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Hello everyone! by Lisa Myers

We are introducing our new “Summer” newsletter. For those of you that get the newsletter mailed to your homes, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher newsletter will now go out quarterly in connection to the seasons. Each newsletter will include three months of activities, money saving coupons, and store news. We will continue to include educational updates, Let’s Go Birding tours and product information. We know many of you look forward to the very popular “Loyal Customer 15% off Coupon” contained in each newsletter, so you will be happy to know we have added **an additional 10% off coupon** you can use on that one item you always wanted for yourself or perhaps that special someone in your life.



The new coupon excludes seed, optics, tours, or items already on sale. You do not have to have the coupons with you when you make your purchases; however, you do have to tell us when you want to use them. The two coupons cannot be combined. And for those customers that receive their newsletter via email, you will get a store update every month to your inbox. If you get the newsletter in the US mail and want to start getting it via email, simply email the store at info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com and ask us to make that change.

Art exhibits this summer at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

8th Annual Artist Exhibition Sunday, July 16 • Noon – 4:00 PM

Come by and enjoy beautiful artwork created by 30 local artists, many of whom are also customers. And if you yourself is an artist and wish to be a part of this fun event please call the store, and we’ll provide you with all the details. Each participant will exhibit art done in various mediums from pastels to watercolors, pen & ink, oils and more. The theme will be about nature, most of which will feature birds. Refreshments will be served. **Artists, please call the store to reserve your space at 408-358-9453.**



12th Annual Photo Exhibit Sunday, August 13 • Noon – 4:00 PM

On this day the store will be filled with 30 talented photographers as they share their photos of something they photographed in nature. And if you are a photographer that would like to participate, here is your opportunity to share your favorite photo with our birdwatcher community. It’s a fun day as the store fills with photographers and conversations about camera preferences, lens types, apertures and how they got their shot! Refreshments will be served. **Photographers, please call the store to reserve your space at 408-358-9453.**

Check out our exciting new products!



Beyond Borders

We have a large select of our very popular Haitian metal art from Beyond Borders. These beautiful outdoor pieces create a special look in your garden for years to come.



Bird Baths

Another fantastic way to attract birds into your garden is to provide them with fresh water. We have many different types of bird baths from big to small and in several different materials and colors.



Coyote Brush

We recently found the folks at Coyote Brush Studios. They are a small business located in Lafayette, CA. They create sustainable, educational goods and prints celebrating California's unique biodiversity and natural history.



WindowAlert

Windows are a clear obstacle that birds simply do not see. Some birds can recover from a window strike while others do not. We carry several products from WindowAlert that you can use to help birds avoid flying into windows.

Flensted Mobiles

Come see our selection of Flensted Mobiles. A three generation family business, their goal is to create mobiles, *"from a perfect combination of love, dedication and quality, bringing a unique design into your home - and helping you to unwind at the same time!"*



Dried mealworms attract the insect-loving birds in your yard

by Lisa Myers

Many customers tell us they want to feed birds but do not have the yard to put up a seed feeder. We have a wonderful option for you, how about dried mealworms? Dried Mealworms are 100% natural and are easy to store. We offer them in two quantities and in re-sealable packaging. Simply put the dried mealworms into a dish in your backyard. It may take some time for your birds to find your kind offering, but when they



do they will appreciate the treat. Dried mealworms offer your insect eating birds a food source filled with protein. Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Oak Titmice, Western Bluebirds, Bewicks Wrens and



Yellow-rumped Warblers are just a few of the species that folks have reported coming to their feeders. And for the customers that do feed seed, they are mixing the dried mealworms into their seed as a special treat for their birds.

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.

Birds of Cuba with Peter Hart

Thursday, July 20 • 7 – 8 PM at The Terraces

With the easing of travel restrictions on Americans, and Cuba so conveniently positioned less than 100 miles off the coast of Florida, it's become a popular destination for American birders. Peter will present a sampling of Cuban birds that occur from the hill country of the west to the dry forests of the east, and from the low-lying keys on the north coast to the swamps of the south coast. Included are several shots of rare endemics that even the most intrepid visiting birder cannot be assured of seeing. Peter E. Hart serves on the Santa Clara Audubon Society's Board of Directors. During his professional career in the computer science industry, from which he is now largely retired, Peter founded or led half a dozen companies and international research centers, and invented or developed the theory of several widely used computer algorithms and is the world's most-cited author in the field of Robotics.



Cuban Tody

A trip to the Sky Islands of Arizona with Beth Hamel

Thursday, August 17 • 7 – 8 PM at The Terraces

Beth and Tom Hamel are avid Bay Area birders and great friends of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. To spend more time outdoors enjoying the natural world, Beth decided to retire in 2013 after spending 30 years in the software industry. Last year Beth and Tom spent most of April on a road trip that explored southern California to the southeastern corner of Arizona. We are excited to have them back again as they share photos and stories from their birding in Arizona. So cool down from the heat of August with tales and photos of the Sky Islands!



Montezuma Quail

Sixteen Seasons of Nest Box Monitoring with Lee Pauser

Thursday, September 21 • 7 – 8 PM at The Terraces

The California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) was formed when statistics showed there was a decline in the Western Bluebird population. Concerned citizens wanted to understand more about the situation and help to increase bluebird numbers. Upon retiring, Lee Pauser became a very active volunteer in the recovery program and has been building, installing, and monitoring nest boxes for sixteen nesting seasons. Lee will share with us the success of their efforts and share his experiences in monitoring bluebird boxes including this recent 2017 nesting season. And more than just bluebirds benefit from the nest boxes provided by passionate volunteers. Lee's efforts have resulted in over 9,000 birds fledging of which over 5000 were species other than the bluebirds.



Bluebird eggs in nest box



Let's go Birding

Let's Go Birding is the tour division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

On this page you'll find all the upcoming birding tours we have planned through the store. 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 most Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk. Walks end by 10:00 am. Dates and locations are listed on our web page. You can meet 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 to our location will also be found on the store's phone message at 408-358-9453.**



- 7/1 No Walk. July 4th weekend
- 7/8 Santa Cruz Hot Spot all day tour
- 7/15 Belgatos Park, Los Gatos
- 7/22 Vasona Park meet at the boat dock
- 7/29 Steven's Creek Park Cooley Picnic Area
- 8/5 Guadalupe Oak Grove Park at Thorntree Dr., San Jose
- 8/12 No walk this morning
- 8/19 Going to the SCVAS Bioblitz see page 5
- 8/26 Raptor Workshop with Ryan Phillips
- 9/2 No walk this morning Labor Day Weekend
- 9/9 Alviso Marina, in Alviso off 237
- 9/16 Join Lisa's fundraising team for SFBBO
- 9/23 Arastradero County Park Interpretive Center, Palo Alto
- 9/30 Palo Alto Baylands, meet at the duck pond
- 10/7 No morning walk. Hawk Hill all day tour in S.F.

Santa Cruz Hot Spots

Saturday, July 8 • 8 AM – 4 PM

We will head to the coast and spend the day birding in and around Natural Bridges State Beach. Natural Bridges is known for its fall concentration of Monarch Butterflies. While this is not the time of year to find these beautiful butterflies, it's a great time to find birds enjoying the breeding season along the coast. There is a lot of habitat to explore from meadows to coastline, as a result we will see a variety of species. Biologist Ryan Phillips and Lisa will co-lead this tour. **Fee: \$65 and includes entrance fees & transportation.**

Raptor Workshop 2017 #2 with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday, August 26 • 8 AM – 12:30 PM

Our raptor workshops are extremely popular and fill fast, so we are scheduling additional workshops. For this day Ryan will concentrate on the summer time activities of Northern California's raptors. We will meet in the south San Jose birding hot spot known as Coyote Valley Open Space. Carpooling will be encouraged. Ryan will discuss the different raptor families - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons. **Lisa Myers will also be there to help with birding activities. Fee: \$45**

Experience California's Annual Raptor Migration



Saturday, October 7 • 9 AM – 4 PM

Did you know we have a hawk migration hot spot just north of us located in the Marin Headlands? It's true! Every fall hundreds of volunteers from the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) spend thousands of hours counting and identifying the thousands of raptors that fly over on their migration south. The GGRO's mission is to inspire the preservation of California raptor populations as they track the Golden Gate migration. We will continue to Hawk Hill where we will join the hawk watchers of GGRO as they look to the skies and count hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures, birds collectively called "raptors." Biologist and raptor expert Ryan Phillips and Lisa Myers co-lead this tour. **Call the store to reserve your seat. Fee \$60 includes transportation.**

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.*



Coyote Valley BioBlitz

Saturday, August 19 • 8 AM – noon

You are invited to participate in the first Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Coyote Valley BioBlitz! The Bioblitz is about expanding our knowledge of the valley's plants and animals and is an event where nature lovers and experts come together to explore an area, and document observations of all living things in a short period of time: plants, bugs, reptiles, mammals, and birds. It is a family oriented event - everyone over the age of 4 is welcome, and no previous experience is needed. Lisa Myers will lead a bird walk for the upcoming Coyote Valley BioBlitz! The number of spots is limited, so to learn more please RSVP at <https://coyote-valley-bioblitz.eventbrite.com>. For questions, email BioBlitzCA@gmail.com.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Annual California Fall Challenge

September 9 – October 8

You can participate by joining one of the many guided teams. Our own Lisa Myers will be leading a 4-hour birding tour for SFBBO on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 8 AM – noon. *Visit www.SFBBO.org for more CFC details.*

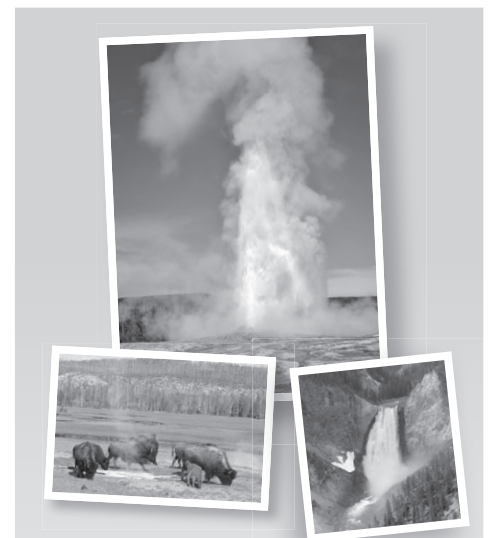


SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

The 13th Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival

September 21 – 24

www.montereybaybirding.org for event updates.



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.



Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series 2017

Reservations required, call 408/358-9453.
Classes fill quickly. \$10 per child
for each class.

Why Birds Build Nests

Wed., July 12 • 11:00 am–12:00 PM
(For ages 5 to 12)

This class will be held inside the store. All birds lay eggs when starting a family, but did you know that different birds make different kinds of nests? Some use mud, while others use moss and even pet hair. Some birds nest inside of holes and others build their nests on top of trees. We will have many different types of nests to share.



Make a Suet Feeder

Wed., July 26 • 11:00 am–12:00 PM
(For ages 5 to 12)

Suet is a type of food that provides birds with lots of calories and energy. Birds enjoy suet when raising young, migrating and getting through the winter. You will make your own suet feeder you can take home and hang outside for your backyard birds. You'll also learn about the birds that you can attract with your new suet feeder.



Where are my Goldfinch?

When it comes to goldfinch, some of you experience flocks of goldfinch coming to your thistle feeders, while others are finding few. We do not totally understand why this happens, but it's a common experience with goldfinch. What we do know is that both Lesser and American Goldfinch are species that hang out in flocks mainly during the winter. When Spring comes along the birds will go off into pairs as they prepare for the nesting season. This means things will change at your feeders. As the birds pair off they will find available food in the areas near their nests, thus eliminating the need for the food you are supplementing. During this time you may only find a few birds or none at all. Usually this is only temporary with the season. If you have noticed fewer goldfinch coming to your thistle feeders, we suggest you put less thistle into your feeder. That way you are providing food for those that do visit your feeder, while not having too much sitting there with the potential to dry out. You can also try our "Finch Blend" mix which combines thistle and sunflower chips. This mix fits in all thistle feeders and is also appealing to chickadees and titmice.



Lesser Goldfinch
at thistle feeder

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.
- **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.
- **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, or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.
- **Outreach to community organizations about birding**
We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups.
- We offer **Gift Certificates** and **complimentary gift wrapping**.

Singing, Nesting, Babies, Feeding

Many of you have been enjoying the nesting activities happening in your yard. You have watched your yard birds building their nests, incubating eggs and feeding young. You have protected them from predators and made sure there was fresh food and water near. Parent birds love suet and will come to your feeders frequently as a quick way to get the food they need to feed their growing young. This means re-filling feeders more often than normal, and many of you have said, “they are eating me out of house & home!” Not to worry, pretty soon the action will quiet down.



Baby Barn Swallows
– Tom Grey

Babies will go off to find their own food and a place to call home. Most of the singing will stop as males will no longer need to declare and defend territory and some of the birds you have been enjoying will migrate south to winter in the tropics. We receive many questions about how many eggs birds will lay, or how many nests does one species make? So as we wrap up the breeding season we wanted to provide you with a quick reference chart of some of the most common birds we see nesting in our yards.

Species Name Alphabetically	How Many Eggs	Days Incubating	Days To The Leave Nest	How Many Broods Per Year	When We Have Them Here
Acorn Woodpecker	4-6	14	30-32	2-3	All Year
American Crow	4-5	18	28-35	1-2	All Year
American Goldfinch	3-7	12-14	11-15	1-2	All Year
American Robin	3-7	12-14	14-16	2-3	All Year
Anna's Hummingbird	2	14-19	18-23	1-2	All Year
Bald Eagle	1-3	34-36	10-12 weeks	1-2	All Year
Band-Tailed Pigeon	1-2	18-20	25-27	2-3	All Year
Barn Swallow	3-7	12-17	15-27	1-2	Spring/Summer
Black-Headed Grosbeak	2-5	12-13	11-12	1	Spring/Summer
Black Phoebe	4-5	15-18	14-21	2	All Year
Bewick's Wren	3-8	14	14	1-3	All Year
Bushtit	5-7	12	14-15	1-2	All Year
California Quail	12-16	18-23	10	1-2	All Year
California Towhee	2-6	11	6-11	2-3	All Year
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	6-7	11-12	13-17	1-2	All Year
Cooper's Hawk	3-6	32-36	27-34	1	All Year
Dark-Eyed Junco	3-6	12-13	9-13	1-2	All Year
Hooded Oriole	3-5	12-14	14	2-3	Spring/Summer
House Finch	2-6	12-16	11-19	1-3	All Year
Mourning Dove	2	14-15	12-14	2-3	All Year
Northern Mockingbird	2-6	12-13	12-13	2-3	All Year
Nuttall's Woodpecker	3-6	14	29	1	All Year
Oak Titmouse	6-8	14-16	16-21	1-2	All Year
Steller's Jay	2-6	16	16	1	All Year
Western Screech Owl	2-5	21-30	28	1	All Year
White-Breasted Nuthatch	3-10	12	14	1-2	All Year



LOS GATOS
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Dates to Remember

July 4 – Independence Day (closed) • **Sunday, July 16** – 8th Annual Artists Exhibit – **Sunday, August 13** – 12th Annual Photography Exhibit • **September 4** – Labor Day (closed) • **November 5** – Daylight Savings time begins



LOS GATOS
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Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires September 30, 2017

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

#NC09302017

Store Hours

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



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