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## Migration Is Part of a Bird's Year

by Lisa Myers

The fall migration is an exciting time for birds and birdwatchers. It is the time when many bird species head south. It could be a movement south down a mountain to areas of lower elevation, or south from the northernmost reaches of our continent.

They are leaving the areas where they spent their spring and summer raising young. There are many instinctual reasons birds know when to migrate, but a major reason is because the cold weather that comes with the change in season impacts a bird's ability to find food. There are not many bugs around when it's cold outside. Or how does one find food when there is a blanket of snow covering the ground? It takes a tremendous amount of energy to migrate but these aerial journeys are part of a bird's year.



**FALL**

**COUPON**

**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 12/31/2021 #Fall2021

One migratory species that we often take for granted is the Turkey Vulture. While we can find them in the Bay Area all year long, during the fall migration many more can be seen flying over California on their way south. According to Cornell more than a million Turkey Vultures found in the western part of North America will migrate all the way to Central & South America to spend their winter. No matter where you are in the Bay Area you can often see them flying overhead. Without a single wing-beat, these big black birds can be observed soaring above as they take advantage of the air currents. As they fly they are often on the hunt for a meal, but vultures do not kill their food, so you do not have to worry about them harming you or your pet. For their diet, they have to find something that is already dead.

To help them with their hunt they have developed a keen sense of smell which differentiates them from other birds. Vultures have evolved on almost every continent so clearly these scavengers fill an important niche. Perhaps driving around town you have seen Turkey Vultures in the street cleaning up roadkill? Their digestive system is specialized to be able to eat carrion. The bare head that all vultures have is to their benefit. This adaptation makes pulling meat off the bones a bit less messy.

Often called "TVs" they are a large bird with a 70-inch wingspan and nearly two feet tall. They are silent and considered gentle. They help each other find food, are great parents, and often come together in communal night roosts. Nature's clean-up crew. We should appreciate what they do for our environment.

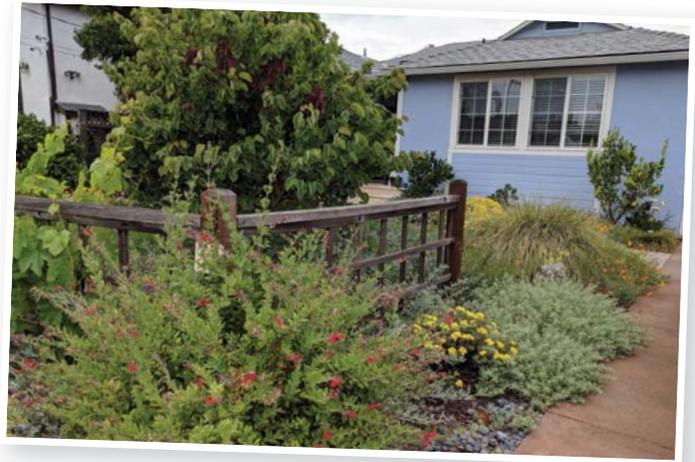
Los Gatos Turkey Vulture – **Nancy Turek** / Turkey Vulture In Flight – **Tony Woo**



# Native Birds Evolved with Native Plants

by Stephanie Morris - Landscape Architect and CNPS member

This past Sept. 1 Lisa was our guest speaker for the California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Chapter. She shared what we can do to make our yards more bird friendly. Afterward, she asked me to help share our organization CNPS with the Los Gatos Birdwatcher community. The Santa Clara County chapter of The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a local non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and how to conserve them and their natural habitats. Activities are offered on the many aspects of native plants, from gardening, plant identification, and photography to conservation and rare plants.



Fall is the perfect time to plant California natives and when you offer more native plants you can attract more birds. Some of our favorite locally native plants for birds include Toyon, Barberrry, Coffeeberry, Hollyleaf



CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT  
SOCIETY

Cherry, and Elderberry. Hummingbirds find California Fuchsia, Flowering Currants, and Monkeyflower irresistible and Winter-blooming Manzanitas provide nectar for our resident Anna's Hummingbird. Salvia clevelandii does triple duty in the garden as shelter for small songbirds, nectar for hummingbirds, and seeds for a variety of birds. Plus it has a striking purple flower in spring and summer. Anything planted in the garden that supports insect pollinators will also support insect eating birds.

Many people are intimidated about gardening with natives, but there are many resources to guide us. Our local chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has a large and very active gardening group of volunteers. Guides on native plants for birds can be found at - <https://www.cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-resources>. And CNPS has also produced a YouTube lecture series for native plant gardening - <https://www.cnps-scv.org/events/native-plant-lecture-series>.

**A fall plant sale will also be held at Hidden Villa Nursery, on October 9th, by appointment only. Details are available at <https://www.cnps-scv.org>**

## Honoring Veterans This November

Thursday, November 11 is VETERAN'S DAY, a day in honor of all our veterans. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher also wants to honor our vets and to do that we are giving veterans 15% off their entire purchase between **Monday, Nov. 8 – Saturday the 13th**. So, if you are a veteran please plan to come into the store that week and let us know you served in the military. It's a small way to thank you for your service to our country and for being a loyal Los Gatos Birdwatcher customer. *(This discount excludes items already on sale.)*



Special Gifts, Beautiful Cards, Complimentary Gift Wrapping

# WE'RE HERE TO HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Family owned Macone Clay/Spooner Creek is a new product line from Shell Lake, Wisconsin.



Fraas scarves, themed socks, outdoor hats and Foxgloves... We have an assortment of clothing items; ideal for gift giving.



Brighten up your home or garden



Puzzles, Bingo, Wingspan... we have several fun ideas for game night



Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces. We carry several lines of affordable jewelry including 4Ocean

Because of the current uncertainty regarding Covid-19, we will continue to have limited group activities. What we have scheduled will be held outside. There will be no Bird ID workshops until 2022. 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 Los Gatos Birdwatcher sponsors two Saturday morning bird walks per month. Dates and locations are listed below and on our web page. These walks are free and open to all birding levels, but pre-registration is required. 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 for anyone not vaccinated please wear your mask. Call the store to register 408-358-9453. Walks start on-site at 8:30 AM and end around 10:00 AM. The holidays are a busy time at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher so there are no morning walks planned for December, however, we welcome you to come into the store and do some shopping.

**Oct. 16** Palo Alto Baylands

**Oct. 23** Los Gatos Creek County Park

**Nov. 20** Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters

**Nov. 27** Coyote Valley, South San Jose

**Dec.** There are no bird walks scheduled in Dec.

**Jan. 8** To be announced

## New To Birding? Here is the class for you

with Instructor Lisa Myers

**Sat. Nov. 20 • 10:30 AM – 12:30 noon**  
**Class will take place entirely outside.**

In the last year, many people have picked up binoculars and have started enjoying the birds they find in their neighborhoods or local parks. This class will review how to ID birds in the field, how birds get grouped together, how to find birds, how habitat and seasons affect what you will find, how to attract more birds to your yard, and much more. This will be a fun class geared for those new to birding. Call the store to register 408-358-9453. **Fee \$35**

## SFBBO's California Fall Challenge Celebrating 40 years of Bird Science



This year SFBBO is celebrating their 40 year anniversary!

And this will be the 17th year Lisa will lead her team, the Gallinago Go Gos'. The team

will spend the morning birding the walking trails found throughout the bay and surrounding areas. Lisa's team has already filled, but the Go Go's and SFBBO still welcome any financial support you can offer. This is an important fundraiser for SFBBO and they encourage you to check out the many other educational events happening during this year's CFC. 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>

## Project FeederWatch Begins in November

**Come on down to the store Sat. Oct. 23 from 11 AM - 1PM**

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. FeederWatch is a winter-long (November-April) survey of the birds that visit all 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).

Customer and FeederWatch contributor Ellyn Bush will be at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher on Saturday, October 23 to answer all your FeederWatch questions and to help you be part of this scientific study. Ellyn adds, "it's really easy to contribute to this annual study and its a lot of fun too. Plus, the data we provide to Cornell is important."



Lesser Goldfinch at Thistle sock – **Garrett Lau**

## Celebrating Bay Area Birds – 2022 Calendars!

This is the first time the Los Gatos Birdwatcher has printed their own calendar. With our birdwatching community spending so much time in nature, or staying home, we invited everyone to participate in a photo contest. We used Earth Day 2021 to kick-off this event. Our photographically talented customers submitted over 100 photos. We received feedback from potential photo winners that is was exciting to submit their photographs.

It was very difficult but the staff eventually selected the top three winning photographs plus an additional 9 that would allow us to present to you our 2022 calendar. There were also many other wonderful photos so we included some of them within each calendar month. All the photographs contained in this calendar are from our loyal customers and taken of birds found throughout the greater Bay Area. We are proud to be able to present this calendar to our birding community and thank everyone that helped us make this happen.



**Calendars will be available in the store to purchase for \$16.00 while supplies last.**

## In the fall, Bats Are on the Move Too!

by Dr. Dave Johnston, our customer who also specializes in bats

Although we seldom see these nocturnal mammals, there are over 1400 species of bats in the world. They provide an important function as they consume millions of mosquitoes and insects every night. During the fall bats are on the move in the Bay Area. Some California species, such as the Mexican free-tailed bat and the western red bat, migrate regionally; and locally, from mid-August to late October. They migrate to the Bay Area from maternity colonies located in the Central Valley. Maternity colonies are locations, like the Yolo Bypass (Interstate 80) where mother bats go to have their pups.

During the summer months, maternity colonies roost in conditions that are very warm and thermally stable. This solar radiation keeps the crevice-roosting bats warm. Bats are mammals and the pups have to nurse. During this time mother bats prefer hotter climates where nighttime temperatures are warm and there are plenty of night-flying insects to eat. In the fall, after the pups are weaned, their needs change. As the winter approaches most California bat species roost singly or in small groups. They seek roosts that provide cool, even

temperatures so they can conserve their energy because there are fewer insects to eat. One species, the Hoary Bat, migrates long distances between their summer pupping areas mostly located in central North America and their wintering areas which include the Bay Area and forests along our coast.

Other species, such as the Yuma Myotis and Pallid Bat, despite cooler winter temperatures, remain within the same general area year-round. They can do this because they lower their body temperature by entering what is known as a shallow torpor, rather like hibernating. In doing so they maintain a low

level of activity throughout the winter. Although large hibernating aggregations are common in some parts of the United States, they are relatively rare in California. A few aggregations of non-hibernating Mexican free-tailed bats have been observed overwintering on bridges along the California Coast. For example, the Alameda Creek Bridge on Interstate 880 (I-880) in Alameda County provides overwintering habitat for approximately 1,000 Mexican free-tailed bats. We know very little about the actual migration routes these bats take, but there is an effort to study these movements through the use of the MOTUS wildlife tracking system. This radio telemetry system uses receiver towers that automatically record signals from radio transmitters attached to migrating bats (and birds).

Knowing exactly where bats' migratory routes are located could help reduce the number of bats killed by wind turbines. The data captured will allow planners to better design and locate wind farms.



**A Let's Go Birding tour to the Yolo Bypass had participants learning about the 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats that use I-80 just west of Sacramento to have their pups.**



**This healthy Mexican free-tailed bat was photographed climbing a rock. Because bats can carry rabies it is best that you never touch a bat you may find in your home or in nature.**

# Word Search

## – Bird’s Named After People

created by Lisa Myers

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

### WORD SEARCH WORD LIST

ROSS	SMITH
STELLER	MCCOWN
CLARK	MACGILLIVRAY
VAUX	FORSTER
RIDGWAY	CORY
BAIRD	COOPER
SABINE	COUCH
WILLIAMSON	BOTTERI
NUTTALL	BENDIRE
WOODHOUSE	LEWIS
TOWNSEND	ANNA
LINCOLN	SWAINSON
HENSLOW	

## 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.
- **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](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com), or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.

## Open Late on Tuesdays

Starting Tuesday, October 12 the store will remain open until 7:00 PM.

When Covid came to our world the Los Gatos Birdwatcher was allowed to remain open but required to limit store hours. Since that time, we have remained closed on Sundays. However, as more people return to the workplace we wanted to provide an option for picking up your seed or stopping by for that special gift so we will now be open until 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights. We hope to see you soon.



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



*Tag us on Instagram*

# Fall Migration Brings the Return of Many Species of Sparrows

Keep an eye out for both White-crowned & Golden-crowned Sparrows, plus Fox Sparrows and Lincoln Sparrows. They are arriving back to our gardens everyday. They will remain here until the spring when they'll head north again for the breeding season. All of these birds are rather secretive and we have to look for them within the bushes or on the ground. This is also the time of year when the leaves fall off your trees. Instead of sweeping the leaves away, we encourage you to try and leave a leaf pile somewhere in the back of your yard. Sparrows love to scratch through the leaves looking for a meal because leaf piles are home to many small insects; the perfect meal for these ground feeding birds. But its not just the sparrows that benefit from a healthy pile of leaves, towhees, jays, wrens...you can also catch them digging around in your yard looking for a juicy bug. Its good for them and your yard.



White-crowned Sparrow  
- Tony Woo



Bewick's Wren  
- Ron Machado



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

## Dates to Remember

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Oct. 31</b><br>- Halloween (closed)       | <b>Dec. 24</b><br>- Christmas Eve 10-3 PM (closing early)  |
| <b>Nov. 11</b><br>- Veteran's Day            | <b>Dec. 25</b><br>- Christmas Day (Closed)                 |
| <b>Nov. 24</b><br>- Closing early 10-3 PM    | <b>Dec. 31</b><br>- New Year's Eve 10-3 PM (closing early) |
| <b>Nov. 25</b><br>- Thanksgiving (closed)    | <b>Jan. 1</b><br>- New Year's Day (closed)                 |
| <b>Nov. 28</b><br>- Hanukkah begins (closed) |  |



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**15% off one item**

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

#DEC2021

### Store Hours

Please visit [www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com](http://www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com)



**Kings Court Center**  
BLOSSOM HILL RD

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