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Nearly 3 Billion Birds Gone Since 1970

But it's Not Too Late

Lisa Myers

A new study was just published online in *Science*, Sept. 2019. The news of the study came out on TV, all over the internet, on Facebook and to our inboxes. It was the first-ever comprehensive assessment of bird population changes in the U.S. and Canada revealing across-the-board declines in bird populations since the 1970's. We're down over 2.9 billion breeding adults



across all habitats from forest to grasslands. Birders already knew bird populations were down, but no one knew by how much. There is a lot of information to this study, but they want us to know that we can still change things for the better to help the birds and in turn to help us. The Los Gatos Birdwatching community is already aware of the birds around us, and we thank you for taking time out for nature. Our mission at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is to educate, share adventures, and have fun through the love and experience of birds and nature. We believe the things we do in our own yards all adds up to make a difference for the Earth.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology lists 7 simple ways we can all help make a difference in helping the birds, in fact, our Los Gatos Birdwatcher community already does some if not all 7 suggestions. We encourage you to visit their web site to learn more: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home>

7 Simple Ways to Help Birds

Birdwatchers are one of science's most vital sources of data...

1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night Simple adjustments to your windows can save birds' lives.
2. Keep Cats Indoors Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. Outdoor cats kill more birds than any other non-native threat.
3. Reduce Lawn by Planting Native Species The U.S. has 63 million acres of lawn. That's a huge potential for supporting wildlife.
4. Avoid Pesticides Look for organic food choices and cut out some of the 1 billion pounds of pesticides used in the U.S. each year.
5. Drink Bird-Friendly Coffee Bird-friendly coffee is delicious, economically beneficial to farmers, and helps more than 42 species of North American songbirds.
6. Protect Our Planet From Plastics 91% of plastics are not recycled, and they take 400 years to degrade.
7. Watch Birds, Share What You See Birdwatchers are one of science's most vital sources of data on how the ecological world is faring.



Fall Coupon

Mention this coupon and take...

10% 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, 2019 #FALL123119

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

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Kid's Making a Difference

Lisa Myers

We'd like you to meet Pranjal. Pranjal inspired all of us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and we wanted to share his passion with you. We know he will continue to do great things for the bird world. *Excerpts taken from his limited printed book, Birds Around Us, a Visual treat for Bird Nerds from the lenses of "TheKidBirder."*

I'm Pranjal and I just turned 9. Birdwatching is my passion and I'm also known as "TheKidBirder". I love to enjoy being in nature with the little beautiful creatures.

As my mom says, my first two words were "bird" and "star" so I've always liked birds. I got seriously interested in birds toward the end of my second grade. We even started our own birding club at the afterschool daycare. I would read any bird book I could find and would not miss a chance to go watching for birds in Martial Cottle Park near my neighborhood. The Western Bluebirds intrigued me by their beauty and those were the first birds I was able to identify. My very first official birding trip was with Santa Clara Valley Audubon in May 2018 to see the egrets nesting colony at the Google campus in Mountain View, Ca. After that trip I was hooked. Allen Royer became my birding mentor, he helped me a lot with my bird identification. I continued on more trips and soon realized birding in the woods is difficult. To my rescue, my mom found 2 classes: "Beginning

Birding" with Mary Wisnewski (Santa Clara Valley Audubon) and "Birding By

Ear" with Lisa Myers (Los Gatos Birdwatcher). These classes helped me tremendously providing me the right base to explore and learn further.



In January 2019 I went to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge with Lisa Myers; it was an amazing sight to see hundreds of thousands of Snow Geese migrating and flying in awesome manner along with the other migratory birds. I also had my first sighting of Sandhill Cranes there, it was mesmerizing just watching the flocks of birds flying around. I also had my first "birthathon" with Lisa as she led a team for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and we raised thousands of dollars.

I love birdwatching to its core and do not plan to stop anytime soon. Through my birding blog and photographs I wish to inspire other kids to be out in nature, learn about birds and protect these little beautiful creatures from extinction. I keep posting new pictures and contents at www.thekidbirder.com

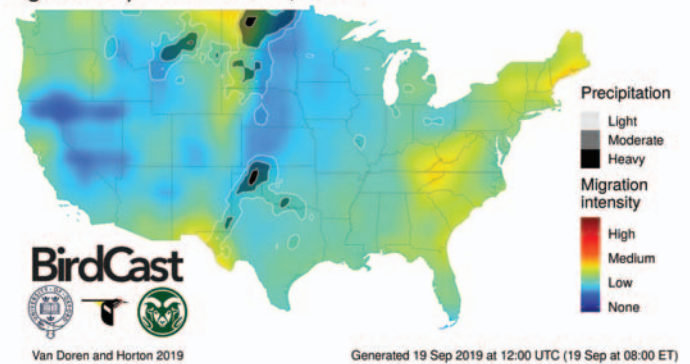
Reminder – It's the Fall Migration!

Offering food, clean water and a place to rest helps them with their quest

Birds leave their northern breeding grounds and head for warmer temperatures at the end of the summer and into the fall. It's happening all around us throughout our globe! We now have the technology to better monitor these movements. Did you know that many species migrate during the night to avoid predators? Some flocks are so large in numbers that they are picked-up on weather stations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology created "BirdCast."

Using research they proposed to provide real-time predictions of bird migrations: when they migrate, where they migrate, and how far they will be flying. And the time has arrived! We encourage you to check out <http://birdcast.info/research/> It's a miracle of nature to know our little feathered friends can make these long, arduous journeys often across many continents. Offering food, clean water and a place to rest helps them with their quest.

Night of September 20-21, 2019



Honoring Our Veterans?

Veteran's Day is on Monday Nov. 11. If you are a Veteran we would like to give you 15% off your entire purchase in our store on EITHER Sunday Nov. 10 or Monday Nov. 11. Just let us know that you served.

It's a small way to thank you for your service to our country and for being a loyal customer to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.



Santa Cruz County Catio Tour 2019



The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is passionate about helping wild birds succeed. So we want to help the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Native Animal Rescue get the word out about their upcoming Catio Tour because we all want what's best for

the animals we love. Luckily for us there's a unique solution that keeps cats and birds safe at the same time and many of our neighbors are using it... Catio!

A Catio is an outdoor enclosure for cats, a place where cats can enjoy the outdoors and still be safe from predators while also keeping birds safe.

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter and Native Animal Rescue will be hosting the third Santa Cruz County Catio Tour on October 12, 2019. Your participation is a major contribution to educating and inspiring the Santa Cruz community and beyond to practice a new level of cat safety and wildlife preservation.

To learn about tickets check out the Facebook event page to receive updates about the event!
<https://www.facebook.com/events/461503361291574/>

From Plastic to Paper – UPDATE

Our seed is delivered every week and that's just one reason why it's so fresh. It arrives in 20, 25 and 40 pound bags. You have probably seen us re-bagging the large bags down into the smaller 5 lb. bags which many prefer. During the summer we made the environmentally friendly decision to stop using the single use plastic bags for this product. We're proud to now use paper bags made in the USA and out of renewable, recyclable and sustainable materials. They can be easily recycled or even composted.

Because our seed has a high oil content, and that's why the birds love it, you can see the oils being absorbed into the paper bags. So, we've started double bagging the hulled seeds and we are also looking at other bagging options. We thank our customers for positively embracing this change.

Customers now come into the store with a shopping bag and place their 5 lb. seed bags into the larger bag which they re-use. Once home they transfer and store their seed into metal or plastic containers. We also have both metal and plastic containers you may want to use to store your seed.

Tip: You should use your seed within 6 - 8 weeks in the winter and 4 - 6 weeks during the hotter months.





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.

Raptor Fest - Saturday, November 9 • 12pm-4pm

Join Santa Clara County Parks and Peninsula Open Space Trust for a family-friendly celebration of raptors and the unique habitat for birds of prey at Rancho San Vicente. The event will feature live raptors, guided bird walks, arts and crafts, and educational activities for all ages. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher will also be there to answer questions about birdwatching and help with raptor ID. **Location:** Rancho San Vicente • Calero / Space is limited, and reservations are required. Learn more at **ParkHere.org** or **openspacetrust.org**.

Oct. 5	Join Lisa's fundraising team for SFBBO \$50
Oct. 12	Charleston Slough - Meet at the bathrooms off Terminal Way in Mtn. View
Oct. 19	Martial Cottle Park opens at 8AM Meet at Visitor Center, 5283 Snell Ave San Jose
Oct. 26	No local walk – Let's Go Birding tour to see the cranes
Nov. 2	Rancho San Vicente Open Space, 21131 McKean Rd., San Jose
Nov. 9	No morning walk - The Los Gatos Birdwatcher will be at the Raptor Fest at Calero County Park 12-4PM. Details provided
Nov. 16	Special event - Woodpecker Workshop with Stephan Shunk, details page 5.
Nov. 23	Picchetti Winery Open Space 13100 Montebello Road Cupertino
Nov. 30	Los Capitancillos Ponds in South San Jose. Meet on Singletree Way off Camden at PG&E power station
Dec. 28	West Valley Junior College in Saratoga, meet in front of Fox Theatre off of Fruitvale & Admissions Way
Jan. 4	Location to be announced for the New Year Call the store, Friday night Jan. 3 for location

Upcoming Birding Festivals!

Sandhill Crane Festival
Nov. 1 – 3, 2019 in Lodi
www.cranefestival.com

California Swan Festival
Nov. 9 - 11, 2019 Marysville, CA.

Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium
Nov. 21 – 24, 2019 in Stockton
www.cvbsreg.org/Snow

Snow Goose Festival
Jan. 22 – 26, 2020 in Chico
snowgoosefestival.org

Dec. 7, 14, 21 - There will be no morning walks during this busy holiday season.



SFBBO's annual fundraiser, the "California Fall Challenge" Sept. 8 - Oct. 8

Get involved to help the birds. You can participate by joining a guided team. Lisa Myers will be leading a 4-hour team Sat. Oct. 5 - 8 AM - noon. No experience necessary. \$50 donation. Visit www.SFBBO.org for details

Woodpecker Workshop with Stephen Shunk

Sat. Nov. 16 • 8:00 AM - 12:00

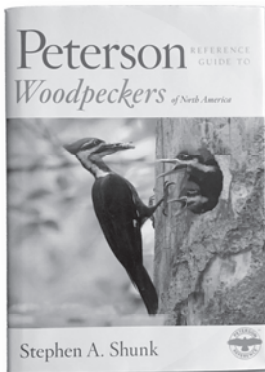
Location TBA closer to the workshop



We are excited to have author, tour leader and woodpecker expert Stephen Shunk back to do woodpecker workshop for the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

The workshop will take place in the field where we will have a chance to experience several different species of woodpeckers out in nature. Stephen began birding in 1989 in San Jose, and started teaching birding classes shortly after. He once led birding tours for Freddy Howell and the store. He eventually founded his own tour company, Paradise Birding and leads tours in 8 states and in 12 countries, and on 4 continents! Stephen now resides

in Sisters, Oregon, where he co-founded the East Cascades Bird Conservancy (*now East Cascades Audubon*), and also co-founded the Oregon Birding Trails program. Stephen's woodpecker research began in Oregon where 11 of the 22 North America woodpeckers breed. Published in 2016, Stephen authored, the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America. We will have this Peterson guide available for purchase at the workshop and Stephen will even autograph your copy! **Fee: \$45 • Limited to 15 people**



Wildlife & Harvest Day

Oct. 19 at Blackberry Farm

We wanted to spread the word - Our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society in partnership with the City of Cupertino is holding a "Wildlife & Harvest Day" on Oct. 19 at Blackberry Farm located at **21979 San Fernando Ave, Cupertino, CA 95014**. This event is one of the premier festivals in the Bay Area when families come together to celebrate the harvest season and learn about local birds, nature, ecology, and wildlife. Over a dozen nature-oriented organizations will be there to provide live animals demonstrations, educational presentations, free hands-on activities, an early morning bird walk, nestbox and bird feeder construction, face painting, and more.

The event is free.

Sandhill Crane Sunset Tour with the International Crane Foundation with Biologist Paul Tebbel

Sat. October 26 • 11:00 AM - 8:30 PM

We are so excited to partner with Paul Tebbel and the International Crane Foundation as we visit the Sandhill Cranes just arriving to California's Central Valley for the winter. Part of the proceeds from this trip will go directly to the International Crane Foundation. **Fee \$90 includes transportation.**



Let's Go Birding Spring Migration tour to Texas April 25 - May 3, 2020

Full - Currently taking a wait list!

Bird Identification Workshops with Lisa Myers

- Open to all levels

These workshops have proven extremely popular as customers learn how to identify the birds coming to their yards and into the Bay Area. Workshops take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher 7:00 - 8:00 PM (free). These one hour workshops will focus on four different bird species. 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. We ask that you bring your own folding chair and field guide with you for class. Call the store to save your spot: **408-358-9453.**

Bird Identification Workshops

Wednesday, Oct. 16 - Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit

Wednesday, Nov. 6 - Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, Brandt Geese

Let's Go Birding is working on birding tours for 2020. Updates to come!

We are the place to find great gifts for the nature lover in your life.

Below are just a few ideas...



Motawi Tiles
come in many
different designs

MOTAWI
TILEWORKS
DISTINCTIVE AMERICAN ART TILES

Holiday Cards & Ornaments

come in early for the
greatest selection



Mr. Bird Seed Houses

a great gift for those that loves
their birds



Code5

has designed a T-shirt
specifically for the Los
Gatos Birdwatcher.
"Warblers of the west"
**Can you ID these
6 warblers?**



100% Cotton Kimonos

from Handprint make
beautiful gifts



Incense from Juniper Ridge

Their scents come from
nature, White sage, Douglas
Fir, Cedar and sweetgrass



Studio M Peace Poles

have been a fan
favorite. Find the
colors and words
that fit your garden

Nature Photo Presentation, Nov. 21

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to sponsor entertaining and educational nature photo presentations each season for our local community. Presentations take place at The Terraces which is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. 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.

Sri Lanka: Land of Serendipity

David Couzens

Thursday Nov. 21 • 7 - 8 PM

Sri Lanka hosts bountiful wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, monkeys, leopards, and various bird and reptile species; has 8 designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites; offers superb spicy curries and endless cups of tea to weary travelers; and is home to some of the world's friendliest people.

Come explore this multicultural, tropical island nation with photographer and musician David Couzens as he shares his three-week independent journey through this land of serendipity.



Elephant by David Couzens

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.
- **Outreach to community organizations about birding** – We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups.
- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** – We will come out to your home 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 \$25 consultation fee per visit. With your visit you'll receive a \$10 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate.
- **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, 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.

- We offer **Gift Certificates** and **complimentary gift wrapping**.

Project FeederWatch Starting 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. 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. Visit their website to learn more. <https://feederwatch.org>



Chestnut-backed Chickadees at feeder - Pranjal Gupta



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

Find us on 

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 31** – We're open on Halloween
- Nov. 3** – Turn back your clock 1 hour
- Nov. 11** – We're open Veteran's Day
- Nov. 27** – Closing early 10–3 PM
- Nov. 28** – Thanksgiving (closed)
- Dec. 22** – Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 21** – First Day of Winter
- 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)



Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires Dec. 31, 2019

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

#NC12312019

Store Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 am to 6 PM
Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM
Sunday: Noon to 5 PM



Kings Court Center
BLOSSOM HILL RD