

IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Avian Influenza Outbreak	1
How I Became a Birder	2
The Wild Language of Deer	3
Let's Go Birding Walks & Workshops	4
Migration Brings Special Birds	5
Holiday Gifts	6
Seed Moths and Bird Seed	7
Honoring Veterans	7
Project Feeder Watch	8
Dates to Remember	8

## Avian Influenza Outbreak

### Should I take my feeders down?

Many of you have been reading about the 2022 Avian Influenza, or “*bird flu*.” It started in the east and has slowly moved west. Customers have been asking if it is OK to keep feeding the wild birds in their yards so we wanted to share what we understand as reported from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

“Avian influenza does not affect all types of birds equally. The *‘highly pathogenic’* part of the term HPAI (*highly pathogenic avian influenza*) refers specifically to the severity of the disease in poultry, not necessarily in other bird species.



Yellow-rumped Warbler – Brooke Miller

For example, waterfowl often carry and transmit bird flu, but rarely get sick from the disease (*even from HPAI strains*). Raptors (*hawks & eagles*) are much more sensitive to the disease than waterfowl. Domestic poultry are extremely susceptible to HPAI and spread the disease easily, leading up to 100% mortality of affected flocks. Songbirds are much less likely than waterfowl to contract avian influenza and less likely to shed large amounts of virus, meaning they do not transmit the disease easily.”

Because of how this flu is transmitted, it is considered to be of low risk among the wild songbirds that come to bird feeders, and thus there has been no official recommendation to take down feeders unless you also keep domestic poultry. If you keep chickens in your yard it is recommended to take down feeders.

Transmission from songbird to songbird has been minimal and transmission to humans is very rare. If you keep your feeders up it is more important than ever that you clean your feeders on a regular schedule, and this includes bird baths too. If your bird feeders are looking dirty and you would not want to eat off of them, your birds should not have to either. Every few weeks or when feeders look dirty, take them in at night, soak them in white vinegar or clean them with a diluted bleach solution.

Afterward rinse and dry thoroughly before putting them back out. To help you provide healthy feeding stations we can teach you how to clean your specific feeders. We also carry cleaning brushes and bird safe cleaning solutions. We also offer a free service to clean your feeders for you. All we ask is for a cash donation to one of the local non-profits we support. Donation boxes are located at the store.

## 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, 2022  
#FALL2022





Feeder Cleaning Supplies

## How I Became a Birder By Lisa Myers

I am often asked how I got into birding. Customers suggested I share my birding story with the Los Gatos Birdwatcher community. I know I do have a unique situation as I combined my small business experience with my joy of birding. It started in the Sierra Nevadas, above Chico, Ca. My godparents owned a family-built (rustic) cabin in Jonesville. As a youngster, we played in the forest, swam in the mountain rivers, and enjoyed nightly campfires. Back then the cabin had one indoor bathroom and one outhouse. To this day there is no cell service or internet there and Humboldt Road is closed from January thru March. As a young teen, I remember asking my godmother, who is a high school educator, about a beautiful bird I had seen in the forest. She then handed me her 1947 cabin copy of *The Roger Tory Peterson a Field Guide to Western Birds*. As I flipped through the pages it became a game to find the bird that was now etched in my mind. There it was, plate 54 on page 161, a male Western Tanager! Then in 1974, long before websites, cell phones, or apps, my godmother gifted me my own Peterson Field Guide.



In college, I thought I would major in biology. At West Valley, I took all of Don Stoner's nature classes—one of the classes was Plants and Animals of California that included a winter's class field trip to Tule Lake along the Oregon border where we experienced breathtaking flocks of Snow Geese in the thousands. I was hooked.

I then returned to Chico State to get my bachelor's degree. While I loved nature I decided I was not cut out to be a biologist. Instead, I graduated with a degree in Communications. I hoped to use these skills in my future business endeavors. Afterward I returned to the South Bay and spent two decades working in my family's high school senior portrait business, Sanford & Myers Photo Graphic. I heard about birding classes offered at the Palo Alto Adult school so I signed up. My teacher was Les Chibana. The class changed my life forever!

I admit I am a social birder. I like to be out with people enjoying nature and the class was just that; making new friends, seeing new wild places, and learning about birds.

Les was such a kind, knowledgeable, patient, and gentle teacher. He did not bird for the competition of it. He loved nature and the adventure of it all. It was a class from which one never graduated! I took Les's class for years until he moved away. As my birding skills increased I was being asked to teach. I asked Les if he thought I was good enough. Most birding teachers and leaders were male and it was quite intimidating. With Les's encouragement and support, I went for it. I taught birding classes at several adult education venues including our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. The Palo Alto Adult School eventually offered three birding classes: I taught "Intermediate Birding," Matthew Dodder taught the advanced class, and Larry Spivak taught "Beginning Birding." I eventually started my own birding business called "Let's Go Birding." The goal was to get new people into birding through classes and tours.

During this time, I met Freddy Howell who owned the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We shared goals: two women business owners trying to get nature at the forefront of people's minds. She invited me to teach classes and lead birding tours for her store. Freddy and I partnered together for years before she retired and turned the store over to me.



Let's Go Birding weekend tour to the Central Valley



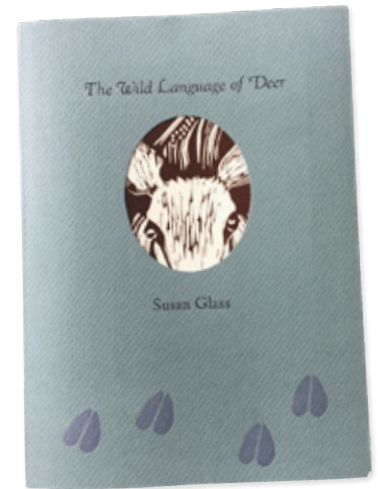
*Les Chibana circa 2000*

Let's Go Birding became the tour division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. So I guess you could say my godmother opened the door to my birding. Les became my mentor and inspiration, and Freddy provided the business opportunity. All three are still present in my life and are important role models for me today. I am forever grateful to all three, and I look forward to birding with you one day soon!

# The Wild Language of Deer – poetry by Susan Glass

By Susan Glass

I was born blind. The natural world was my first teacher and mentor. It spoke in the languages of the senses, and the language of embodied experience. First came the tongue of wind in trees, of our beagle Happy scrambling around under my crib and licking my feet under the high chair. I thought morning came because doves called it, and I thought the wind bullied the trees, although I didn't know the word bullied. Flickers and wrens and towhees oriented me to space and distance, and introduced me to music. Trees and horses taught me about the power of my own body, of motion, of gravity, and of absolute stillness. The dogs whom you will meet in these poems, Jonca and Zeus, are two of my four guide dogs. The relationship with a guide dog is deep, and mammalian and abiding, and once you've experienced it, you will never again see human beings as existing separate from, or on a higher plain than, other species.



*Susan's beautiful book of poetry can be purchased at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher*



Susan with Harris's Hawk

My mother was the person most responsible for connecting me with the natural world. Together we fell in love with the songs of western meadowlarks heard through our open kitchen windows. Mother bought us a set of National Geographic bird identification records called "Song and Garden Birds of North America." After school, I'd listen to these records while doing my homework. Soon I was calling out, "Mama, there's a spotted towhee under our oak tree," or "Mom, the golden crowned sparrows are back." She'd check her bird book for a visual confirmation, and I was usually right. We began taking birding classes at the Youth Science Institute in Alum Rock Park, and every time we'd take a family vacation, we'd visit at least one bird sanctuary along the way. And there was one particularly happy Christmas when Mom had two books translated into braille for me: Hand Taming Wild Birds, And Backyard Feeding of Birds. She also presented me with 3 bird feeders: one suet one platform, and one hopper. Birds and the natural world have been the central grounding and spiritual focus of my life ever since.

**the 24th  
Lodi Sandhill  
Crane Festival**  
Nov. 5 – 6

**Hutchins Street Square  
Community Center in Lodi**

**Festival Admission is Free**

*Tours are available throughout the weekend starting Friday.*

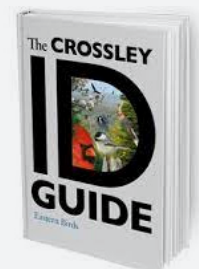
**Lodi Sandhill Crane**  
ASSOCIATION

**lodisandhillcrane.org**

## Hot Off The Press

### Richard Crossley of the Crossley ID Guides

is returning to the Bay Area  
**October 29th** for several  
book signing events.



In partnership with

**The Los Gatos Birdwatcher**  
**The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory**  
**Santa Clara Valley Audubon**

Check websites for updates!



**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 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. Walks fill at 20 people. Walks start on-site at 8:30 AM and end around 10:00 AM. Call the store to register **408- 358-9453**.

- Oct. 8** Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters
- Oct. 22** Devil's Slide see details page 4
- Nov. 12** Los Gatos Creek County Park
- Nov. 19** Raptor Fest (details below)
- Dec. 3** Woodpecker Workshop

*No more walks during the month of December.*

## Raptor Fest

**Saturday, November 19 • 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

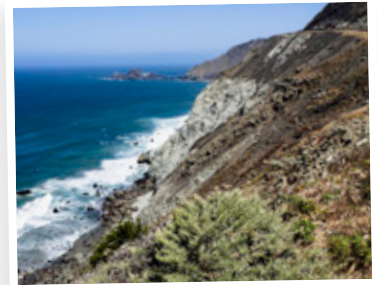
Join POST and Santa Clara County Parks for an educational experience like no other: Raptor Fest! This incredible event will highlight very important species of raptors, who play an integral role in the health of our ecosystems! The Los Gatos Birdwatcher will also be there to talk to the community about birding and raptors. This free educational event will feature presentations and a chance to visit local wildlife and conservation groups who work to protect vital species in the Bay Area. The event will be hosted at Rancho San Vicente. This is a unique opportunity to see and learn about birds of prey and the importance of conservation in our communities. Presentations will include Master Falconer Kenny Elvin of Full Circle Falconry and will also include a display of rescued Raptors by Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC).

Pre-registration is required. Visit <https://parks.sccgov.org> for event details.

## A Morning on Devil's Slide

**Saturday, October 22 • 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher**

During the fall migration, many species of birds will migrate south following the coast. This birding adventure will have us walking the Devil Slide Trail located just south of San Francisco. Devil's



Landscape: Devil's Slide  
– Fred Lim

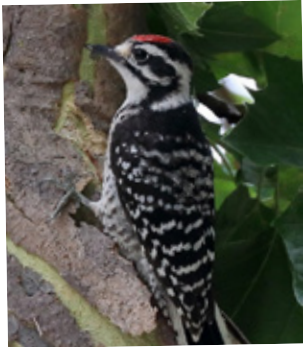
Slide Trail is a 1.3-mile-long trail built on what was once a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 and the site of frequent landslides, accidents, and closures. When the Tom Lantos Tunnel opened in 2013, the San Mateo County Parks Department began converting this segment of the old highway to this public multi-use, non-motorized trail. Opened in 2014, the trail offers spectacular ocean views and unparalleled west coast opportunities for viewing birds and marine mammals. The Devil's Slide Trail is a section of the California Coastal Trail, which will extend 1,200 miles from Oregon to Mexico. We'll be looking for migrants flying above, along with species that live on the cliffs and in the ocean waters below. To enjoy this Let's Go Birding tour you must be able to walk for several hours on a slight incline with limited public seating. Limited to 15 people. Carpooling recommended. **Fee \$45**



Red-tailed Hawk  
– Alan Rowe

## Woodpecker Workshop in the field with Lisa Myers

Saturday, December 3 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon



Class will take place entirely outside as we concentrate on the woodpecker family. We'll review interesting facts about this group of birds and the many species that are found throughout the greater Bay Area. We'll spend the morning walking throughout Vasona County Park where we'll be on the look out for several different species of woodpeckers including Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy, Nuttall's, Acorn and Downy Woodpeckers. **Call the store to register 408-358-9453.**

**Fee: \$35**

Nuttall's Woodpecker  
– Tony Woo

**ID Workshops will  
start again in 2023**

## Migration Brings Special Birds by Lisa Myers

During the fall migration, birds leave their northern breeding grounds and head for southern climates. For some birds, their southern destination is the Bay Area while other birds continue on to Mexico, Central or South America. To avoid inclement weather, storms will often cause migrating birds to land for a bit and this usually means birders get to find some pretty special birds. This last September, after the first storm of the season I was in my own Campbell yard when I noticed a bright yellow bird bouncing around from leaf to leaf snatching bugs. I immediately grabbed my binoculars. I knew it was a warbler, but which one. I did what I tell all my students, I took note of the bird's behavior and noticed as many field marks as possible.



Local photographers get the shot!

As I watched it moving around low in the bushes, I jotted down - gray back, yellow belly, eye-ring, faint necklace, white under tail (vent), yellowish pink legs, dark eye, and yellow lores. I opened a few field guides to do a cross reference and flipped to the warbler pages. There it was, a female Canada Warbler. Their preferred habitat, "Found in mixed conifer and deciduous forests with a shrubby understory". That described our over grown yard perfectly. No lawn, no pesticides, lots of leaf litter and dense non-pruned shrubs plus huge trees including native Blue Oak.



Canada Warbler –Teresa Cheng

I read that this tiny warbler will fly more than 3,000 miles from their breeding grounds in Canada to winter in South America; and on her way she stopped in Campbell! It's quite a feat to make these long trips twice a year and everyone should really appreciate what it takes. This was the first time this species had been reported in Santa Clara County since 2016. I invited birding photographers over to my yard to capture the moment. The Canada Warbler stayed for a few days before she continued her journey as she still had hundreds of miles to go. She'll spend the winter in a South American forest with dense undergrowth between 3,200 – 6,000 feet in elevation. Next spring she'll head back to Canada to find a mate. Amazing, truly amazing.



## Choose from a huge selection of nature inspired gift items this holiday season

Jewelry, socks, scarves, garden & wall art, kitchen towels, optics and much more...  
*plus complimentary gift wrapping.*



### Seed Bag

Give the gift of seed this holiday. It's considered good luck!



### Rareform Totes

Each bag is hand-cut from billboard vinyl, and one of a kind!



### Holiday Cards

Ask about our selection of nature inspired holiday cards.



### Flaytz Candles

The only decorative handmade, non-dripping flat candle in the world.



### Snack Bags

Wendy Barnes designs unique wildlife patterns for her reusable products that replace disposable bags. 10% goes back to organizations doing good things for our Earth.



### Basic Spirit

We'll have a selection of Basic Spirit pewter ornaments where 10% of their profits fund charitable projects.

## Seed Moths and Bird Seed

If you have a pantry, you have probably experienced “seed moths.” They are also known as “Grain Moths” or “Pantry Moths” or “Indianmeal Moths.” They are different than the moths that chew holes in our wool garments. Pantry Moths make their way into many of the items we store in our pantries, including dry goods like boxed breakfast cereals, corn meal, barley, Bisquick, flour, oatmeal, or even dry cat or dog food, spices, herbs, and animal feed. Seed moths also love bird seed and with 15,000 pounds of bird seed stored inside the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at any one time we, are on the constant look out for these pesky insects.

The moth eggs are often already within the products you buy and bring home. Somewhere along the course of packaging these products a female can lay eggs on the dry goods. Once in our homes, if we use the products quickly, any possible moth situation will go un-noticed. However, if we store these dry goods for any length of time, the eggs eventually hatch and larvae emerge. If you find silk webbing in a stored food product (*or moving larvae*) you know you have moths. Pantry moths are most active during warm weather and this is why we find them more in the summer and fall. As temps cool, unhatched moths go into a hibernation period.

If you store your bird seed for many weeks or sometimes months we suggest you keep it out of the house and in a cool dry location. Storing seed in metal containers is best so rodents do not try and chew through your bag. And if you do find moths or moth larvae in your seed it is perfectly fine to feed to your birds because the birds will simply eat the insects and there is no harm in that. After you get your seed home you can also freeze your seed or seed cakes for 72 hours to kill any moths that may be within the product.

We also carry Moth Traps. Simply place them in the area you have seen moths, or in your pantry and the moths will end up on the product's sticky tape. Do keep Moth Traps out of areas where small birds might roam as they may get entangled in the sticky traps.

**Food Moth Traps**  
**Trampas para Polillas**







- ✔ **Protects cereals, nuts, flour, pet food & more**
- ✔ **Contains 2 traps and 2 lures**
- ✔ **Capture male and female food moths**

## Honoring Veterans

**Friday, 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. 7 – Saturday the 12th.

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.)*



# Project FeederWatch Begins 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. 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.

For info visit [feederwatch.org](http://feederwatch.org)



American Goldfinch at feeder  
– Brooke Miller



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

Find us on Facebook  
and Instagram



## Dates to Remember

- 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*)
- Oct. 31 – Halloween
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day
- Nov. 24 – Closing early 10–3 PM
- Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving (*closed*)
- Nov. 28 – Hanukkah begins



**Loyal Customer Discount**  
Mention this coupon and take...  
**15% off one item**  
Coupon Expires Dec. 21 2022

#DEC2022

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](http://www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com)



**Kings Court Center**  
BLOSSOM HILL RD