



IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Now Selling Chicken Feed	1
Where Cats and Birds Can Co-Exist	1
2024 - The Year for Bird Name Changes	2 & 3
Let's Go Birding Tours and Workshops	4 & 5
Valentine's Day	5
Hummingbird Products	6
It's Time To Get Your Birdhouses Up and Ready	8
Dates to Remember	8
Loyal Customer Discount	8

## Now Selling Chicken Feed



Enjoying backyard chickens

For years customers have been asking us for chicken feed. We always sent them a few blocks north to the experts at "cHICK n bEES." However, cHICK n bEES store owner Melody retired leaving one less place to find food for your chickens.

To offer some convenience and help out our local backyard chicken community, we will carry a few lines of premium chicken feed. So tell your friends.

## Where Cats and Birds Can Co-Exist

We are all about wild birds here at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and successfully co-existing with them. One of the biggest threats to birds is house cats. Because of this, some cat owners have made the decision to keep their cats indoors. This is great news for birds and the other wildlife cats prey upon. Indoor cats also live a life without the risk of cars, coyotes, dogs, cat fights, and some diseases. But we know there are folks who want their cats to spend time outdoors. So we wanted to let everyone know about Habitat Haven.

Habitat Haven has been providing happy and safe outdoor enjoyment to pets worldwide since 2003. The inspiration for their enclosures was born out of practical necessity and love for their own two cats! Their outdoor cat enclosures, "cat runs", or "Catios", are strong, durable, and tastefully designed. Each enclosure is fabricated by hand in Michigan and made to order! They use black powder-coated steel components and a sturdy mesh fence that can withstand extreme weather climates and keep out other animals, ensuring a cat's protection.

It is interesting when you think about what dog owners will do for their dogs. They often build dog runs in their yards or hire dog walkers to exercise their dogs every day. Dogs go on runs with their owners and play for hours at a dog park. Cats on the other hand are often left on their own. What a great idea to build a special place for your cat. A place where your cat can enjoy the outdoors and stay safe. And it's also safe for the birds.

To learn more about Habitat Haven please visit their website [habitathaven.com](http://habitathaven.com). They will be happy to answer your questions and help you design your own catio.

# Winter Coupon

## 15%

**off one item**

**Loyal customers simply mention this coupon**

Excludes all food items or seed, sale or consignment items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.

Expires March 31, 2024    #WINTER2024





Habitat Haven builds custom cat enclosures

# 2024 – The Year for Bird Name Changes

by Lisa Myers

Some species are named after the habitat they are known to be found like Rock Wrens for instance. Or they are named after their preferred food –Acorn Woodpeckers. Some birds are named after a key field mark or their coloration – Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Spotted Towhee, or Cinnamon Teal. And then there are the eponymous bird names, referring to all the birds named after a person.

Most bird names were selected decades ago before most of us were born. It is the species, named after people, that has now come under controversy. While some birds were named after the person who discovered them or in some cases saved them from extinction, that was not always the case. You see, some birds were named after people who had nothing to do with conservation or birds. They were people who simply knew someone that had the power to name a bird after them. And then there are the birds

named after people that by today’s standards are not to be admired. Even the name Audubon is a hot topic right now as John James Audubon (1785-1851) had ties to slavery. So how does one decide if the eponym for which a bird was named should remain or be changed? Was the person one to be admired, or one whose behavior we now disapprove of? As they asked in Oz, “Are you a good witch or a bad witch?”

And there are the many scientists, ornithologists and researchers that did tremendous work to save habitat and or a species and they have never had a bird named after them. What about all those people? So after months of dialogue, research, committee meetings, community feedback and debate it was determined by the AOS that the easiest solution to this controversy was simply changing the names of all birds named after anyone.

Here are just a few examples of some of the birds which will get a new name:

## Bewick’s Wren

Named after English naturalist **Thomas Bewick** (1753 – 1828)



New name ideas:  
**White-browed Wren**  
or **Perky Tail Wren**

Photo by Gina Dias

## Bullock’s Oriole

Named after English amateur naturalist **William Bullock** (1773 – 1849)



New name ideas:  
**Shy Oriole**  
or **Whistling Oriole**

Photo by LC Boros

## Nuttall’s Woodpecker

Named after English naturalist botanist & zoologist **Thomas Nuttall** (1786 – 1859)



New name ideas:  
**Zebra Woodpecker**  
or **Western Woodpecker**

Photo by Tony Woo

Since 1886, the AOS and its predecessor, the American Ornithologists' Union, have maintained a list of official English-language names for birds in North America and more recently, South America. Gustave Axelson from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology wrote, "At the heart of the issue, the committee had to weigh two sides: is it better to keep long-accepted common names for the stability they provide; or would changing eponymous names free the birds from the personal pasts of individuals, as well as do a better job of describing the birds?"

On Nov. 1, 2023, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) announced, *"in an effort to address past wrongs and engage far more people in the enjoyment, protection, and study of birds, it will change all English bird names currently named after people within its geographic jurisdiction. The AOS will also change the process by which English names are selected for bird species. The effort will begin in 2024 and will focus initially on 70–80 bird species that occur primarily within the U.S. and Canada."*

The plan is to name the birds after a field mark or something true to the species that has nothing to do with a person. And as always, each name has to be unique to a species so care will be taken that

no other bird, preferably on Earth, has that same name. Each species will keep their Latin name which shows their relationship with the other birds in their family and is the language most used by scientists and ornithologists. The majority of nature lovers and birders use the common names of a species. Maybe the public will be given the opportunity to help re-name these species. No matter what happens there will be some new learning going on.

Many of the birds that will get a new name are the ones we enjoy in our neighborhoods and gardens. No matter how you feel about this topic, this will be an incredibly daunting task as literature, field guides, websites, park signage, eBird, phone Apps... all will have to be rewritten. And this is only the beginning. Insects, plants, mammals, fish... anything named after a person may be looking at a name change in the future. It makes me wonder what our society is doing today that future societies will deem inappropriate. But we'll leave that for another conversation.

There is a lot being written about this topic. If you would like to read more about this yourself please visit [www.allaboutbirds.org/news/inside-aos-recommendation-bird-common-names](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/inside-aos-recommendation-bird-common-names).

### Steller's Jay

Named after German zoologist, explorer & physician **Georg Wilhelm Steller** (1709 – 1746)



*New name ideas:*  
**Stellar Jay**  
or **Black-hooded Jay**

*Photo by Oscar Dang*

### Townsend's Warbler

Named after American naturalist & ornithologist **John Kirk Townsend** (1809 – 1851)



*New name ideas:*  
**White-bellied Warbler**  
or **Streak-flanked Warbler**

*Photo by Brooke Miller*

### Cooper's Hawk

Named after American naturalist & conchologist (shell zoologist) **William Cooper** (1798 – 1864)



*New name ideas:*  
**Backyard Hawk**  
or **Long-tailed Hawk**

*Photo by Ron Machado*



# Let's go Birding

## 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 every month. Dates and locations are listed below and on our website. Unless it is a special workshop, these walks are free and open to all birding levels, but pre-registration is required. Walks fill between 20-25 people. Unless otherwise stated, walks start on-site at 8:30 AM and end around 10:00 AM. Call the store to register at 408-358-9453.



<b>Jan. 6</b>	Bear Creek Redwoods, above Lexington Reservoir
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Oka Ponds, Los Gatos Creek Park
<b>Feb. 10</b>	Half Day at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont ( <i>see details</i> )
<b>Feb. 24</b>	Byxbee Park, Palo Alto Baylands
<b>Mar. 16</b>	McClellan Ranch, Cupertino
<b>Mar. 23</b>	Location to Be Announced depending on recent reports

## Do Your Major Tree Trimming Before March

The breeding season will be here before you know it. If you have major tree or hedge trimming that needs to be done please consider doing it now before the birds start building nests and raising young.



## Winter Raptor Workshop for SFBBO

Coyote Valley - Limited to 20 people

February 3 • 9 AM – 1 PM

Fee: \$60

Register at: [www.sfbbo.org/workshops.html](http://www.sfbbo.org/workshops.html)

Eagles, hawks, and falcons are all considered raptors. They are always a favorite group of birds because of their impressive size, field marks, and hunting lifestyle. Winter is the time of year we have a higher concentration of raptors here in Northern California. We will spend our morning in the open spaces around Coyote Valley in South San Jose.



**Red-tailed Hawk**  
– Tony Woo



Location details will be provided closer to the date. During the workshop, we will discuss the different raptor families found in the Bay Area and the field marks to look for in order to tell them apart. The raptors we hope to find include both Bald and Golden Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks in addition to Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, American Kestrels, and Merlin.

### During the workshop we'll review:

- What raptor species can be found in the Bay Area during the winter?
- How are raptors grouped into their different families
- What are the preferred prey items per species
- How can we identify the juveniles from adults and males from females
- Which are the preferred habitats for the different species of raptors
- What does the breeding season look like for each raptor species
- What threats do raptors have in the Bay Area and beyond

## Birding The Morning at Coyote Hills Regional Park

Saturday, February 10 • 8:30 AM – Noon

This is a new offering for Let's Go Birding enthusiasts. We'll spend the entire morning birding a Bay Area hot spot. This will allow the opportunity to explore more habitats and find more birds. This morning we'll bird Coyote Hills Regional Park located in Fremont. This East Bay location provides a variety of habitats from saltwater ponds to rolling grasslands and marshlands.



We can expect a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. The trails are level, but we will be standing or walking the entire time. Bathrooms are available. Parking fee required. Participants will meet at the park. Call the store to register 408-358-9453. **Fee: \$25**

**Great Egret** – Tony Woo

## New To Birding? This Evening Workshop Is For You!

With Instructor Lisa Myers

Tuesday, March 12 • 6:00 – 7:30 PM

This workshop is geared for those new to birding and will take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. In the last few years, many people have picked up binoculars and have been using phone apps to help ID birds. This workshop will take you beyond the Apps and help you with all aspects of birdwatching like how birds get grouped together, how habitat and seasons affect what you will find, and how to use your binoculars. You will learn about the many Bay Area birding resources available to you. And bring all your questions! Call the store to register 408-358-9453. **Fee: \$25**



## One-stop Shopping for Your Valentine

**Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14** – Remember this Valentine's Day that the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is the one-stop place to shop! When you pop in to get your bird seed we encourage you to also pick up that special something for your Valentine. We have all kinds of great gifts for the garden in addition to jewelry, scarves, and much more. And we'll even gift wrap it for you. We are happy to help keep the love alive.



and have fun through the love and experience of birds and nature."

# Anna's Hummingbirds Are Busy This Time of Year

**Anna's Hummingbird** – Named for Princess Anna de Belle Massena (1802-1887), will soon get a new name. Regardless of the name, we know this little hummingbird as the active hummer we have in our Bay Area gardens all year long. So it is important to keep your hummingbird feeders clean and with fresh nectar. A surprise to many, the Anna's Hummingbirds may even be nesting this time of year. We offer a variety of products for you to help the hummingbirds in your neighborhood.



Anna's Hummingbird  
on a favorite  
Aspects feeder  
– Oscar Dang



## Nectar Defender

A non-toxic natural way  
to keep nectar fresh



## Ready Made Nectar

If you prefer the convenience of already  
made nectar we offer Sweet Seed ready  
to use and in concentrate



## Nectar Ant Moat

We have several simple solutions,  
including ant moats to keep  
ants out of your nectar



## Nest Building Materials

We have a variety of nest building  
materials you can offer your hummers

## We have a great selection of...

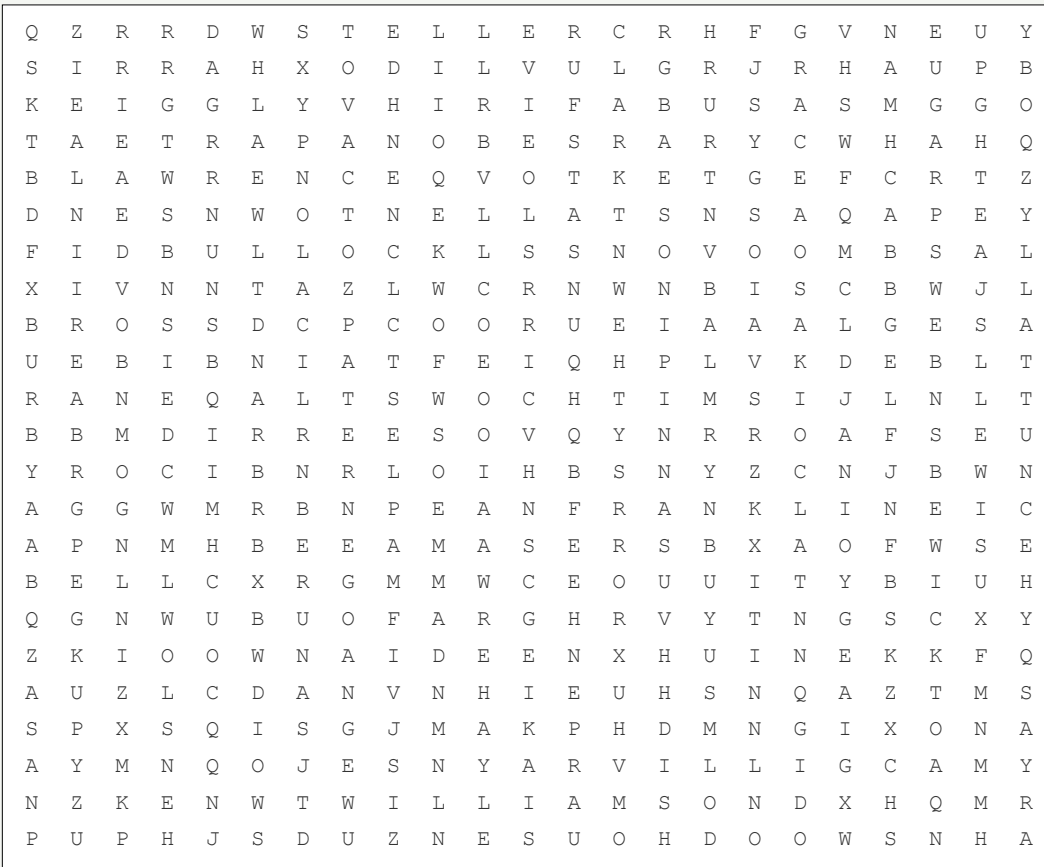
- easy to clean hummingbird feeders
- feeder and port cleaning brushes
- hummingbird feeder baffles
- hooks to hang your feeder
- hummingbird garden art
- hummingbird ID charts

We also want to remind  
everyone that hummingbirds  
use spider webs and soft fibers  
found in nature to build their nests.  
They do not nest in the man-made  
baskets or bird houses you may have  
seen being advertised  
on social media.  
So save your money.



# A Word Search in Memory of Eponymous Bird Names

Hidden in the puzzle are just some of the names that will soon be replaced.



Words can go in any direction.  
Words can share letters as they cross each other.

- ALLEN                    HENSLAW
- ANNA                    HUTTON
- BACHMAN                LAWRENCE
- BAIRD                    LEACH
- BELL                     LEWIS
- BENDIRE                 LINCOLN
- BEWICK                  MACGILLIVRAY
- BLACKBURNIAN          NELSON
- BONAPARTE              NUTTALL
- BOTTERI                 RIDGWAY
- BRANDT                  ROSS
- BREWER                 SABINE
- BULLOCK                 SAY
- CASSIN                  SCOTT
- CLARK                    SMITH
- COOPER                 SPRAGUE
- CORY                     STEJNEGER
- COSTA                    STELLER
- COUCH                    SWAINSON
- FORSTER                 TOWNSEND
- FRANKLIN                VAUX
- GAMBEL                 WILLIAMSON
- GRACE                    WILSON
- HAMMOND                WOODHOUSE
- HARRIS                  XANTUS
- HEERMANN

For the full story refer to pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter. And if you want to see which species we are talking about, and download the word search for yourself, please refer to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher website under "resources" or pop by the store for a copy.

## Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **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.

- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program**

– We will come out to your home (15-mile radius) 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 \$50 consultation fee per visit. With your visit, you’ll receive a \$25 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate.

- **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. 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. We clean feeders on Thursday and recommend dropping your feeder off by Wednesday. *Please no more than two at a time.*

- **Frequent Buyer Program**

– Buy 10 of the same seed bags of 20# or higher at full price and get the 11th bag free. Coupons do not apply.

# It's Time To Get Your Birdhouses Up and Ready

The 2024 Breeding Season is Just Around the corner



The breeding season for many of the songbirds that live in our gardens is only a few months away. This means your birds will start looking now for the ideal place to nest. If you have a nest box in your yard already this is a good time to clean it out. To make this easier, we recommend only using bird boxes that can be easily cleaned. This could mean a wall that opens up with the adjustment of a screw or an easy-to-remove-and-replace floor. Such openings provide you access so you can remove everything left over from the previous year's nesting season.

For the 2024 breeding season, your birds will want to make a new nest. So it is OK to remove everything old that you find inside. Also, look for any parasites that may have taken over the nest box. If you find parasites simply dip your box into boiling water (*no chemicals*) and allow it to dry before putting it back out in your yard. (*We also carry a product in the store that is non-toxic and made to clean nest boxes*). If you discover your box was never used, consider moving it to a new location. Try to avoid areas too close to your feeders. Cleaning out your box will also help it last longer. And if you would like to add a birdhouse to your yard we offer a great selection of high-quality birdhouses designed to attract several Bay Area cavity-nesting species including Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Oak Titmouse, and Bewick's Wrens.



LOS GATOS  
Birdwatcher

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

- Jan. 6 – Bear Creek Redwoods bird walk
- Jan. 20 – Oka Ponds bird walk
- Feb. 3 – Raptor workshop
- Feb. 10 – Coyote Hills Regional Park bird walk
- Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day
- Feb. 24 – Byxbee Park, Palo Alto Baylands bird walk
- March 12 – Beginning Birding Workshop
- March 16 – McClellan Ranch, Cupertino
- March 23 – Bird walk location to be announced



*Loyal Customer Discount*

Mention this coupon and take...

**15% off one item**

**Coupon Expires March 31, 2024**

#MAR2024

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

## Store Hours

Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 5:00 PM  
Open late on Tuesday until 7:00 PM  
Closed Sundays

