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We'd Like to Start 2020 with a Big Thank You!

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is grateful for all of you who love the store, support the store, and appreciate what we do for our local community and birds with whom we share our Earth. It takes all of you walking through our front doors to keep the store going strong. As we embark on our 25th year in business, we continue to serve the community by bringing you the highest quality seed you can feed your backyard birds while also answering your nature questions, and enlightening and educating our customers on how to offer a healthy environment for nature.



Birds, Taking Time to Notice *by Lisa Myers*

We often go about our busy lives too focused on schedules, traffic or our work to take notice of the birds, even just one bird. Birds are merely something we know live outside and that we hope will not perch above our cars. But then something happens; perhaps you received a feeder during the holidays, or you were home on sick leave, or you finally retired. You had that moment when you looked up and noticed the spunky feathered birds flying around out there in your world. You start to realize it's rather relaxing, even meditative. You might momentarily forget about that deadline or your list of action items. Maybe you now enjoy that morning coffee with a pair of binoculars by your side, ready to see who is visiting your yard each day.

Talk about mindfulness –yes, watching birds can calm one's nerves and one's mind. It takes your mind off your problems and turns your attention to the bit of nature just outside your door. I was recently asked to take a group on retreat out for a bird walk. This retreat was sponsored by the Los Gatos chapter of the Self-Realization Fellowship and focused on meditation and yoga, but they also strategically added a bird walk to their weekend. The group was delighted by the birds we saw, they had no idea there was so much nature just above their heads. I later received the following feedback from the event organizer Terry Ryan, *"The overwhelming consensus among retreat goers is that the birdwatch tour was AWESOME!!"* I asked Terry where they got the great idea to add birdwatching to their retreat? In a nut shell he explained, *"Meditation brings a profound sense of peace and a sense that we are all connected with each other and with all life."* I was impressed, what a great awareness, and many customers know this to be true even if they do not take the time to actually meditate; taking time to notice the birds can make a difference in one's life. It can calm the brain, strengthen one's senses and make a day even better.



Retreat goers enjoying the birds.



Winter 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 Mar. 31, 2020 #WINTER033120

Everything You Need to Feed Birds in Your Yard

Offering your yard birds food in the winter helps them make it through the harsh season. As resources become sparse, the birds benefit from the high fat and oil content found within our seed and suet. In addition to many types of feeders, we also have suet in several flavors and carry a wide variety of Volkman seed mixes. We would be happy to help you find the perfect combination for your yard.



Droll Yankees® 6-Port Seed Feeder

Great for attracting many songbirds at once. Easy to clean. Rust proof. Lifetime warranty.



Droll Yankee Finch Feeder

Thistle feeders are designed specifically for goldfinch.

Seed & Hull Digester

Cleans away harmful contaminants under feeders & birdhouses.



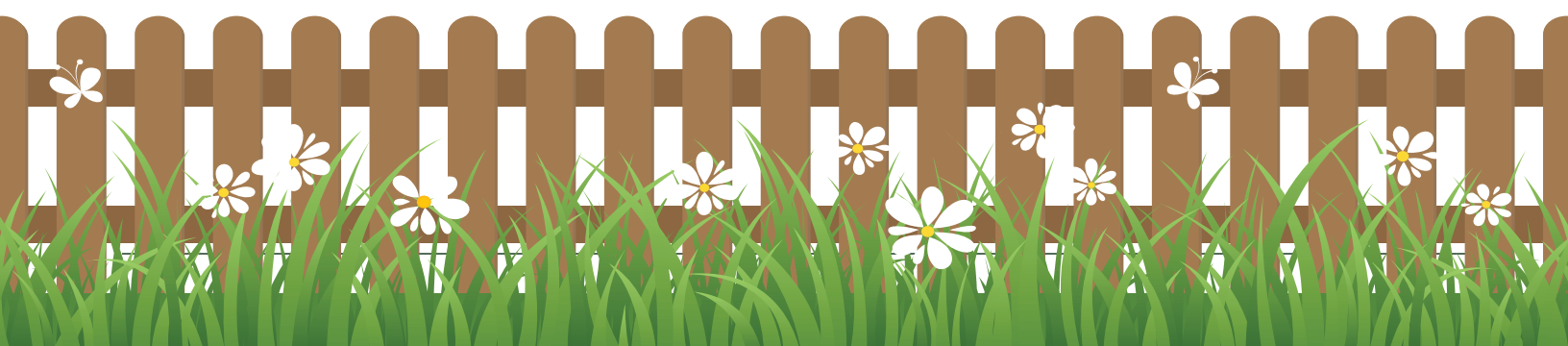
Suet Seed Cakes

Protein rich offering for clingers like chickadees and wrens. Offered in various flavors including hot pepper to deter squirrels.



Seed Mixes & Black Oil Sunflower

Pure Patio is our customer's favorite. It contains hulled sunflower, peanut chips, millet. No shells so no mess. We also have Black Oil Sunflower in the shell. The shell can help seed stay fresh during the rainy season.





Feeder Fresh

When it starts to rain we recommend not putting dry food over wet. Let the birds eat it down each day to prevent mildew. Feeder Fresh added to your feeders helps prevent mold and caking in feeders due to moisture.

HighView Hummingbird Feeder

Easy to clean, includes a perch for unobstructed view of feeding birds. Built-in ant-moat blocks crawling insects. –We're lucky to have hummingbirds in Silicon Valley all year long!



Squirrel Buster Classic Feeder

Saves food and money! Feeds both perching and clinging birds but squirrels and the larger birds are foiled. 2-Year Warranty.

Winter Feeding Checklist

- Consider adding extra feeders to your yard
- Fill feeders daily for consistency
- Include high-protein foods: sunflower, nyjer, suet
- Keep feeders dry from rain
Do not put dry seed over wet
- Offer water source

Best food options:

- Black oil sunflower
- Peanuts
- Nyjer seed
- Seed mixes like pure patio
- Suet seed cakes

Keep birds coming back to your yard with 3 essential ingredients:

- 1 Right mix of quality seed and other foods
- 2 Fresh water source for bathing and drinking
- 3 Ample cover from native plants





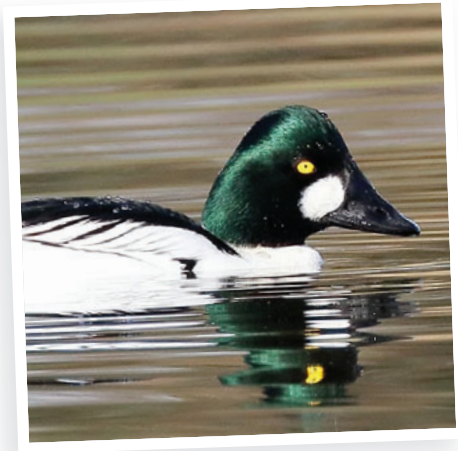
Let's go Birding

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.**



Bay Area Duck Workshop

In the field with Lisa Myers
February 29 • 9 AM - 1 PM

With both salt water and fresh water habitats, every winter the San Francisco Bay Area becomes a magnet for many different species of ducks. Ducks are also a lot of fun to identify and are a great way for the beginning birder to learn the skill of identification. Male ducks have striking field marks which make their ID much easier than many other types of birds. We get to also study the females as they are often hanging out with the males.

This workshop will take place in the field as we move from fresh water habitats to the San Francisco Bay. We will hope to see roughly 20 different species of ducks. Participants will meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and from there, carpooling will be encouraged. You'll need optics, snacks, liquids and proper layering for cold and possibly wet weather. There will be some walking on flat trails. Rain does not cancel – water off a ducks back!

Fee: \$55

Male Common Goldeneye Duck – Tony Woo

- Jan 4** Location to be announced. Call the store Friday night Jan. 3 for location or meet at the store at 8 AM.
- Jan 11** Vasona, County Park. Meet at boat dock (parking fee).
- Jan. 18** Coyote Valley Open Space off Palm Ave.
- Jan 25** *Meet-up: Belgatos Park off Blossom Hill Road.
- Feb 1** No morning walk. Let's Go Birding tour to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge (page 5).
- Feb 8** Los Gatos Creek Park meet off Hacienda on Dell Ave. at Vandell Way.
- Feb 15** Bear Creek Redwoods. Limited parking on site. Encouraged to meet at store and carpool.
- Feb 22** Edenvale Gardens Regional Park. Meet in lot at 200 Edenvale Ave.
- Feb 29** No Morning Walk. Please consider Lisa's "In the Field Duck Class."
- Mar 7** *Meet-up: La Rinconada Park, Los Gatos. Meet near tennis court.
- Mar 14** Kevin Moran Park, 12415 Scully Ave, Saratoga.
- Mar 21** McClellan Ranch SCVAS headquarters
– 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino.
- Mar 28** Geng Road in Palo Alto off the Embarcadero
– Meet at Bayland's Athletic Center.
- Apr 4** Location to be announced. Call the store Friday night April 3 for location or meet at the store at 8 AM.

* Meet-up indicates a morning when birders will meet on sight at 8:15 AM without Lisa.

Bird Identification Workshops at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

– 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

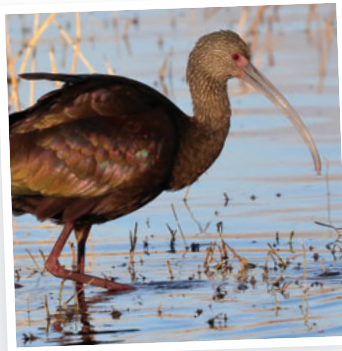
Tuesday, Jan 21 – Pine Siskin, Brown Creeper, California Towhee, California Thrasher

Thursday, March 19 – Yellow Rumped Warbler, American Goldfinch, Golden Crowned Sparrow, American Avocet

Merced National Wildlife Refuge Leader: Lisa Myers

Saturday, February 1, 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM

The Merced National Wildlife Refuge is not to be missed during the winter and is a favorite location for trip leader Lisa. The refuge encompasses 10,258 acres of wetlands, native grasslands, vernal pools, and riparian areas. It was established in 1951 under the Lea Act to attract wintering waterfowl from adjacent farmland where their foraging activities were causing crop damage. In the last few decades, changes in local agricultural practices and the Refuge management activities have reduced these wildlife/crop issues.

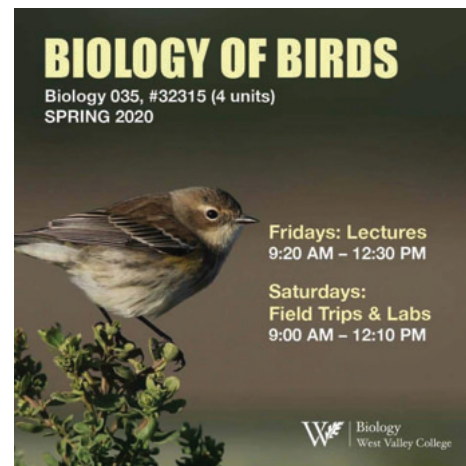


The Refuge plays host to the largest wintering populations of lesser Sandhill Cranes and Ross's Geese along the Pacific Flyway. Each year more than 20,000 cranes and 60,000 arctic-nesting geese make the Refuge home for six months. Here they mingle with thousands of other visiting waterfowl, waterbirds, ibis and shorebirds – making the Refuge a true winter phenomenon. Rain does not cancel.

Fee: \$80, includes transportation, gas, entrance fees.

Tip to driver is separate.

White Faced Ibis – Tony Woo



Curious about Ecology & Wildlife?

West Valley College is offering to the general public the following afternoon classes. For details visit website:

<http://instruct.westvalley.edu/leticia-gallardo/>

BIOL 12: Introduction to Ecology & Wildlife

–An introduction to the general ecological principles that integrate all life on earth, with special focus on wildlife populations and their natural history.

BIOL 14: California Plants and Animals

–Learn about the amazing diversity of California's natural landscape. Explore plant and animal diversity through lectures, labs, and field trips.

BIOL 58: Field Ecology

–This course explores the ecology of plant and animal communities.

Field trip dates: March 27-April 1

BIOL 035: Biology of Birds

–This course introduces the natural history and biology of birds. The anatomy, ecology, diversity, behavior, and identification of birds is explored through lectures, laboratories, and field trips. The biology of California birds is emphasized.

For more information on this class, contact Peter Svensson at:

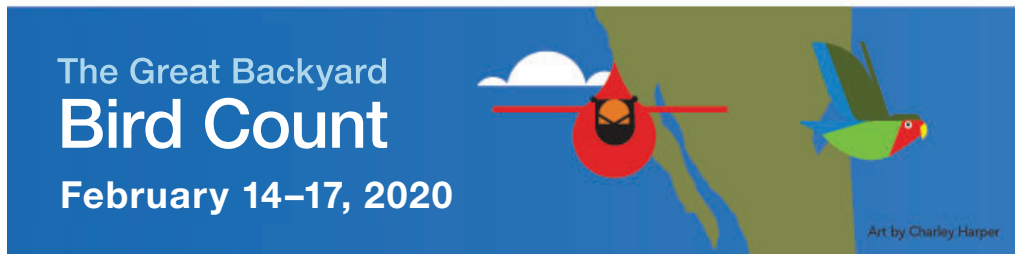
peter.svensson@westvalley.edu

LOS GATOS BIRDWATCHER

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

We encourage you to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 14-17, 2020**, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! For details just go to BirdCount.org.



Valentine's Day is February 14

If you need ideas on what to get your Valentines we'd be happy to help. We have all kinds of great gifts and we are full of ideas!

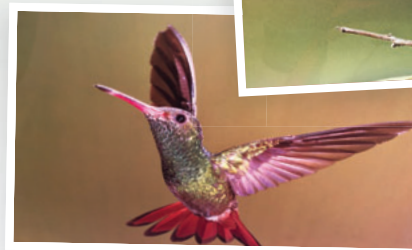
A Raffle in the Name of Judy Bingman

Judy Bingman's talents were extensive and she was known throughout Los Gatos for her various lifetime accomplishments including teaching, volunteering and photography. We knew Judy for her love of nature and she once worked at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. For years we sold greeting cards featuring photos Judy took during her travels all over the world. She taught classes throughout the Bay Area and gave photo presentations for our birdwatcher community. And every year you would find her at our annual photography show.



We are saddened to share that Judy passed away Dec. 15, 2019 after a short illness. As a way to honor Judy we are taking two of her photographs and making them available to all

via a store raffle. Each image has been printed on metal and is ready to hang in a welcoming home. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each through mid-February. The prints being raffled off include a 24" x 16" African Pygmy Kingfisher and a 20" x 30" Costa Rican Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. The two winners will be called in February and proceeds will go to Judy's favorite organizations including her chapter of the National League of American PEN Wome.



Entertaining and Educational Photo Presentations

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.

One Photographer's Self-Guided Icelandic Adventure

Thursday February 20 • 7 PM at The Terraces

John Gayler is a lifelong traveler and photographer. Born in London he has lived in the US for over 35 years from New York to Silicon Valley. The American Dream provided an opportunity for a career as an entrepreneur developing digital imaging software for scientific applications from satellite imaging to time-lapse cellular microscopy.

An outdoorsman, he loves to document nature and the culture on his travels. Iceland is a tiny country the size of New York state but with outsized geographical variety including: glaciers, waterfalls, geysers, volcanoes, hot and cold running rivers, black sand beaches, lush valleys and desert plains, and puffins! As a bonus the population of under 350,000 is concentrated in the capital city making for a lot of remote areas to explore. In this talk we'll visit the popular sites of the Golden Circle close to the capital, get farther afield on a thousand mile journey driving around the ring road, explore the seabirds found in the remote Western Highlands and then explore the interior by mountain bike.



Atlantic Puffin - *John Gaylor*

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.
- **Outreach to community organizations about birding** – We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups.
- **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.
- **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.
- We offer **Gift Certificates** and **complimentary gift wrapping**.

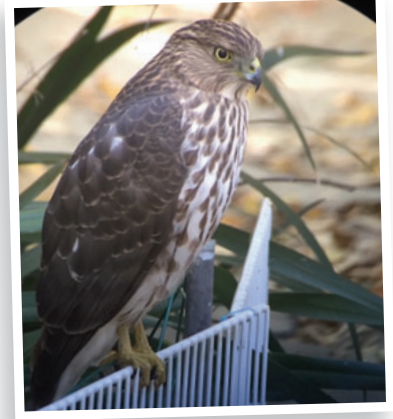


We invite you to share your photos to our Facebook page and we will provide feedback.

Bird's Eat Birds?!

Feeding birds in one's yard is supposed to be a joyful hobby. People like knowing they are helping birds get through a year. However, there is another backyard bird we are often helping inadvertently and that is the Cooper's Hawk. Customers report the drama they witness in their yard when a Cooper's Hawk snags one of their feeder birds.

We know it's hard to imagine –one bird eating another– but it's true. According to Cornell, *"small birds are safer around Cooper's Hawks than medium-sized birds: studies list European Starlings, Mourning Doves, and Rock Pigeons as common targets along with American Robins, several kinds of jays, Northern Flicker, and quail, pheasants, grouse, and chickens."* We can find Cooper's Hawks all around the Bay Area, in every neighborhood, city park and backyard feeders. It is really tough for first year hawks to successfully catch their own food and feed themselves and the mortality rate for these young hawks is high. As a result of backyard feeders, people have actually helped increase the Cooper's Hawk population. That is great news in a world where birds are having a hard time.



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk
- **Campbell Yard**



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Birdwatcher

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

- **January 20** – Martin Luther King Day
- **February 2** – Groundhog Day
- **February 14** – Valentine's Day
- **February 17** – President's Day
- **March 8** – Daylight Savings time begins
- **March 17** – St. Patrick's Day
- **March 19** – 1st Day of Spring



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Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Coupon Expires March 31, 2020

#NC03312020

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

Store Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 am to 6 PM

Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM

Sunday: Noon to 5 PM

