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Spring is Time for Babies!

By Lisa Myers

We are often asked how long it takes for babies to leave the nest, so we looked to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for the data. We hope this helps you help your backyard birds succeed this breeding season. Birds use different techniques for nesting. Below is the time frame needed by some of our local breeders to successfully raise chicks.

Some birds nest in tree cavities. They look for the ideal hole in a tree trunk or branch and build their nest inside. During the breeding season, roughly March – July, we encourage you to refrain from cutting down trees, please wait until fall. You can also offer ideal nesting sights by placing a nest box in your yard.



Western Bluebird at nest box
- Barbara Naden

Some birds make nests using grasses and fibers. These nests are woven onto a tree branch or perhaps somewhere on your house. Designed to be camouflaged they can be inadvertently destroyed. During the breeding season, roughly March – July, we encourage you to refrain from cutting down trees. Please wait until fall.



Warbling Vireo sitting on nest - Tom Grey

Some birds nest on the ground. This type of nest worked well before people came along with their dogs, cats and recreational activities. During the breeding season we remind you to keep your dogs on leash, keep cats indoors and look before you step.

Winter Coupon

Mention this coupon and 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 JUNE 30, 2022 #SPRING2022

Species	# of eggs	Incubation Days	Days to fledge	Broods
Birds that nest on the ground				
California Quail	12 – 16	18 – 23	Can walk immediately	1 – 2
Dark-eyed Juncos	3 – 6	11 – 13	10 – 13	1 – 3
Killdeer	4 – 6	22 – 28	Can walk immediately	1 – 3
Western Meadowlarks	5 – 6	13 – 16	10 – 12	1 – 2
Northern Harriers	4 – 6	28 – 36	14	1
Birds that nest in tree cavities				
Western Bluebirds	2 – 8	12 – 17	18 – 25	1 – 3
White-breasted Nuthatch	5 – 9	13 – 14	26	1
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	1 – 11	12 – 18	18 – 21	1 – 2
Bewick's Wrens	3 – 8	14 – 16	14 – 16	1 – 3
Oak Titmouse	3 – 9	14 – 16	16 – 21	1 – 2
American Kestrel	4 – 5	26 – 32	28 – 31	1 – 2
Birds that weave their nests in trees or on structures				
Northern Mockingbirds	2 – 6	12 – 13	12 – 13	2 – 6
American Robins	3 – 5	12 – 14	13	1 – 3
Hooded Oriole	3 – 7	12 – 14	12 – 14	1 – 2
Warbling Vireos	3 – 5	12 – 14	13 – 14	1 – 2
California Towhee	2 – 5	11 – 14	6 – 11	1 – 3
Red-tailed Hawk	1 – 5	28 – 35	42 – 46	1

Texas, It Was Worth The Wait

By tour participant Jean Fordis

In the fall of 2019, when Lisa announced her **Let's Go Birding, Spring Migration tour to Texas** set for April 2020. I signed up, thinking of all the gorgeous warblers we would see. Of course, the Covid pandemic quashed that trip. When Lisa posted a re-scheduled winter 2022 trip to Texas, my dreams turned from spring migrants to seeing endangered Whooping Cranes.

Birding tours include travel days from habitat to habitat and city to city as new species are enjoyed with each new location. Below is a quick overview with species high-lights of our tour.

Day 1 After arriving in **Corpus Christi, Texas** the tour started with a boat trip out of Rockport to Aransas NWR for close looks of many pairs of *Whooping Crane* parents and their clay-colored "colts", born last Spring. After our chilly 37 degree morning on the boat, we returned to shore and headed west with an exciting stop to see an *Aplomado Falcon*.



Whooping Crane



Day 2 Birding the immense **King Ranch** had us meeting up with our private guide Tom Langschied. He found us the elusive *Audubon's Oriole*, nesting *Great-horned Owls*, too many *Crested Caracara* to count, as well as the adorable *Least Grebe*. And we successfully found a *Ferruginous Pygmy Owl*, first hearing its hoots and then seeing it.

King Ranch

Day 3 At **Estero Llano**, a former trailer park turned into a refuge, we watched a huge flock of *Black-bellied Whistling Ducks* in the pond in front of us and also found a sleeping *Common Pauraque*. We were then off to the **Santa Ana NWR**, where we searched in vain and in the rain for the much sought after *Bat Falcon*. However, a muddy, wet walk led us to a dry observation platform over a small lake where we observed all three kingfishers species found in the US, including the tiny *Green Kingfisher*.



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks

Day 4 **South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center** had us enjoying the boardwalk trails through mangroves. We saw our first *Roseatte Spoonbills*. We also had great looks at a *Swamp Sparrow* and a *Mangrove Yellow Warbler* which thrilled even our local guide Stephan Lorenz! This island habitat allowed us the opportunity to bird from the beach where we studied shorebirds, gulls and

terns. Other highlights: a *Peregrine Falcon* perching on a water tower, and a *Yellow-Throated Warbler* feeding in the trees. As evening approached we went back onto the mainland in time for the evening gathering of *Green Parakeets* amongst thousands of *Great-tailed Grackles*.



Day 5 Our morning started in a **McAllen, Texas** neighborhood where *Monk Parakeets* nest. Afterward we arrived at **Bentsen Rio State Park**. This was a tour favorite and we enjoyed the raucous *Plain Chachalacas* and had spectacular views of three *Harris's Hawks* cooperatively hunting. To bird here we actually walked through the wall...

The Wall - Jean Fordis



Day 6 **Anzalduas Park** had us walking the shores along the Rio Grande. There were as many border patrol vehicles here as there were birds (an apparent drill on the border). We also got close to a *9-striped Armadillo*. This park had active mixed flocks which included *Black-crested Titmice*, *Black & White Warblers*, a *Pine Warbler* and *Northern Cardinals* just to name a few. That evening, we headed to a local neighborhood where we enjoyed the evening fly-in of the *Red-crowned Amazon Parrots*.

Day 7 Before heading to **Zapata** for our final night, we stopped back at the Santa Ana NWR and climbed their tower and found the *Bat Falcon!* Success! We then moved to the Quinta Mazatlan estate and enjoyed a *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*, *Summer Tanager*, *Yellow Warbler* and found the wintering female *Crimson-collared Grosbeak*.



Vermillion Flycatcher - LaRita Desimpel

Day 8 We were now in **Zapata, Texas** on our final full day. It was cold and rainy while we birded the Rio Grand and Mexican border. We finally saw our first *Greater Roadrunners* and had fantastic views of a male *Vermillion Flycatcher*, perched on a chair someone left out in the grasses.

Day 9 Our long awaited tour had come to an end as we made our way back to the airport. *We observed just over 160 species of birds*, explored new habitats, enjoyed wonderful evening meals, made new memories and established some great friendships. It was totally and absolutely worth the wait of more than two years!

Footnote from Lisa...

The first Texas tour was scheduled to take advantage of the Spring Migration. It had filled and we were all ready to go when Covid 19 appeared. That tour had to be cancelled only weeks before take off. As the months passed and vaccines became available it appeared as if travel could start again. Phone calls were made and a new itinerary took shape, but we changed the focus from spring migration to the birds that winter in Texas. I was able to successfully fill this tour too as birders were eager to get back out on an adventure.



Fabulous 15!

Then Omicron hit. For me it was a very stressful month between Christmas 2021 and the beginning of our January 2022 tour. How could we possibly keep 12 people plus 3 leaders Covid free before and during the tour?! Everyone was so cooperative and optimistic. We were all vaccinated and boosted and many plus myself double masked the weeks before. As each day passed we all remained healthy. Everyone took a home test the night before their flight and reported to me their Covid negative results and off we went. I am thrilled to say we all made it and had a fantastic tour traveling as a group in two vans. A thank you to all that were willing to do what it took to have that *Let's Go Birding* experience. Hallelujah! I would like to also thank Stephan Lorenz and Claudia Cavazos of High Lonesome Tours for their wonderful guidance and service.



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



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

- April 9** – Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, So. San Jose
- April 23** – Birding Joseph Grant County Park for SCVAS fundraiser
- April 30** – Stanford Arizona Garden, Palo Alto
- May 7** – Shannon Valley OSP, Los Gatos
- May 21** - Breeding Season Workshop in the field
- June 11** - Beginning Birding Workshop in the field
- June 25** – Location TBA depending on recent sightings

Bird ID Workshops

Open to all levels

These free workshops help customers learn how to identify four different species of birds found in the Bay Area per season.

Workshops will take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher outside in our back parking lot from 5:30 - 6:30 PM



Western Grebe family Photo – **Annette Teng**

We'll go over each species and review behaviors, food and habitat preferences plus species vocalizations. We ask that you bring your own folding chair and field guide with you. Workshop is limited to 30 people. Call the store to save your spot. **408-358-9453.**

Tuesday April 19

– Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe

Tuesday, May 24

– Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Hooded Oriole

Tuesday, June 21

– Vermillion Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird

Breeding Season Workshop

In the field with Lisa Myers, May 21, 9:00 AM – 12 PM

Scheduled in the midst of the breeding season, this workshop was created to talk about all the behind the scenes activities that take place this time of year. It is a busy time for our feathered friends as they work hard to get to their breeding areas, successfully find a mate, build a nest, defend territories and raise young.

This is a fun workshop as we look for nesting birds, listen for songs and observe behaviors. Space will be limited. Call the store to sign-up 408-358-9453.

Fee \$50.



Northern Mockingbird nest building– **Tom Grey**

SCVAS Spring Birdathon

March 26 – May 8



Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society holds an important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate, you can form your own team or join a pre-arranged team like the “Persistent Picidae’s” led by store owner Lisa Myers. Lisa’s team will go out on Sat. April 23 from 8 AM - 12 noon. To save on gas and time we will spend our morning birding together at Joseph Grant County Park in San Jose. Birders of all skill levels are welcome even if this is your first birdathon.

This gem of a park located in the Mount Hamilton Range offers beautiful Spring landscapes with a variety of habitats and species. We’ll also take time to observe the various species we find and learn something new about their behaviors and how to identify each. Lisa offers a relaxed and fun environment where new and experienced birders can come together and learn from each other. Participants are expected to donate or fundraise \$50 or more in contributions to participate in this team. The team fills at 20. You can join Lisa’s team by visiting SCVAS.org. And if you cannot bird with us that day we hope you will consider sponsoring the team.

Store Event – Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center WERC

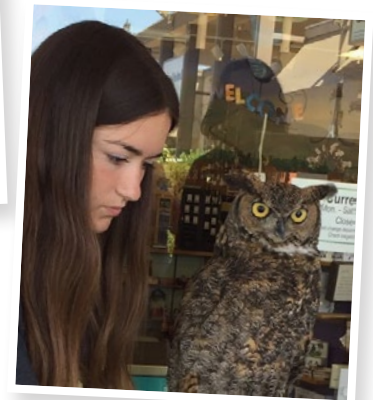
May 7 • 11 AM – 2 PM

We are very excited to have the volunteers from the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center returning to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher on Saturday, May 7 from 11 AM – 2 PM. WERC is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife.

The WERC volunteers will be here with their non-releasable ambassador birds. The volunteers from WERC will be happy to answer all your questions about their amazing birds. They also go out to schools and visit other organizations to educate the public on how to peacefully coexist with nature. Please plan to come down to the store and meet the volunteers from WERC and we encourage you to bring some extra cash to drop into their donation bucket. All money raised allows them to continue to do their good work for the animals.



Burrowing Owl "Terra" & Great-horned Owl "Luna" Ambassador Birds for WERC with their handlers



Beginning Birding Workshop

In the field with Lisa Myers, June 11 • 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

While everyone was sheltering in place, many people started birding for the first time. This workshop is designed for those new to birding. We’ll introduce you to the many aspects to birding from field guides and apps, to optics and local hot spots. We’ll talk about what you should look for to help you identify a species. All are welcome. Everyone will receive a booklet, “The Birds of Santa Clara County”. Call the store to sign-up, 408-358-9453. **Fee \$35**



Vecteezy.com

World Migratory Bird Day 2022

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is traditionally celebrated on the 2nd Saturday of May. Globally it is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Did you know that many birds migrate at night? They do this because the night sky is typically calmer and with fewer predators.

Because most birds migrate at night, this year's theme is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night." The night sky is under threat do to the increase of artificial light by at least 2% a year presenting a problem for birds. This night time light disorients migrating birds making them more likely to land in areas where they are more vulnerable to collisions. The impact of light pollution is the focus of World Migratory Bird Day 2022 with the goal to spread the message globally to dim the lights for birds at night and highlight the steps individual communities and governments can take to reduce the impact of light pollution. We'll have WMBD T-shirts, stickers and posters available in the store later this Spring.



To learn more about World Migratory Bird Day 2022, please visit www.migratorybirdday.org

Feeder Cleaning is an Important Service



One important aspect of feeding birds is keeping feeders clean. Birds come to our feeders in flocks and in so doing can spread illnesses between each other. It is important that you take time to clean your feeders on a regular basis. How often depends on how many birds you have. You can usually see when there is an unhealthy build up of caked on seed and grime at ports and on perches.

To make it easier for you, we try and find bird feeders that are easy to take apart and clean. All it takes is a screw driver, warm water, safe cleaning products and a few brushes. We would be more than happy to show you how to take apart your feeders. And for those that prefer a little extra help, we provide the service to clean your feeders. We do this at no cost to you, but ask that you leave a minimum of \$5 per feeder in one of our donation boxes. In 2021 we cleaned over 550 feeders and raised nearly \$3000 for local non-profits.

If You Find A Baby Bird

If you find what you think is an orphaned baby bird on the ground, we encourage you to leave it alone and watch from a distance to see if its parents come down to feed it. Several different species of birds actually leave the nest a few days before they can fly.

They hide in the bushes while their parents come down to feed and care for them until they can fly. However, if you have determined your baby bird is in danger and is too young to fend for itself, it is OK to pick up the bird, place it in a box and then call a rescue organization for assistance. You can refer to our home page for rescue organizations.



Dark-eyed Junco fledgling being fed by its mother
- Tom Grey

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

*Are You
Ready?*

*Happy
Father's
Day!*

Mother's Day is May 8, followed by **Father's Day on June 19**. We have all kinds of unique and thoughtful gift items for both Mother's & Father's Day, from jewelry to field guides, binoculars and garden stones. We encourage you to buy local. It's convenient for you and supports your local neighborhoods, and we're here to help answer your questions and wrap your gifts.



Stones
Garden Stones
made in the USA

Macone Clay
The perfect message
on ceramic



Chimes
Wind chimes
in all sizes



Owls
Our owls are looking
for a home



Compass
Dress up your
garden wall

Earth Day 2022 - Invest In Our Planet and win \$50 Gift Certificate

The first Earth Day took place on April 22 over 50 years ago when twenty million Americans protested across our nation in a unified response to the crisis the environment was facing. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is a unique business in that we celebrate our Earth everyday as we help to educate our community to live harmoniously with nature. The 2022 Earth Day theme is *“Invest In Our Planet”*. *“Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods”* (Earthday.org). So we wanted to ask our Los Gatos Birdwatcher community what you do to invest in our planet and make a difference for our Earth.

Here's How To Enter

Share what you do to invest in our planet by checking each box that applies to you. Return to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher on or before May 1. You'll then be entered into a drawing where six customers will win a \$50 gift certificate each to be used in the store. (Certificate cannot be applied toward binoculars). Good Luck!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep cats indoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Add native plants to the yard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate using pesticides/rodenticides | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle & compost your debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate to a nature organization making a difference | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reuse items from water bottles to grocery bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Go on nature walks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't trim landscape during the breeding season | <input type="checkbox"/> Drink shade grown coffee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take time to listen to the birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Offer habitat for bees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for a nature based organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce use of plastic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____



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

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|--|---|
| April 17 - Easter Sunday | June 14 - Flag Day |
| April 22 - Earth Day | June 19 - Father's Day |
| May 14 - World Migratory Bird Day | June 21 - First Day of Summer |
| May 8 - Mother's Day | July 4 - Independence Day (Closed) |
| May 30 - Memorial Day (Closed) | |

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is closed on Sundays

Find us on Facebook and Instagram





Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Coupon Expires June 30, 2022

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

#JUNE2022

Store Hours

Please visit: losgatosbirdwatcher.com

