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# The Earth Needs Our Help

*So what are you doing?* By Lisa Myers

In honor of this year's Earth Day theme, "Invest In Our Planet," we conducted a store survey and drawing to better learn what our local community is doing to make a difference. We asked folks what they do to help nature and the birds. We received feedback from over 100 customers and this is what we learned. You should all be proud! Every little bit helps and we *can* make a difference.

- 90% **Reuse** items, minimizing single use packaging
- 88% Take time out to **listen** to the birds
- 81% Try and **reduce** use of plastic
- 79% Added **native** plants to their gardens
- 78% **Eliminate** using pesticides or rodenticides
- 74% **Recycle** and compost
- 69% Offer habitat for **bees**
- 68% Go on **nature** walks
- 59% **Hold off** trimming landscapes during the breeding season
- 58% **Donate** to nature based organizations
- 54% Have **planted** a tree!
- 36% Keep their **cats indoors**.
- 17% **Volunteer** for nature based organizations
- 9% Drink **shade-grown** coffee

## Customers shared that they also...

- Teach pre-school students about nature
- Buy natural cleaning products
- Share wildflower seeds
- Use renewable energy
- Conserve water
- Eat organic

**Swallowtail Butterfly**  
- Tony Woo



## Summer 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 SEPT. 30, 2022    #SUMMER2022

## Plastic or Paper?

A few years ago, we changed how we bagged seed at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We minimized the use of plastic bags and converted everything we could over to paper bags. This was not an easy task because bird seed can be heavy and contain oils that seep into the paper. We eventually found a tin-tie bag that worked and was a fan favorite. However, once the pandemic hit we could no longer get this bag and had to go back to using plastic.

Once we could again get the tin-tie bag, they were available in limited quantities and prices increased. With seed prices also rising we wanted to find a way to minimize packaging costs and found a new kraft paper bag that we hope will meet everyone's needs. Its not as pretty, but these 100% recycled bags are also compostable. You can throw them in your compost pile after use. We have also had to go to a 2nd seed supplier in order to offer all the seed mixes our customers have grown to know. The 2nd supplier does not use paper. We have asked repeatedly that they try and re-package their product, but until that happens you will find our 20 - 50 Lb. bags of seed in both paper and plastic. Many customers say they re-use the plastic bags for taking out their garbage. Thank you all for understanding.

# Helping the Birds In Retirement

by Freddy Howell

First a little background. After we sold the Los Gatos Birdwatcher to Lisa Myers, John & I moved south outside of Paso Robles. We designed and built our home in a development located on an old cattle ranch with lots of hills, oaks, ground squirrels and, most importantly, two major stands of eucalyptus trees. When we first looked at our lot in 2013, we were told, and then saw, a golden eagle female sitting on what we now call the “Prospect Nest”; hence the reason we bought the lot! We moved-in in 2018 and met neighbor Darci. As a community, and with Darci at the helm, we have been fighting a PG&E proposal to put high voltage lines along a road located at the entrance of our community. One of our talking points against this proposal is that there is a law that says power lines cannot be closer than 1000 feet from an active golden eagle nest. The “Prospect Nest” is 961’ from the proposed lines. Our nesting golden eagles have been a huge part of our quest to declare our road off limits for the proposed project.



**Eaglet “Hope” in Box**  
– Freddy Howell

Every year since we moved in we have enjoyed a pair of golden eagles nesting within view of our back deck. This year has been an exciting and eventful breeding season. The female is known as Goldilocks, because of her brightly gold nape, and the male is Instacart, because he flies in, drops the food and leaves. Each year they choose between two nest sights. The “Prospect Nest” is usually used in odd numbered years. We have photos and observational data from 2017, 2019, 2021. The “West Gate Nest” (located in another stand of eucalyptus) is about a quarter mile away and has been used on even numbered years (2018, 2020). This year Goldilocks and Instacart refurbished the West Gate Nest in early January, but then switched and refurbished the Prospect Nest. Then on 2/21/22 Goldilocks was observed sitting in the Prospect Nest incubating.



We noticed continued mating behavior and wondered if we might see two chicks this year. Then on April 4, (45 days after Goldilocks started incubating) the first of two chicks hatched and was named Hope. Eight days later on April 12, the second chick hatched, and was named Maverick. From our scope perch, we logged behavior between 5 and 10 times a day; there were 66 days ahead until fledging, so that’s a long log list!

Things got very exciting on May 14. I checked the nest around 2:45 pm (91 degrees) and only saw Maverick. I put on boots and gloves and walked down the rather treacherous bank looking for the wayward eaglet. There was Hope, on the ground, wings outstretched, mouth open, panting in the heat and looking quite startled. The bank trail was covered in downed limbs, branches and leaves and after almost losing a boot I was able to make my way down to Hope. I bundled-up the eaglet and carried it to safety back up the bank. While Hope rested in the shade, I frantically called John to bring the car and a box. Luckily, I have a friend who volunteers for our wonderful wildlife rehabilitation group, Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC) in Morro Bay, 40 minutes away. I called, gave her the details and she alerted PWC to expect us. While placing Hope in the box he/she decided it didn’t want to go in and wrapped its talons around my wrist. No blood, thankfully, and I successfully extracted my wrist with John’s help. While John drove, I sat near the box checking every few minutes to make sure Hope was still breathing. We reached PWC and were greeted with great excitement. We left the young raptor with them.

*Freddy near the truck, Eagle nest high above – Darci*



**Golden Eagle adult**  
– Tony Woo

Now the hard part of waiting...I called every day asking for updates. On day 3, I finally spoke to “Vann”, the Center Director. He said Hope only had a slight abrasion on one wing and was deemed “skinny” by their vet. He explained that the State of California Fish and Wildlife requires re-nesting wherever possible and the plan was to put Hope back in the nest. On Wednesday, May 18, I got the call that a tree trimming company was in the area and Hope was going to be re-nested that day.

Matt, the tree trimmer, had never done anything like this. When Vann arrived with Hope, he said he also had never done anything like this. Both were excited. All safety protocol was followed; Matt and Vann harnessed up and rode in the bucket about 50’ in the air. It wasn’t quite far enough so they came back down, repositioned the truck and tried again. When they still needed an extra few feet, Matt flicked a switch and the whole base of the boom raised up. Hope made the ride up in the carrier and was deposited in the nest with a rather startled younger sibling, Maverick looking on. The best news, an hour later, mother Goldilocks flew in with dinner.

The next three weeks were luckily uneventful and both chicks continued to grow and change from white fluff balls, to big, brown birds the size of their parents. Roughly eight weeks after hatching Hope fledged on June 11, and Maverick on the 15th. Then new drama started. Late on June 16 I got a frantic phone call from my neighbor up the hill behind the nest tree. Karyn said a baby eagle was in her yard. It was getting late, so we agreed to wait the night. The next morning, mother Goldilocks was sitting in a tree below Karyn’s house looking out over the ravine. Fledgling Maverick was spotted hiding under a bush in Karyn’s yard, but not making a sound to help Goldilocks find its location. Later, Karyn filmed a video showing Maverick “running” along the fence line. We sent the video to PWC and all thought Maverick looked okey so there was no reason to intervene.

Maverick continued in Karyn’s front yard, but without any visible support from parents Goldilocks and Instacart. There was discussion about feeding the eaglet, but I stifled that idea as PWC had said not to feed. There were two tall fences enclosing the home’s yard from open space and there was talk to somehow guide Maverick up and over two fences. I squashed that idea, too. Then on June 18 I got a frantic call to say that Maverick was bouncing off the fence trying to get to the back yard. That tipped me to act. John noticed there was an unfenced area between Karyn and her neighbor. I got gloves and sheets and sped up the hill disregarding all 25 mph signs. I had one neighbor hold one of the sheets to block Maverick’s visual path. I took another sheet and gathered up Maverick, trying to keep wings, talons and beak all in the right places and not near my fleshy parts. I carried Maverick, out of the yard and then down the hill. Quite hefty, I carefully let Maverick go. He ran at first, picked up speed and actually flew a bit and then did a rather nice controlled landing. The corker in all this was that we were supposed to be at a dinner party at our new neighbors – we were only 7 minutes late! Next day Darci saw Goldilocks deposit a ground squirrel to both Maverick and Hope. As of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher Summer newsletter deadline we think Hope flew toward our lake and we can hear Hope calling. We also think we are hearing Maverick chirping, and we have seen both parents. I will give Lisa an update for the August email blast. Fingers crossed for a happy ending.



**Placing Hope back into the nest – Darci**



**Matt & Vann, Successful re-nesting! – Darci**



**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. 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.

**July 9** – Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, San Jose

**July 23** – Sat. evening bird walk page 5 for details

**Aug 13** – Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant

**Aug 27** – Fundraiser, details page 5

**Sept. 10** – Bear Creek Redwood Preserve, Los Gatos

**Sept. 24** – Emily Renzel Wetlands, Palo Alto

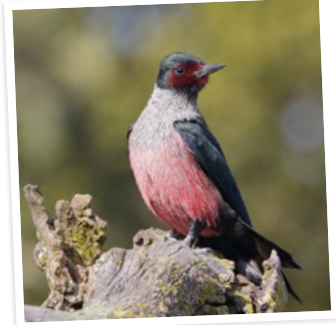
## Bird ID Workshops

**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. We'll review 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.



Lewis's Woodpecker  
– **Brooke Miller**

**Tuesday July 19** *Just outside the Bay Area*  
– White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Lewis's Woodpecker

**Tuesday, August 23** *Harder to find*  
– Purple Martin, White-throated Swift, Black Swift, Bank Swallow

**Tuesday, Sept. 20**  
– Great Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, American Bittern, Black Skimmer

## Young Birders Field Trips are In The Works

**Sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society**

Our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is formulating scheduled bird walks for the younger birders in our community. Recently 14 enthusiastic "young birders" joined student Massimo Bafetti as he led the group throughout the Palo Alto Baylands. Massimo and his parents are all customers of the store and active members of Santa Clara Valley Audubon.

Afterward Executive Director Matthew Dodder reported, "Some young birders were brand new to the sport while others had considerable experience. We toured the lagoon, the boardwalk and duck pond finding 31 species including an immature PEREGRINE FALCON chasing EUROPEAN STARLINGS and a WHITE-THROATED SWIFT feeding over the parking area." SCVAS intends to offer more Young Birders Field Trips so check scvas.org for updates.



Male  
Purple  
Martin –  
Garret Lau

## Sunset Hike Field Trip

Sat. July 23 • 6:00 PM – sunset 8:23 PM

To take advantage of the hot summer nights this Let's Go Birding walk is scheduled for the sunset hours. We'll meet at Calero Reservoir at 6:00 PM (*\$6 parking fee per car*) We'll watch the various insect eating birds come out and forage for food just before they head in for the night. We'll be on the look out for several different species of swallows including Purple Martins that have been seen here. Please call the store to register **408-358-9453**.

## Out After Dark

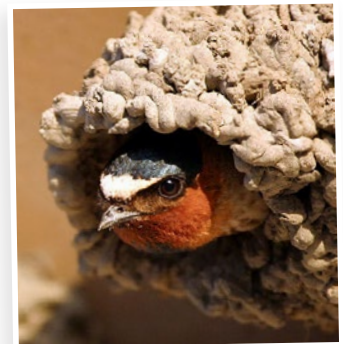
– Fundraiser for the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley  
In the field with Lisa Myers and the Midpen Docents

Customers are always asking for new adventures, so we have planned one for **Saturday, August 27**. In partnership with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space we have arranged for a private, Los Gatos Birdwatcher, docent led nature walk at one of the many MIDPEN open spaces along Skyline Blvd. Location to be finalized closer to the event. Participants will drive themselves and meet a 6:00 PM. We will be joined by several experienced MIDPEN docents who will share with us on all topics of nature from bugs to shrubs, plus stars and mammals. We will continue our walk after the 8:00 PM sunset as we look for the birds and wildlife that come out at dusk. We will be on fairly level dirt trails throughout our hike and will return back to our cars around 10:00 PM. A restroom will be available. Everyone will asked to bring their own picnic dinner and we'll enjoy our meal in the great outdoors. All spring the store receives numerous calls from customers and concerned citizens regarding injured birds and wildlife they find in their neighborhoods. We are so grateful for the assistance provided by the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley that 100% of the money collected for this night time adventure will be donated to them; our local, wildlife rescue non-profit. **\$50.00 per person. Limited to 20 people.**



## It Takes A Village by Lisa Myers

Last April we started to hear from concerned customers. They had noticed a sign posted on a bridge that crosses over Los Gatos Creek in the area of Oka Road and Dell Ave. This bridge is in the middle of the Los Gatos Creek Park. This park is both a riparian corridor for plants and wildlife and is part of an intricate system of water resources and flood protection. The habitat found here is a birding hot spot throughout the year. There are many ways into the park if you are walking your dog, jogging or riding your bike, but the main auto entrance is off Dell Ave. in Campbell. The sign said the bridge was to be closed so that maintenance could occur. They wanted to replace some wooden slats, however, the spring closure dates coincided with the breeding season of the Cliff Swallow. Cliff Swallows return to the Bay Area every spring in order to raise young.



Cliff Swallow with  
mud nest  
– Garrett Lau

They make their mud nests on vertical surfaces including the under sides of bridges. Store customers were asking for our help to get the decision makers to change their scheduled repair dates. Power washing a bridge during the breeding season would prove disastrous for any breeding Cliff Swallows. There are even laws in place that protect migratory birds during the breeding season, but first people need to be made aware that a specific species is protected and is nesting. As a Los Gatos business owner, a friend of the Santa Clara Parks Dept. a birder and Campbell resident, I emailed all the contacts I knew that could possibly help. It did not take long as everyone started to reply from those in local government to park rangers. Captain A. Famalett of the Santa Clara County Parks Dept. also replied to say they had removed the signs posted on the bridge. They were re-scheduling the bridge project until after Sept. 1. By then the swallows should be finishing raising young and many will be on their way back to South America where they'll spend the winter. Captain Famalett was thankful for this citizen input and was happy to help. Success! We all thank you. *Fun fact – one Cliff Swallow can consume up to 700 flying insects per day. That is the pesticide free way to rid ourselves of mosquitoes!*

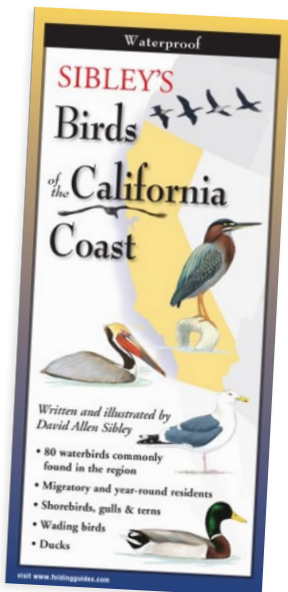
# Products for Summertime Adventures

– We have products to help you on your travels



## Hats

We have a variety of hats to help you look good and protect you from the sun



## Laminated ID Guides

We have a selection of hand held ID guides to help you identify everything from birds to flowers, mammals and trees



## Bug Catcher

We can help you catch and look at your bugs under magnification before you set it free



## Games

Board Games to play with family & friends



## Compression Socks

Recommended when you travel. We have socks for both men & women

# “I Asked My Phone for a Birdwatcher’s Phone Number”

By Lisa Myers

We help people all the time identify their mystery birds. It is easy for us to do, and it brings such joy to them. Sometimes customers show us a photo they took on their phone, or they send emails to the store with photos attached. We also meet new people requesting IDs. Some have never been in the store, and they do not consider themselves birders, but their curiosity gets the best of them. They walk in with their Peet’s coffee or perhaps a Togo’s sandwich and ask us for an ID. It’s always fun to tell them what their bird is and provide additional information on the species. Hawks and eagles seem to be the most popular.

Last spring we got a call all the way from Texas. A rancher by the name of Erasmo had photographed a beautiful bird on his window sill, a bird he had never before seen. He did not have a computer and asked if he could send his photos via text? We gave him a cell number to use and after we received his photos we quickly texted him back. His mystery bird was a gorgeous male Painted Bunting! This is a bird we seldom see out in California. The date it appeared on his window sill coincided with the Spring migration. His bird may have spent the winter in Mexico or Central America and was returning to Texas for the 2022 breeding season. We have continued to help ID several more birds visiting Erasmo’s ranch and he shares with us the yard birds he knows like Northern Cardinals, Green Jays and Barn Swallows. We asked how he found us all the way from Texas. He said he asked his phone, “*Can you give me a birdwatcher’s phone number?*” His phone answered with the phone number for the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Its a small world.



Painted Bunting on Texas window sill

If you want to learn more about Painted Buntings visit: [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Painted\\_Bunting/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Painted_Bunting/)

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## 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.



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

# Bay Nature Magazine Offers Insight Into All Things Wildlife

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher has advertised within Bay Nature Magazine for decades. Its a beautiful magazine that connects the people of the San Francisco Bay Area to our wildlife and wild places, and motivates people to solve problems with nature in mind. Their vision is that all people have a close relationship with the natural world. An independent environmental media nonprofit based in Berkeley, their programs include quarterly Bay Nature magazine and popular website which covers science and nature, conservation, and outdoor exploration. Every issue highlights Bay Area landscapes and wildlife, featuring nature journaling from the artist/ naturalist John Muir Laws and art by the acclaimed wildlife illustrator Jane Kim.



Ask The Naturalist column by naturalist Michael Ellis answers your most pressing natural wonder questions. Recent Bay Nature features include stories on the family relationships of woodpeckers; a moth that's as big as a hummingbird; whales' and porpoises' return to San Francisco Bay, rare Dawn redwoods; blue-eyed coyotes; and Indigenous ways to manage wildfire. And every issue features new trails and parks to explore! They also organize a host of educational events. You can purchase Bay Nature Magazine at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher while supplies last, or subscribe to the magazine and have it delivered to your home. **Special introductory offer for Los Gatos Birdwatcher Friends: Save 20% on a one-year Bay Nature subscription! Just use the code LGBIRDER to get your discount. Cancel anytime!**



LOS GATOS  
Birdwatcher

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

Find us on Facebook  
and Instagram



## Dates to Remember

- July 4 – Independence Day (Closed)
- Aug. 27 – Fundraiser
- Sept. 5 – Labor Day (Closed)
- Sept. 11 – Grandparents Day
- Sept. 22 – First Day of Fall

Closed Sundays

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Birdwatcher

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Coupon Expires Sept. 30, 2022

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#SEPT2022

## Store Hours

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

