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# Happy 22nd Anniversary!

by Lisa Myers

This season, we're celebrating our 22nd year of serving the Los Gatos community and my 2nd year as the store owner. I wish to thank all of you



Lisa Myers celebrates two years of store ownership.

who have shopped at the store since the very beginning back in 1995. It's priceless, as a local small business owner, to know that we are supported and loved. For a "brick and mortar" like us, we know how convenient online shopping can be but we also know that our store offering is unique. Customers come in to learn about nature, ask questions, talk about birds, join birding tours, and so much more. It's extremely important that we keep you all well-served and stocked with the items and services you love.

Most of you know we have the best seed for miles around and you keep us on our toes, coming back time after time looking for new gift and garden items, clothing, and fun socks. Mothers, fathers, children, veterans, caregivers, visitors and your dogs – you all walk into the Birdwatcher and we thank you. Customers can touch all of our in-store products, try on clothing, and walk right out the door with purchases in hand. Whether it's 5 lbs or 500,



we'll help take your birdseed and other purchases out to your car. It's a pleasure doing business with all you folks. **Thank you and keep coming back!**

## Our Special Anniversary Giveaway kicks off on Small Business Saturday!

If you spend a minimum of \$50 in the store starting **Nov. 25 - Dec. 1** you will receive a beautiful nature bandana made in the USA in Chico, Ca. We'll have many different designs from which you get to choose. *While supplies last. Value \$8.00*

## Small Business Saturday: November 25

Small Business Saturday, a nationwide event, encourages holiday shoppers to patronize small brick and mortar businesses that make up our local economy. A counterpart to Black Friday/Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shopping at small, local businesses like the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. We will be featuring special raffles and giveaways, so come shop with us!

# FALL COUPON

**Mention this coupon and take...  
10% off one item**

**Expires December 31, 2017**

**#FALL123117** One Coupon per customer please. Excludes all food items or seed, sale items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.



## Holiday Store Hours

- Nov. 22** (Wednesday) Closing at 4pm
- Nov. 23** (Thursday) Closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 18 – 23** (Special hours ) 9am–6:30pm
- Dec. 24** (Sunday, Christmas Eve) 11am–4pm
- Dec. 25** (Monday, Christmas) Closed
- Dec. 31** (Sunday, New Year's Eve) 11am– 4pm
- Jan. 1** (Monday, New Year's Day) Closed



# Check out our exciting new products!



## Socks, socks & more socks

Everyone already knows we are a great place to find fun socks. This year is no exception. Our men's sock selection is larger than ever. We now carry compression socks for men and women.



## Holiday Ornaments and Gift Wrapping

We are known for our large selection of holiday ornaments and don't forget, we gift wrap for free.



## Gift of binoculars

We think everyone should have a great pair of binoculars. They are the necessary tool for birders, but they are also ideal for sporting events, whale watching, hiking and more. A great gift idea.



## Bird Seed Storage

Perfectly sized metal cans are hard to find these days. We have the solution for your seed storage needs.



## Cards & Calendars

We have a great selection of both holiday cards and 2018 calendars.



## Whimsical Wooden birds

We now carry bird carvings from Dcuk, a family business located in the UK. We have owls, ducks and penguins and they all arrive with unique names.

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## Enter to Win In-Store Raffles

During this holiday season, we created a fun way to raise money for local non-profits, while giving you the opportunity to win prizes. We're featuring one raffle for each month starting in October. For every dollar you donate, you get one raffle ticket. At the end of each month, we'll pull the winning ticket.



**October's winner receives a gift from our selection of seasonal clothing.**

**November's winner gets a gorgeous metal-art turkey.**

**December's winner receives a do it yourself suet kit and holiday items.**

## Successful 2017 Breeding Season Re-Cap

The fall migration is underway, but before we move on, we wanted to take a look back at this past breeding season. Spring and summer means it's time to mate in the bird world! Our customers came into the store with stories about birds nesting in their neighborhoods. Here are just a few great stories from the 2017 breeding season we wanted to share.

**Violet Green Swallows** nested next door to the Birdwatcher. This summer, we watched from the store as a pair of Violet Green Swallows made their nest in a pipe just above the entrance to our neighbor, Bank of America. For weeks we watched the progression from nest building, to incubation, to feeding young. This pair of swallows most likely raised between 4 to 6 young before returning to Central America for the winter.

**Bald Eagles** nest in Milpitas school yard. Bald Eagles, once on the endangered species list, have made a wonderful come back. We can now find



Bald Eagles hunting for fish at all our local reservoirs, but having a pair build a nest in an elementary school tree top was an extra special treat for Silicon Valley. Curtner Elementary School in Milpitas became the hot spot for weeks as a pair of Bald Eagles successfully raised one chick a top a Redwood Tree.

Bald Eagle by Dionna House

**Vaux's Swift** nest in Los Gatos chimney. We got a call this summer from a homeowner who was hearing bird noises coming from her chimney. We took a field trip to the house and from the front lawn, we monitored the top of the chimney. Within moments an adult Vaux's Swift shot out of the chimney and returned with a beak full of bugs to feed the young located inside. The homeowners were excited to learn about their birds and they came into the store to update us on how the nest was doing until all the chicks fledged.

**Hooded Orioles** at hummingbird feeders. This was an exceptional year for Hooded Orioles. These beautiful yellow and black birds return to the Bay Area each spring all the way from Mexico. They come here to breed. Hooded Orioles eat insects, fruit, and nectar. Customers were shocked to find orioles at their hummingbird feeders. For many it was a first. Orioles leave by mid-September, so the hummingbirds no longer have any competition, at least not until next spring.

**Chickadees & Western Bluebirds** using nest boxes. Here are two species of birds that make their nests in tree cavities. When no natural cavity is available, they will use nest boxes humans provide for them. All breeding season, customers reported the joy they felt



as they watched the Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Western Bluebirds using the nest boxes to raise young. Once the chicks fledged, both the chickadee and bluebird families stayed around to enjoy the mealworms and seed purchased from the store.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee by Tom Grey

## How to Enjoy Both Birds & Cats

All of us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher know very well how outdoor cats play havoc on our wild bird populations. So we wanted to help the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Native Animal Rescue get the word out about the "Catio" tour they are hosting around Santa Cruz county. A catio is a beautiful compromise to giving your cat a life of safe luxury while enjoying the wild birds in your yard. Come to the event and discover fun ways to keep cats safe from predators and birds safe from predatory cats. Lecture night: Thursday, Oct 5, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter. Enjoy speakers Tai Moses, author of Zooburbia: Meditations On The Wild Animals Among Us, and Chris Wilmers from UCSC Puma Project. Catio Tour: Saturday, October 7, 10:00am - 2:00pm.





# 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**

Join us Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk.

Walks end by 10:00 am. Dates and locations are listed on our web page. Mornings listed with, "Meet-up\*" indicates a morning when birders will meet on sight at 8:15 AM without Lisa. For all other walks you can meet Lisa at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:30 am. These two hour Saturday walks are open to all who are interested in birding. If the forecast calls for an 80-100% chance of rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels. **A reminder of Saturday's location can be accessed on the store's voice mail at 408-358-9453 on Friday night.**



## Let's Go Birding Yellowstone

June 16-24, 2018

**\$4000 per person double occupancy**

Includes 3 guides, lodging, all meals, ground transport, park fees & permits

*Air is separate - Fills at 10*

### Upcoming Birding Festivals!

**Sandhill Crane Festival**  
Nov. 2 - 5, 2017 in Lodi  
[www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com)

**21st Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium**  
Nov. 16 - 19, 2017 in Stockton  
[www.cvbsreg.org/](http://www.cvbsreg.org/)

**Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway**  
Jan. 24 - 28, 2018 in Chico  
[snowgoosefestival.org/lodging.html](http://snowgoosefestival.org/lodging.html)

Oct. 7 - McClellan Ranch in Cupertino

Oct. 14 - \*Meet-Up at Rinconada Park, 151 Granada Way Los Gatos

Oct. 21 - Vasona: Circle Group Area (parking fee)

Oct. 28 - \*Meet-up at the baylands at Terminal Blvd. Mtn.

View near the restrooms.

Nov. 4 - Kevin Moran Park, 12415 Scully Ave. Saratoga

Nov. 11 - Los Capitancillos Ponds in South San Jose. Meet on Singletree Way off Camden. Meet at PG&E power station

Nov. 18 - \*Meet-up OKA ponds off Lark

Nov. 25 - Rinconada Park, 151 Granada Way Los Gatos

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 - No Walks during holiday shopping

Dec. 30 - Picchetti Winery Open Space 13100 Montebello Rd Cupertino

Jan. 1 - Coyote Valley Open Space 550 Palm Ave.

### Sandhill Crane Weekend - Leader Lisa Myers

December 2 & 3

December is an exciting time to bird the Central Valley. We will spend the weekend birding the hot spots and farmland around Lodi & Stockton. In December we will find wintering waterfowl, Mountain Plover and Sandhill Cranes. We will also be looking for raptors including Merlin, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks and more. We will spend the sunset on Saturday experiencing the evening fly-in of the Sandhill Cranes as they come together for their evening roost. Trip fee includes your room at the Holiday Inn Express, chartered ground transportation, continental breakfast and snacks. Tip to our driver, lunch & dinner and alcohol not included. \$350 Single occupancy / \$300 per person if you are sharing your room / \$580 for a couple sharing a room. **To secure your place on the tour, payment in full must be received no later than Nov. 1, 2017. Call the store to reserve your spot.**



Sandhill Cranes by Brooke Miller

**NEW** Bird Identification Workshops at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher – Open to all levels

Hosted by Lisa Myers. Two workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:30 – 8:30 PM (Free) We are excited to offer two free bird ID workshops here at the store. These one hour workshops will focus on five different bird species we can expect to see in our local backyards each month. We'll go over the field marks you can use to make the ID. We'll also talk about behaviors, food preferences and even vocalizations. After the class is over you'll be able to make the ID the next time you see these birds in your neighborhood. You will need to have a field guide with you for class. **Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453.**

**Wed. October 25th Workshop:**

We'll review: Yellow-rumped Warbler, White Crowned Sparrow, Golden Crowned Sparrow, Ruby Crowned Kinglet & Red-Breasted Sapsucker.

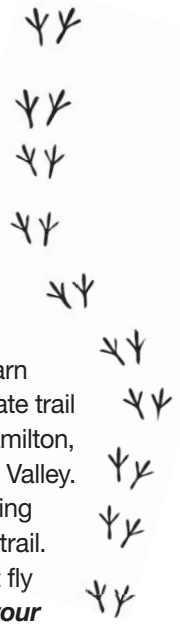
**Wed. November 29th Workshop:**

We'll review: Cedar Waxwing, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Fox's Sparrow, Merlin.

**Wildlife Tracking Workshop with Tanya Diamond & Ahiga Snyder**

**Saturday November 18 • 8:30 – 12:30 in Coyote Valley Open Space. \$45.00**

Join Pathways for Wildlife founders Tanya Diamond and Ahiga Snyder as they take us on a hike and wildlife tracking demonstration at the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. We will hike along the 4-mile long Arrowhead Loop Trail as we learn how to interpret animal tracks. This moderate trail leads to a ridgetop with views of Mount Hamilton, Mount Umunhum and the beautiful Coyote Valley. During the hike, you can use a handy tracking guide provided to identify tracks along the trail. We'll also take note of the bird species that fly overhead this day. **Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453.**



**San Luis National Wildlife Refuge with SCVAS**

**Saturday, October 28 • 8 – 5 PM**

The San Luis National Wildlife Refuge is one of several refuges that make up the San Luis NWR Complex, all located along the Pacific Flyway. Each refuge is home to incredible bird life, but the San Luis Refuge features three automobile tour routes and eight nature trails for the public to view and photograph wildlife in a natural setting. The refuge is also home to a large Tule Elk herd. We will also stop at the Visitor Center, which complements the wildlife refuges of San Joaquin Valley and provides a launching point to explore the entire Refuge Complex. Lisa Myers will co-lead this tour alongside SCVAS Executive Director, Ralph Schardt. This is a special tour in partnership with Santa Clara Valley Audubon. The tour is free to SCVAS members; \$25 for non-members. Register and pay via [www.scvas.org](http://www.scvas.org). Participants will meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 AM on the morning of the trip to carpool from the Kings Court Center.



Tule Elk by Marti Wright

**Merced National Wildlife Refuge & Panoche Valley Weekend**

**January 13 & 14, 2018**

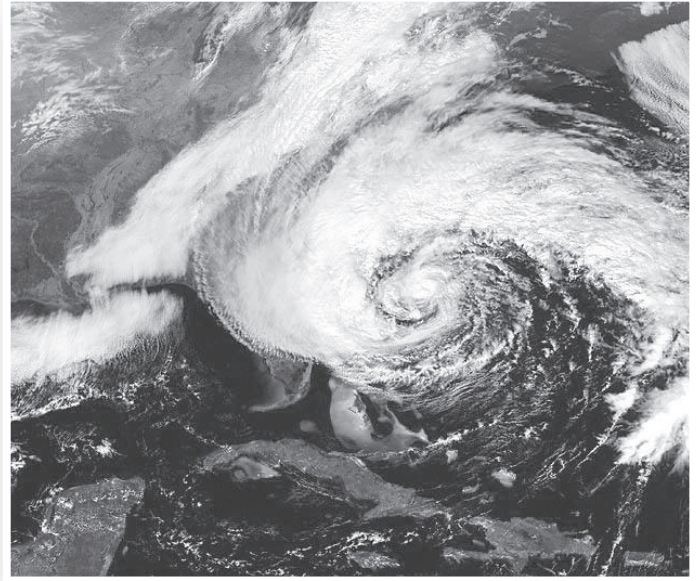


Greater White Fronted Goose by Brooke Miller

**Combining two California winter hot spots into one weekend.** Leader: Lisa Myers We'll spend the weekend birding two of the areas prime winter birding hot spots all in one adventure. We'll spend Saturday at the Merced NWR enjoying the splendor of the wintering waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. Tundra Swans, Greater White Fronted Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese are just some of the target species we'll observe. We'll spend the night in the Central Valley just outside of Patterson. Sunday morning we will bird our way home via Panoche Valley. This high desert winter hot spot is a must for any birder. We will be on the look-out for Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebirds, Phainopeplas, Roadrunners and many different species of raptors. Trip fee includes hotel, chartered ground transportation, continental breakfast and snacks. Tip to our driver, lunch & dinner and alcohol not included. \$360 Single occupancy / \$310 per person if you are sharing your room / \$590 for a couple sharing a room. To secure your place on the tour payment in full must be received no later than Dec. 1, 2017. **Call the store to reserve your spot.**

## How Do Birds Survive Hurricanes?

Scientists use powerful satellite tracking studies of birds on the wing — including one that coincided with the height of Hurricane Sandy's fury — revealing birds as the supreme masters of extreme weather management, able to skirt deftly around gale-force winds, correct course after being blown horribly astray, or even use a hurricane as a kind of slingshot to propel themselves forward at hyperspeed. "We must remind ourselves that up 40 to 50 percent of birds are migratory, often traveling thousands of miles a year between their summer and winter grounds," said Gary Langham, chief scientist of the National Audubon Society in Washington. "The only way they can accomplish that is to have amazing abilities that are far beyond anything we can do."



Humans may complain about climate change. Birds do something about it. "Migration, in its most basic sense, is a response to a changing climate," Dr. Farnsworth said. "It's finding some way to deal with a changing regime of temperature and food availability." For birds, cyclones, squalls and other meteorological wild cards have always been a part of the itinerant's package, and they have evolved stable strategies for dealing with instability. Among a bird's weather management skills is the power to detect the air pressure changes that signal a coming storm, and with enough advance notice to prepare for adversity. Scientists are not certain how this avian barometer works, yet the evidence of its existence is clear.

Scientists have found that many migratory birds, especially the passerines, seek to hug the coast and its potential perches as long as possible, leaving the jump over open water to the last possible moment. But for birds over the open ocean, hurricanes pose a real challenge, and they can be blown off course by hundreds of miles. "Birds have tremendous situational awareness," said Bryan D. Watts, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. "They know where they are and where they're going, they're able to fly back repeatedly, and they've shown an amazing ability to compensate for being pushed off track."

Researchers have begun tagging individual birds with GPS devices and tracking them by satellite to gain detailed insights into how birds accomplish their migratory marathons and what exactly they do when confronting a storm.

As it happened, one of these tagged birds, a gannet was approaching the southern shore of New Jersey at just the moment Hurricane Sandy made landfall there, and Mr. Spiegel could catch the bird's honker of a reaction. Making a sharp U-turn, it headed back north toward Long Island and then cut out to sea along the continental shelf, where it waited out the storm while refueling with a few divebombs for fish.

In a renowned tracking study that began in 2008, Dr. Watts and his colleagues have followed whimbrels, a shorebird that breeds in the subarctic Hudson Bay and winter as far south as Brazil. Because whimbrels regularly pass through the "hurricane alley" of the Caribbean and other meteorological hot spots, Dr. Watts said, "we've tracked many birds into major storms." In August 2011, the researchers marveled at the derring-do of a whimbrel named Hope as it encountered Tropical Storm Gert off the coast of Nova Scotia, diving straight into the tempest at 7 miles per hour and emerging from the other side at a pace of 90 m.p.h. Not long after, the scientists cheered as four other whimbrels successfully navigated their way through Hurricane Irene.

—*NYTimes* article written after Hurricane Sandy by Natalie Angier 11/2012

## Entertaining and Educational Photo Presentations

Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to bring fun, entertaining and educational photo presentations to our local community. Presentations include topics of public interest and/or locations from around the world. Presentations take place next door at The Terraces and we are grateful that they invite us to use their theatre. The Terraces is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and presentations start at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to park at The Terraces, or use our Kings Court parking lot and take the short walk next door. These presentations are free and there is no need to pre-register.

### Guatemala: Land of the Maya with David Couzens Thursday, Oct. 19 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

From lush tropical rainforests teeming with wildlife, to remote villages of the Highlands, to the colonial architecture of historic Antigua, to the imposing Mayan ruins of Tikal, volcano-ridden Guatemala offers a rich diversity of colors, sights, sounds, and unique experiences from which David Couzens has drawn inspiration for this presentation of original photography and music. David has traveled to more than 30 countries as well as to the majority of American states and Canadian provinces. He began his *Images of the World* series of photography books and their companion DVDs in 2008 as part of an ongoing series of multimedia projects. His ninth book in the series, *Images of Albania*, was published in 2017. He has been regularly presenting programs of his photography and music throughout the San Francisco Bay Area since 1998.



### National Parks of California with Alice and Mikhail Zhuk Thursday, Nov. 16 • 7–8 PM at The Terraces

Famously called “America’s best idea”, the National Park system encompasses some of our country’s greatest natural treasures. California is home to nine of the National Parks, including Yosemite, Redwood, Pinnacles, and Death Valley. Photographers Mikhail and Alice Zhuk have traveled to eight of the nine parks, creating images of native wildlife and scenic vistas. In regards to wildlife imagery, Mikhail is particularly interested in highlighting an animal’s personality, telling visual stories that connect the viewer to the subject. Alice is most likely to be found with a camera in one hand and a pair of binoculars in the other, lying in wait for the feathered or furred to meander by. Join them for an overview of the flora, fauna, and distinctive features that make each park special.



## We’re Honoring Veterans

Friday, November 11th

A day to honor those who served for our country goes back to 1919 after the end of World War 1. It was called Armistice Day. Unfortunately we have had many more wars since that time. The Veterans Day of today is a day,

“to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.”



The Los Gatos Birdwatcher would like to honor all vets on **Saturday, Nov. 11**. So if you are a veteran, please plan to drop by the store on Nov. 11. Let us know you are a vet and in which branch of the military that you served and we will give you **10% off your entire purchase!** We’ll also thank you for your service to our country!



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**PAID**  
SAN JOSE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 10

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



Return Service Requested



Printed on  
recycled paper

### Dates to Remember

- Oct. 31 – Halloween • Nov. 5 – Daylight Savings Time ends. Turn back your clock 1 hour
- Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day • Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving (closed) • Dec. 25 – Christmas Day (Closed)
- Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve closing early • Jan. 1 – New Year's Day (closed)



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*Loyal Customer Discount*

Mention this coupon and take...

**15% off one item**

Expires December 31, 2017

#NC12312017

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

### Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 am to 6 PM  
Sunday: noon to 5 PM



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