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What's Your 2018 New Year's Resolution for Nature

Here we are – the start of a new year! Have you made any New Year's resolutions? We are encouraging you to put nature on your list. Here are a few things you can do that would make a difference for the birds that share our world.

Checklist

- Take an extra moment when sorting your trash and do what you can to recycle
- Keep cats inside where they are safe and cannot harm the creatures that live in your neighborhood
- Keep your bird feeders and bird baths clean
- Donate to a bird friendly non-profit so they can continue their effort to save habitat and species
- Schedule time onto your calendar to take a walk in nature
- Drink coffee that comes from shade grown, bird friendly growers
- Help birds to see your windows, and ask your contractor to use special glass that is more visible to birds
- Share your love of nature with a family member or friend.
- Avoid using poisons or pesticides in your yard

WINTER COUPON

Mention this coupon and take...
10% off one item
 Expires March 31, 2018

#WINTER033118

One Coupon per customer please.
 Excludes all food items or seed, sale items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.

We our customers

December is always one our busiest months at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We want to thank all of you for stopping in and letting us help you with your questions and purchases. We know if you're happy, then we're happy, and we've done our job!

Our Mission...

At the Los Gatos Birdwatcher our mission is **to educate, share adventures and have fun through the love and experience of birds and nature.** We strive to do that with our quality product lines, educational materials, informative classes, workshops, tours and bird walks. And we cannot forget the many conversations we have with you about the nature you find in your own backyards.



Valentine's Day, February 14th Is Just Around The Corner

If you are looking for a Valentine's gift we invite you to stop by the store. We have all kinds of special gifts from clothing to beautiful hummingbird feeders. Maybe an upgrade in binoculars would be the perfect gift, or perhaps a new bird bath to add to your yard. Maybe your sweetheart would like to go birding?

Now Is the Time to Trim Your Trees

During the winter the days are shorter and the nights are colder, and it's not the time of year for most birds to nest. However, if you have tree trimming on your "to do list", this is a great time of year to get that done. Do it now before the birds start their nest building and incubation. That way no birds or babies are harmed. Birds will start to look for nesting spots in February and the breeding season will be underway in March and April. So if you can **get all your trimming done by the end of February, it will be better for you and the birds!**



It's Time to Shop for a Nest Box

Have you ever been shopping for a new apartment? It takes time to check out a neighborhood and find that perfect place to raise a family. It's the same for birds. They have to search for a place in nature that is safe from predators, yet ideal for laying eggs, incubating and feeding chicks. While some birds build nests out of grasses and twigs, many species use nest boxes which simulate holes in tree trunks. For these cavity nesting birds you can offer them the ideal nest sight by adding a nest box to your yard. We have many styles, both simple and colorful. Placed in the right location you just might attract a Bewick's Wren, Oak Titmouse, Chestnut-Backed Chickadee or maybe a Western Bluebird to nest in your yard. Let us help you pick out the right box for your backyard habitat.



A happy raffle winner!

Thank you to all that helped with our end of year raffles

We ended 2017 with three separate raffles. Our birdwatcher community helped us raise almost \$1000 one raffle ticket at a time. In October all money raised went to the Youth Science Institute. In November we raised money for the American Red Cross and in December, all money raised went to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Those with the winning raffle tickets won everything from clothing to a fantastic outdoor thermometer to fun items for the holiday season.

Entertaining and Educational Photo Presentations

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor an entertaining and educational photo presentation each season for our local community. Presentations include topics of public interest and/or locations from around the world.

Presentations take place next door at The Terraces and we are grateful that they invite us to use their theatre. The Terraces is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and 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.

The Surprising Wildlife of Lexington Reservoir with Mercury Freedom

Thursday, Jan. 18 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

We all drive past Lexington Reservoir as we travel along highway 17 and over the Santa Cruz Mountains. It is a man-made reservoir located on Los Gatos Creek just outside of the Town of Los Gatos. It is the 3rd largest reservoir in Santa Clara County. Photographer Mercury Freedom lives along the banks of the reservoir and has made many wildlife observations. He will share with us his photographs of the different creatures that make this open space their home.



Bald Eagles at Lexington Reservoir by *Mercury Freedom*

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**.



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

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.**



- 1/6 Coyote Valley Open Space off Palm Ave.
- 1/13 No morning walk (Join us at Merced Birding Weekend, see next page)
- 1/20 Los Capitancillos Ponds in South San Jose. Meet on Singletree Way off Camden at PG&E power station
- 1/27* Meet-up: Vasona, Circle Group Area (parking fee)
- 2/3 McClellan Ranch – Cupertino (SCVAS headquarters)
- 2/10 Los Gatos Creek Park meet off Hacienda on Dell Ave. at Vandell Way.
- 2/17 Charleston Slough at Terminal Blvd. in Mtn. View near the restrooms.
- 2/24 No Morning Walk (Join our Raptor Class Field trip, see next page)
- 3/3* Meet-up: Belgatos Park off Blossom Hill Road
- 3/10 Vasona Lake County Park – Pepper Lane entrance off University
- 3/17 Kevin Moran Park, 12415 Scully Ave., Saratoga
- 3/24 Picchetti Ranch Preserve – The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd off Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Rd
- 3/31 Geng Road in Palo Alto off the Embarcadero – Meet at Bayland's Athletic Center
- 4/7 Stevens Creek County Park – Chestnut Picnic Area (parking fee)

* Meet-up indicates a morning when birders will meet on sight at 8:15 AM without Lisa



Let's Go Birding Yellowstone June 16–24, 2018

\$4000 per person double occupancy
Includes 3 guides, lodging, all meals, ground transport, park fees & permits
Air is separate - Fills at 10

ONLY 2 SPACES LEFT

Bird Identification Workshops

– Open to all levels
Hosted by Lisa Myers

These workshops have proven extremely popular and fill at 25 participants. Workshops take place at the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:30 – 8:30 PM (Free)** These one hour workshops will focus on five different bird species we can expect to see in our local area the month of each workshop. 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. You will need to have a field guide with you for class. **Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453.**

Wed. Feb. 7th Workshop:

Mallard, Gadwall, Green-Wing Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead

March 21 Workshop:

Northern Mockingbird, California Scrub Jay, Turkey Vulture, American Crow Vrs. Common Raven

Merced National Wildlife Refuge & Panoche Valley Weekend

Combining two California winter hot spots into one weekend. Leader: Lisa Myers

January 13 & 14, 2018

We'll spend the weekend birding two of the areas prime winter birding hot spots all in one adventure. We'll spend Saturday at the Merced NWR enjoying the splendor of the wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. Tundra Swans, Greater White Fronted Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese are just some of the target species we'll observe. We'll spend the night in the Central Valley just outside of Patterson. Sunday morning we will bird our way home via Panoche Valley. This high desert winter hot spot is a must for any birder. We will be on the look-out for Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, Roadrunners and many different species of raptors.

Trip fee includes hotel, chartered ground transportation, continental breakfast, snacks, tip to our driver, lunch and dinner. Alcohol not included. **\$360 Single occupancy / \$310 per person** if you are sharing your room / **\$590 for a couple sharing a room. Call the store to reserve your spot.**

Raptor Class with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Raptor expert Ryan Phillips will concentrate on the winter time activities of Northern California's raptors. This class includes an evening class on **Wed. Feb. 21 from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher** plus a three hour field trip the following **Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 location TBD**. Carpooling will be encouraged. Ryan will discuss the different raptor families - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons and how you can identify them in your yard or in the field. Lisa Myers will also be there to help with birding activities. Call the store to reserve your spot.



Golden Eagle by Tony Woo

Fee: \$50 per person.

Shorebird Migration Workshop in the field with Ryan Phillips

Saturday April 21th 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Ryan and Lisa will focus on the many different shorebirds that come through the San Francisco Bay Area each spring on their migration north. We know many of you find shorebirds to be a challenge to identify, so let us help you make their ID. Spring is a good time to study shorebirds because their breeding plumage helps to distinguish them apart from each other. Meet in Alviso at the Alviso Marina County Park near the restrooms at 1195 Hope Street in Alviso.



Western Sandpiper
by Tony Woo

Fee: \$35 per person.

A Quick Re-Cap of the Sandhill Crane Weekend

By Lisa Myers

We had a fabulous Sandhill Crane birding trip during the first weekend last December. We ended our weekend with 75 species. We stopped to bird in many open spaces all around Lodi. Saturday's hi-lights included Burrowing Owls, a Prairie Falcon, a Ferruginous Hawk, and a Merlin grabbing dinner out of a flock of blackbirds! We were at Woodbridge Road for Saturday's sunset where we observed the evening fly-in of both Lesser and Greater Sandhill Cranes. On Sunday we birded Lodi Lake Park and then spent the rest of Sunday on Staton Island Road where we found huge flocks of Cackling Geese and Sandhill Cranes. And we cannot forget the beautiful Tundra Swans.



Great Backyard Bird Count February 16–19, 2018

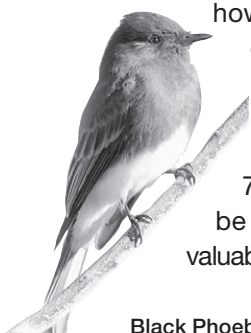
Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

Species	Count	Species	Count	Species	Count
Canada Goose	_____	Downy Woodpecker	_____	California Thrasher	_____
Mallard	_____	Pileated Woodpecker	_____	European Starling	_____
California Quail	_____	Peregrine Falcon	_____	Cedar Waxwing	_____
Wild Turkey	_____	American Kestrel	_____	House Sparrow	_____
Ring-necked Pheasant	_____	Merlin	_____	House Finch	_____
Great Blue Heron	_____	Black Phoebe	_____	Purple Finch	_____
Great Egret	_____	Hutton's Vireo	_____	Evening Grosbeak	_____
Red-shouldered Hawk	_____	Yellow-billed Magpie	_____	Pine Siskin	_____
Red-tail Hawk	_____	California Scrub Jay	_____	Lesser Goldfinch	_____
Turkey Vulture	_____	Steller's Jay	_____	American Goldfinch	_____
Cooper's Hawk	_____	American Crow	_____	Yellow-rumped Warbler	_____
Sharp-shinned Hawk	_____	Common Raven	_____	Townsend's Warbler	_____
Killdeer	_____	Tree Swallow	_____	Spotted Towhee	_____
Rock Pigeon	_____	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	_____	California Towhee	_____
Band Tailed Pigeon	_____	Oak Titmouse	_____	Song Sparrow	_____
Mourning Dove	_____	Bushtit	_____	White-crowned Sparrow	_____
Eurasian Collared Dove	_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____	Golden-crowned Sparrow	_____
Greater Roadrunner	_____	Pygmy Nuthatch	_____	White-throated Sparrow	_____
Great Horned Owl	_____	White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	Fox Sparrow	_____
Barn Owl	_____	Brown Creeper	_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	_____
Western Screech Owl	_____	Bewick's Wren	_____	Dark-eyed Junco	_____
Anna's Hummingbird	_____	House Wren	_____	Western Tanager	_____
White Throated Swift	_____	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	_____	Red-winged Blackbird	_____
Belted Kingfisher	_____	Western Bluebird	_____	Brewer's Blackbird	_____
Red-breasted Sapsucker	_____	American Robin	_____	Brown-headed Cowbird	_____
Nuttall's Woodpecker	_____	Hermit Thrush	_____	Western Meadowlark	_____
Northern Flicker	_____	Varied Thrush	_____		
Acorn Woodpecker	_____	Wrentit	_____	Other	_____
Hairy Woodpecker	_____	Northern Mockingbird	_____		

DAY _____ **TIME** _____

HOW TO COUNT THE BIRDS

You can count birds anywhere you like. We recommend at LEAST 15 minutes—or even longer if you wish. Keep track of the numbers and species of birds you see and how long you watched. Make your best estimate of how many birds you saw of each species.



Black Phoebe by Tom Grey

For example, 2 American Robins, 7 American Crows. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable. Enter your list(s) online at BirdCount.org.

Put in a new checklist:

- for each new day
- for each different location
- for the same location, same day, if you counted at a different time of day

Note: Look for the “Submit Observations” tab at gbbc.birdcount.org or eBird website. You can start entering bird lists at midnight local time on the first day of the count from anywhere in the world. If you want to enter your list via eBird, refer to gbbc.birdcount.org for instructions on how to set up your eBird account. Have fun!



Keeping your Feeders Clean is Important for Your Birds

Customers love to feed their birds. With each visit they share with us the many species they see coming to their yard. We know that observing the birds makes for a nicer day and helps people relax and take a break from one's busy schedule. For the health of your wild birds it is important to keep feeders clean. During the winter we experience moist air and wet weather, so it can be a challenge keeping feeders clean. To help you with that we offer feeder cleaning in the store every Tuesday & Thursday and we also wanted to tell you about "Feeder Fresh".



Feeder Fresh is a safe and easy way to help keep feeders clean and seed fresh. You pour a layer of Feeder Fresh into your tube feeder before filling your feeder with seed and Feeder Fresh will absorb excess moisture and prevent the formation of harmful mold. The ultra-absorbent granules do not contain chemicals because they are made from essential minerals naturally consumed by birds. We carry Feeder Fresh in different sizes including a trial size. We also carry "Feeder Fresh Nectar Defender". When you add it to your hummingbird's sugar water it helps to prevent mold.

Tips for Winter Feeding

In the east, severe weather can greatly impact a bird's ability to find food. In snow country feeding wild bird helps them survive through the winter months. While the California Bay Area does not have severe winters, our wild birds have to get through long, cold nights and then spend the day finding food. The landscape has also changed greatly as we continue to build and remove native plants. Here are a few things you can do to help your birds get through the winter. And remember, our Anna's Hummingbirds are here all year, so keep your hummingbird feeders going with clean sugar water. We are also available to help you with any questions.

- ✓ Store your seed in a cool, dry location
- ✓ Offer seeds with shell to help against moisture
- ✓ Never fill your feeders with dry seed over wet
- ✓ Keep bird baths full with clean water
- ✓ Keep feeders clean
- ✓ Add high caloric fatty suet to your offerings
- ✓ Hang feeders where cats cannot attack



Have You Met Easy?

We would like to introduce you to "Easy". She's the new canine addition to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher has always been known for their store dogs, and "Easy" is now learning the ropes. She was found in Salinas and ended up in foster care through the Animals Friends Rescue Project out of Pacific Grove. She is a very sweet, two year old Chihuahua-terrier mix. At only six pounds she tries to stay out from under foot when she is working in the store. You'll meet her soon the next time you're in buying seed.

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is planning their annual Spring Birdathon

Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society holds their most important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate you can form your own Self-Guided team or join one of the already prearranged Guided Teams. If you are new to birding, a birdathon provides a fantastic opportunity to see many great birds and you'll learn where to find them. Visit www.scvas.org to learn more about this year's event. We encourage you to join one of the teams. Our own Lisa Myers will be leading a team this year and welcomes your support!





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Birdwatcher

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408/358-9453
email: info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com
website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Dates to Remember

Closed New Years' Day – January 1 / **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – January 15 / **Groundhog Day** – February 2

Valentine's Day – February 14 / **President's Day** – February 19 / **Daylight Savings Time Begins** – March 11

St. Patrick's Day – March 17 / **First Day of Spring** - March 20 / **Closed for Easter** – April 1



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15% off one item

Expires March 31, 2018

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Not to be combined with any other offers.

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Store Hours

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



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