable materials right here in the USA. Once used they can be easily recycled or even composted. All of us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher feel great about that! We suggest once you get your seed home, you store it in a metal, glass or plastic container that you will re-use over and over.



Summer Coupon

Mention this coupon and take...
10% off one item

Excludes all food items or seed, sale items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.
Expires Sept. 30, 2019 #SUMMER2019

We Now Carry 4ocean Bracelets...

By purchasing a 4ocean bracelet, you will remove one pound of trash from the ocean and coastlines.



Art Show Featuring Local Artists

Saturday, Sept. 14 • 10 AM – 4:00 PM

We are welcoming in the Fall with a Wildlife Art Show to be held at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We have very talented artists within our birding community. This art show will feature an assortment of both photographers and those that use other types of medium from pencil to acrylic to watercolor. We invite you down to take a relaxing stroll amongst the art. This will provide a great opportunity to meet many of the artists and even purchase artwork directly from them if you wish. If you make a purchase in store this day you'll have a chance to win a \$50 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate. Refreshments will be served.

If you are an artist and wish to be a part of our show please email info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com



Belted Kingfishers
by Rene Reyes

Water – An Excellent Way To Attract Birds

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is here to help

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher spends time with people everyday, helping them make their gardens more bird-friendly. Of course providing high quality bird seed is one way, but not everyone feeds birds. Another fantastic way to attract birds is to provide water. It's an inexpensive option for getting feathered friends to flock to you! In fact, during the summer, finding clean water can at times be more difficult for birds than finding food.

Just like us, birds need water, and if you are looking for a greater variety of species, water attracts all species - from the seed eaters to insect eaters and even hawks. This means you may find species in your yard that would not have shown-up if you did not offer water. Depending on the time of year, your water source may assist birds during their fall or spring migration as they pass through to get a drink, rest and re-fuel before continuing on their journey. Some w. Instead of seeking the necessary moisture through fruit, they'll get it via a drink at your bird bath.

In addition to drinking water, birds also need water to bathe. A bird's body is covered with thousands of feathers which are replaced throughout the year. This requires maintenance also known as preening. To help with preening birds will bathe. Helpful tip, if your bird bath is too deep, the little birds will not use it because they can't touch the bottom and some may even drown.



The sound of water moving or dripping will get a bird's attention and effectively attract birds to your offered water. While we do not carry fountains here at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, we would be happy to show you how you can add a dripper or mister, or water wiggle to your bird bath. Moving water also prevents mosquitoes from developing.

Depending on where you place your bird bath (in the sun or in the shade), will influence how often you have to fill it, but keeping the water clean is a must. We have brushes made out of recycled plastic that work well in keeping baths clean. Everyday you can brush out the old water and fill in with new. **We also carry**

Fountec. While algae does not harm birds, some people do not like the way it looks. This additive keeps algae from growing, but does not harm the birds.

Here at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher we have all styles of bird baths and we would be happy to assist you in finding the right water feature for your yard.



Acorn Woodpeckers getting water from a park's drinking fountain - Tony Woo

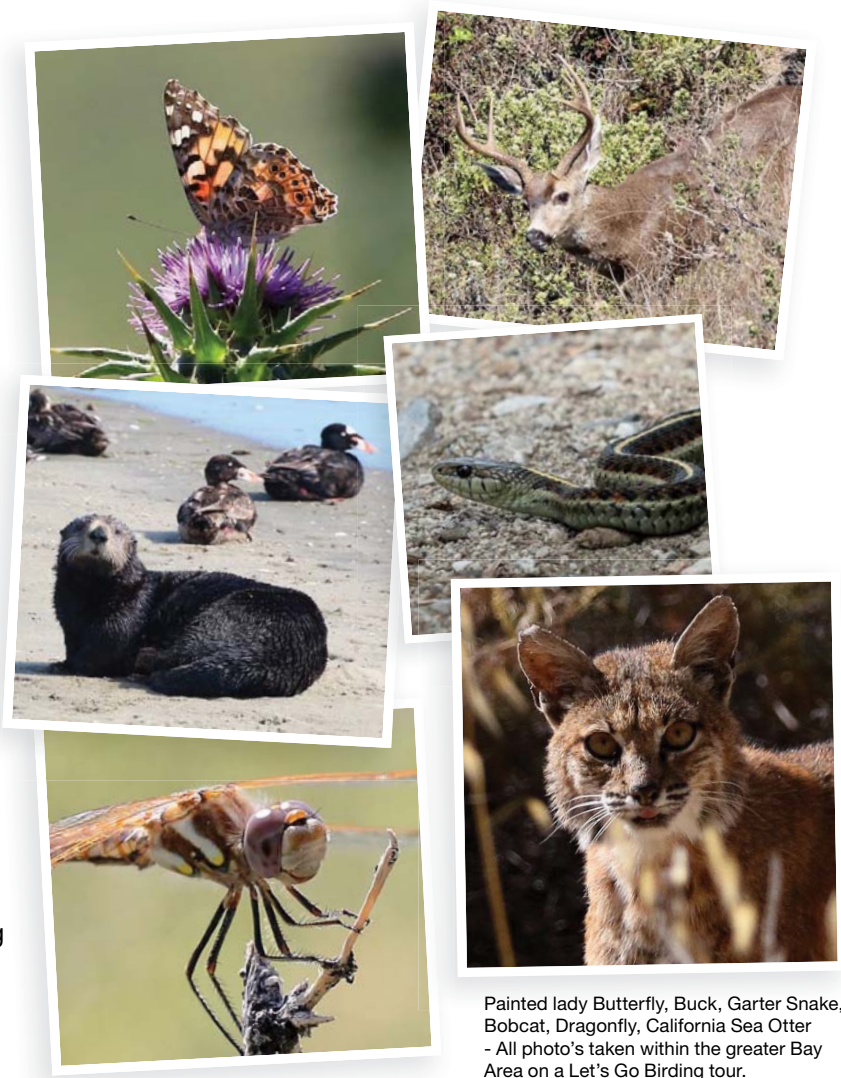
Studies show that if you offer water, the birds may leave your fruit alone

Birds Are Just Part of the Adventure

by Lisa Myers

For those who have never been on an official birdwatching trip, there is often confusion around the activity. People who have never tried it, ask if we really go out just to look for birds? The answer is as variable as the people doing the birding. For many, its not just about the birds. Like any "sport" the intensity by which folks play is different depending on each individual. This is true whether you are a golfer, jogger or skier? Do you prefer the bunny hills or a black diamond slope? The same goes for birding.

Some folks are intent on finding a specific species, while others are just happy to be away from their work desk. The other really great aspect of birding is the fact it gets us out in nature. We go out every month of the year and explore all types of habitat. So we end up in pretty awesome landscapes where we run into all kinds of creatures. While some birders may not stop for a butterfly, on a Let's Go Birding tour we always stop to observe and learn about the wildlife that shares its home with the birds. Seeing other great animals is always a crowd pleaser and usually entices people to get out more.



Painted lady Butterfly, Buck, Garter Snake, Bobcat, Dragonfly, California Sea Otter - All photo's taken within the greater Bay Area on a Let's Go Birding tour.

Now Hiring – Administrative Assistant

Please contact Lisa via email at info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

Store owner Lisa Myers is looking for an administrative assistant. This key person will help Lisa take care of the behind the scenes activities involved with running a successful nature store. Your schedule can be flexible and will change at times depending on the deadlines for the week. You must be extremely organized, yet flexible and have a knowledge of the bird world. Having retail experience is a plus, but willing to learn new things is a must. We can offer between 20 – 30 hours per week. You must have transportation in case you have to run store errands. This position can grow into much more if it's a great fit.





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



Join us Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk. Walks end by 10:00 am. Dates and locations are listed on our web page. Mornings listed with, "Meet-up*" indicates a morning when birders will meet on sight at 8:15 AM without Lisa. For all other walks you can meet Lisa at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:30 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. A reminder of Saturday's location can be accessed on the store's voice mail at **408-358-9453** on Friday night.

July 6	Call the store for location
July 13	Meet-up* - Kevin Moran Park, 12415 Scully Ave. Saratoga
July 20	Palo Alto Baylands – Meet at Duck Pond
July 27	Picchetti Winery Open Space 13100 Montebello Road Cupertino
Aug 3	Call the store for location
Aug 10	Guadalupe River Trail off Blossom River Dr. San Jose Meet in Parking lot between Black Angus restaurant and Pier 1
Aug 17	Almaden Lake Park – Winfield entrance off Coleman
Aug 24	Photographing Nature Workshop, see page 5 for details
Aug 31	No walk Labor day weekend
Sep 7	Rinconada Park, 151 Granada Way Los Gatos
Sep 14	No Walk – come enjoy the Los Gatos Birdwatcher Art Show
Sep 21	Meet-up* - Edenvale Park (Hayes Mansion) 200 Edenvale Ave, San Jose
Sep 28	Fall migration
Oct 5	SFBBO California Fall Challenge with Lisa Myers

Wildlife Photography Workshop with Bill Walker

Fee: \$45 • Limited to 15 people

Photographer Bill Walker has put together a fantastic workshop that includes



both an evening presentation and time in the field. Aimed at the fundamentals of wildlife photography as it pertains to birds, Bill will start with an evening presentation about field techniques and how to approach birds while respecting their health and safety.

Bill will show how to control exposure for different conditions, how to compose pleasing images by attending to both the foreground and background, and offer tips for processing your photos on the computer, and organizing your library of images. The class is aimed at photographers using DSLR cameras. However, much of the material is pertinent to folks doing digiscoping or using fixed-lens cameras.

Workshop Includes

Classroom presentation

Thursday August 22
from 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Field Session

Saturday, Aug. 24
from 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

If you cannot do the field trip, the classroom session is \$20. Call to reserve your seat.



SFBBO California Fall Challenge annual fundraiser Sept. 8 - Oct. 8

You can participate by joining a guided team. Lisa Myers will be leading a 4-hour team Sat. Oct. 5 - 8 AM - noon. \$50 donation. Visit www.SFBBO.org for details.

Bird Identification Workshops with Lisa Myers – 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. Workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:00 – 8:00 PM (*free*). 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. Call the store to save your spot: **408-358-9453**.

Bird Identification Workshops

Tuesday, August 27 – Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-Winged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk

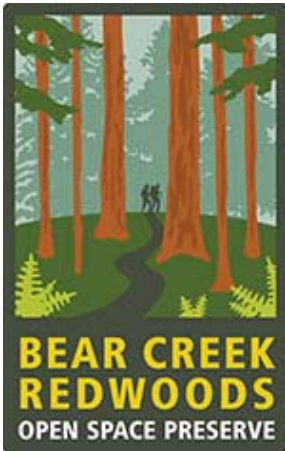
Tuesday, September 17 – Say's Phoebe, Western Meadowlark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing



Lisa is planning a
**Let's Go Birding
Spring Migration
tour to Texas**
April 25 - May 3, 2020
Two leaders
Group size - 8

A Morning at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space with Ryan Phillips & Lisa Myers

Wednesday July 31 • 8:00 AM – 12 noon • Carpool from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

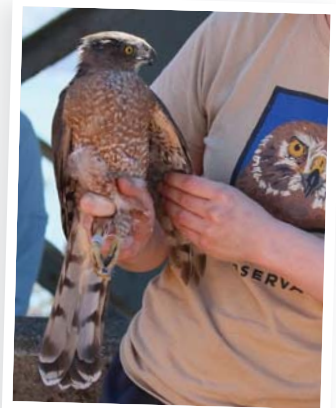


Having just opened on June 8, this is one of the newest open space properties managed by the Mid Peninsula Open Space District. Just three miles south of Los Gatos, this 1,432-acre preserve features many trails and an interpretive trail around Upper Lake. The trails pass through shaded redwood and fir forests, along perennial creeks and offer spectacular views. This property was slated to become a golf course with estates. Formed by earthquakes and forest streams, and inhabited by Native Americans, loggers, wealthy estate owners, and even a religious institution, the property has been shaped by many forces throughout its history. This morning will include walking the new open space and finding the wildlife this habitat has to offer. Using our own citizen science, we'll add to the eBird database for conservation, while describing the avian fauna of a newly opened OSP preserve that has been little birded. We have a chance to see unique montane species such as Pacific Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Purple Finch, Brown Creeper and possibly a chance to hear or see the elusive Pileated Woodpecker. **Fee \$45**

Hawk Hill for the Fall Raptor Migration with Ryan Phillips & Lisa Myers

Saturday, Sept. 28 • 9 AM – 4 PM

Did you know we have a hawk migration hot spot just north of us located in the Marin Headlands? It's true! Every fall; hundreds of volunteers from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) spend thousands of hours counting and identifying the thousands of raptors that fly over on their migration south. The GGRO's mission is to inspire the preservation of California raptor populations as they track the Golden Gate migration. We will continue to Hawk Hill where we will join the hawk watchers of GGRO as they look to the skies and count hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures, birds collectively called "raptors." Biologist and raptor expert Ryan Phillips and Lisa Myers co- lead this tour. Call the store to reserve your seat. **Fee \$70 includes transportation**



Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Summer Nature Series

Continues...



2019

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

All About Owls

Wednesday, July 24
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
(For ages 5 to 12)

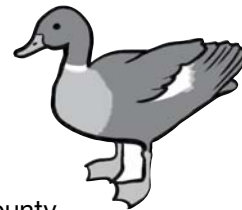


Owls are mysterious birds usually found only at night as they hunt after dark in search of rodents. Because of that we have created a wonderful class. Come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and learn about owls; learn how they find their food and what they eat. You will get to dissect your own owl pellet. And we invite you to come meet “Olive”, a live Western Screech Owl here at the store from the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

We're Going Birding

Wednesday, August 7
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
(For ages 5 to 12)

Bird tour leader and store owner/educator Lisa Myers will lead a 60-minute bird walk at Vasona County Park in Los Gatos. Kids will meet on site and will look for the species of birds found right here in our Los Gatos community. Some birds will be in the water and others on land. Space is limited, so call soon to reserve your spot. The exact meeting location will be provided upon confirmation.



Sandhill Crane Sunset Tour with the International Crane Foundation

Sat. October 26 • 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM • Fee \$90

Everyone knows that the Sandhill Crane is Lisa's favorite North American bird species. Did you know that one of her favorite non-profits is the International Crane Foundation? In fact, every time Lisa leads a crane tour, part of the proceeds are sent to the International Crane Foundation. This organization works diligently to protect the 15 species of cranes found throughout the world.

In appreciation of our support throughout the years they have put us in contact with biologist Paul Tebbel. We are so excited to partner with Paul as we visit the Sandhill Cranes just arriving to California's Central Valley for the winter.



Paul Tebbel releasing a Sandhill Crane ©Joel Sartore / www.joelsartore.com



This tour is \$90 and includes transportation. Part of the proceeds from this trip will go directly to the International Crane Foundation. **Book your seat sooner than later**
Trip fills at 25

Sandhill Crane pair - Tony Woo

Nature Photo Presentation, July 18

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor entertaining and educational nature photo presentations each season for our local community. Presentations take place at The Terraces which is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Presentations start at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to park at The Terraces, or use our Kings Court parking lot and take the short walk next door. These presentations are free and there is no need to pre-register.

Pelicans, Herons and Egrets Oh My!

Joan Sparks

Thursday July 18 • 7 - 8:00 PM

Join wildlife photographer, Joan Sparks on a journey to see long legged waders that have ancestors in the fossil record dating back 50 million years. Be it a pelican bathing, a solitary night-heron surveying the shore, or an egret unfolding in spectacular flight – each of these stately birds has a bearing that marks it as one of the aristocrats of the avian realm. Don't miss this opportunity to see these stellar birds in their natural habitat.

Great Egret with nesting material – Joan Sparks



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. 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.
- **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.
- **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@losgatosbirdwatcher.com, or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.



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

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

Hooded Orioles - A Fan Favorite!

“What’s that big, yellow bird coming to my hummingbird feeder?” That’s a Hooded Oriole! These beautiful, tropical looking birds come to our area every spring in order to raise young. Palm trees are a favorite nesting spot and the female will stitch her nest into the underside of palm fronds some 20 feet above the ground. The nest resembles a hanging basket where she will raise 1 – 2 broods consisting of 3 – 7 eggs. A quick, vocal and shy bird, the male will work to help feed her, and the babies and protect the nest tree. You can attract orioles with oriole nectar feeders, sugar water and berry jelly. We can tell you all about them the next time you are in. They leave for Mexico and Central America in late summer where they will spend the winter.



Hooded Oriole male - Tony Woo



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

- July 4** – Independence Day (closed)
- July 18** – Presentation at The Terraces
- July 24** – Summer series Kid’s Owl Class
- August 7** – Summer series Kid’s Bird Walk
- August 22** – Wildlife Photography Class
- September 2** – Labor Day (closed)
- September 21** Wildlife Art Show
- September 28** – Hawk Hill Bird Tour



Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires Sept. 30, 2019

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

#NCO09302019

Store Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 am to 6 PM
Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM
Sunday: Noon to 5 PM

A map showing the location of Kings Court Center. The map includes major roads: Winchester Blvd, Lark Ave, Los Gatos Blvd, and Blossom Hill Rd. A north arrow is in the top right corner. The store location is marked with a camera icon and labeled "Kings Court Center".