

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
Art of Looking	1
SCVAS's Spring Birdathon	2
WERC Visits Los Gatos Birdwatcher	2
Services Available	3
Newletter Distribution	3
Summer Series	4
Kid's Corner	5
Look What Freddy Found	6
Field Trips & Outings	7
Sage Advice	8

The Art of Looking

Just prior to our trip to Europe last September I read an article, and I am embarrassed to say I haven't a clue where, about "The Art of Looking." More specifically, taking the time to really look at where you are at that moment. The trick, I have found, is to actually stop. Looking is the easy part. Every time I am conscious to stop and look, the things I see are amazing. Recently, as I was starting to walk my water meter route in our mountain neighborhood, I stopped to look at a pine tree in the sun. The pine cone buds still had a topping of snow on them but the snow was quickly melting. As I watched, a Townsend's warbler popped out and its bright yellow and black striped head dazzled in the sun. In Paris, I stopped to look at an oddly shaped water fountain when I realized that

if you viewed it from the other side, it was the shape of a woman!

In mentioning the art of looking to several people, they have thought that looking would be a good way to "stop and smell the roses" in our overly busy lives. A friend and I were driving and stopped at the light at Blossom Hill Rd. and Los Gatos Blvd., looking south towards the hill behind the shopping center. The hill was very bright green and as we looked we realized that there was a line of darker green Italian Cypress curving up the left side of the hill. I hadn't noticed them before.

This past week several customers have been in the store and wandered around for the first time. "I didn't know you carried optics." "When did

you add the Kid's Corner?" "I've never seen these nightlights before." "I didn't know you carried puzzles."

So next time you come to the store for seed, turn right instead of left and see what new things we have or see what things you never knew we had. Next time you are in a new place, stop and really look around you. Take it all in. What fun you will have!



Binoculars Help You "Look"

When we went to Italy several years ago, we took along a pair of Nikon 8x20 premier travel binoculars and had several "wow" moments. In Ravenna, where the Byzantine mosaics are plentiful but far away, our little binocs brought their beauty in close and crisp. In Costa Rica, my Pentax 8x36's stayed on me from dawn to dusk and allowed me to see Mot-mots and howler monkeys close up. Last year in Spain my binocs went everywhere with us and allowed us to see the Lesser Kestrels hawking bugs over San Salvador Church (and lots of pigeons).

After much searching, we have finally found a great entry-level spotting scope – the Vortex Nomad. It has a 20 to 60 power zoom in a lightweight 60mm body. The scope's price is an affordable \$339.99 with its sturdy tripod for \$99.99. Also just in, brand new Pentax 9x32 and 9x42, that are super lightweight and have a nice image with a little more power. I'm not good at holding 10 power still, but these are manageable!



Special Coupon on Binoculars

\$15 off any binocular (regularly priced over \$250)

\$20 off the Vortex Nomad Scope.

BC0511 expires 5/31/11

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) presents their Spring Birdathon.

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is hosting "Los Gatos Birdwatchers" team that will be led by Laurie West-Roberts, long time customer and SCVAS volunteer, on Saturday, April 23, from 7:45-11:45AM. This four-hour field trip will take us to several local hotspots in our quest for approximately 60 species. Since this is a fundraiser for SCVAS and their educational programs, it asks all participants to raise or donate a minimum of \$50. Freddy has been on the SCVAS Education Committee for many years and can attest to importance of SCVAS's Wetlands Discovery Programs that reach over 1,000 school children each year.

Valuable prizes such as a birding trip to Panama, optics, time share, and Patagonia gear can be won for raising the most money. Meet at the store at 7:45 am and count birds in several locations for four hours, expecting to see about 60 species. Registration, donations, and more information is at www.scvas.org/birdathon. Complete birdathon details will be emailed after registration.

We will carpool from the store and visit Vasona, Oka Ponds, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Lexington Reservoir, and will end at BelGatos Park. Laurie and Freddy will be the leaders. Each participant will receive a Los Gatos Birdwatcher tote filled with goodies. All participants need to register on-line at www.scvas.org, Spring Birdathon, register for a team.



We're now on Facebook.



Watch for weekly updates. Be sure to "Like" Los Gatos Birdwatcher so that you can keep

current on our weekly updates about new products, upcoming events, and what we saw on our Saturday morning birdwalks.

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) visits Los Gatos Birdwatcher for annual fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 30 from 11am – 2pm

Many of you have asked "when will the birds be back?" Last year the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) set up a display outside the store and many of you enjoyed seeing the Peregrine Falcon, Screech Owl and the Acorn Woodpecker. Amy Lee, longtime WERC volunteer and hummingbird expert, will give a presentation on hummingbirds and how she cares for them in rehabilitation. This visit is also a fundraiser for the Center so please raid your piggy banks and bring what you can to help the birds and other wildlife in need of our help.

Presentation in the store from 11-11:30.
The birds will be outside from 11:30 to 2.

Please call the store to reserve your spot to hear Amy: 358-9453.



Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Feeder Cleaning** – Drop off your feeders any day of the week. We clean on Mondays and Thursdays, asking only a donation to one of four charities (Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, and Friends of San Martin Animal Shelter). If possible, please bring your feeders in early in the day. We will call you by closing for pickup.

- **Frequent Buyer Program**, buy 9 bags 20# or higher of the same seed and get the 10th one free. Coupons do not apply.

- **Seed Delivery** in the local area, free for over \$40 total, \$4 charge for under \$40 total, available on Tuesdays and Fridays.

- **Monthly children’s nature programs** and children’s programs for pre-schools through 3rd grade. Also great for scout troops. For more information, ask for our new “Educational Programs Insiders Info” Sheet.

- **Outreach to community organizations** about birding. We have birding and “Show and Tell” programs ideal for gardening and other service groups.

- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** - Freddy will come out and see what you have, what you want, and what might work. The consultation is about an hour and the cost is \$20, which will be applied to any purchase of new feeders, seed, baths, or hardware.

- **Birthday parties with Build a Seed Feeder workshop.** Bring 11 of your friends to the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** (or at your desired location) and build a birdfeeder. Learn about the different birds that are likely to come to the small hopper feeder that you construct from a pre-cut wooden kit. (Includes a packet of seed, use of tools, and instruction.) **Cost:** \$15 instructor fee + \$10/child

- We offer **Gift Certificates** and our popular **“Drop a Hint”** cards that allow you to choose a selection of gifts you would like (wish list) to be considered and when the gift giver comes in with the list, we know exactly what you want.



- Spend \$100 or more and receive our new **reusable canvas tote** with royal blue handles – quite spiffy! The tote is also for sale for \$2.99 and would make a good “wrapping” for a gift.

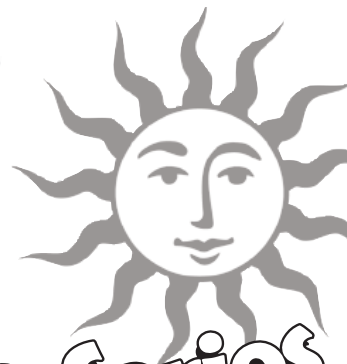
- 15% off one item Coupon is available every two months. You don’t have to bring in the physical coupon, but you do have to let us know at the time of the sale that you would like to use it. We do not apply the coupon automatically. The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to Frequent Buy purchases.

Email Newsletter Distribution

Recently we have been trying to establish a database of email addresses along with your mailing address so that we can offer you the choice of receiving your newsletter by email or US mail. In the future, we will be sending the newsletter electronically to those who elect to do so to save on paper and postage. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, fill in your email address on the back side of the coupon.

Once you are on the email list, you do not have to print the newsletter or coupon to use it. Just be sure to mention the coupon before we ring up your purchase. For those who wish to continue receiving the newsletter by US mail, you needn’t do anything, but do remember that your name drops off of the current mailing if you have not purchased something within one year’s time.





2017

Los Gatos Birdwatcher's Summer Nature Series

Reservations Required Space is limited. \$10/child for each class

Register by Saturday June 11 and receive a 15% discount when paying in advance. Sorry, no refunds.

Call (408) 358-9453 to register.

Tails

Thursday, June 16

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** to discover the talents of animal tails. Bring a picture of a pet or favorite animal to share as we discover what those tails do. Hear a story and create your own clever lizard, too.



T-Shirt Painting Workshop

Thursday, July 7

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:15 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1-1:45 pm

Back by popular demand. Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** for some painting fun. Bring your own t-shirt and use our stamps, stencils, leaves and feathers to paint your own one of a kind t-shirt. Wear your grubbies.

Nature's Garden

Thursday, July 14

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1-2 pm

Come to **BelGatos Park** to explore nature's garden. If you like, bring some washed fruits or vegetables to share from your garden as we discover how the wild soil is prepared, seeds are planted, and flowers are tended. Search for critters harvesting the summer crops and take home some seeds to plant.



Rocks

Thursday, June 23

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** to discover why rocks are important to the animals. Visit a LIVE salamander, turtle and birds visiting from **Sulphur Creek Nature Center**. Take home a special photo of yourself with one of the visiting animals.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Thursday, June 30

For ages 3 to 9: 12-1:30 pm

(siblings under 3 free of charge)

Come to **BelGatos Park** with lunch, a blanket to sit on, and your favorite stuffed friend for some fun in the sun. Make a sun changing necklace and search for critters on the trail that like to soak up the sun.



Dental Detectives

Thursday, July 21

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** to investigate a variety of animal teeth and discover the different things that they are used for. Visit a LIVE furry friend, snake and bird visiting from **Sulphur Creek Nature Center** and make a toothbrush holder.



Swift Swimmers

Thursday, July 28

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Hike with us along the **Los Gatos Creek Trail** in search of swift swimmers, big and small.

Come and see what helps these critters swim so well. Make a boat to float when you go swimming. Meet at the dam at **Vasona Lake** on Garden Hill Drive.



Summer Night Surprises

Thursday, August 4

For ages 3 to 5: 10:30-11:30 am

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** for fun activities to find out about special things you may find out on a warm summer night. Watch a puppet show, play games, dissect an owl pellet and make your own bat flying saucer.



Summer-Series Directions

BelGatos Park

BelGatos Park is located at the south end of BelGatos Road. From the store go east on Blossom Hill Road. Just past Leigh Avenue, turn right on BelGatos Road and follow it to the parking lot at the end. Since the BelGatos Road Sign is small, look for the more noticeable green Mulberry School sign directly below it.

Vasona Lake

We will meet at the gate by the dam on Garden Hill Drive. From Lark Avenue turn onto Garden Hill Drive (opposite the southbound 880 Lark Avenue Exit) then veer to the right at the fork in the road. Meet at the gate at the next bend in the road (before you get to the Santa Clara County Department of Recreation and Youth Science Institute buildings).

Kid's Corner

Reservation
Required

Call 358-9453 to reserve your space.

Nests, Nests, Nests

For ages 3 to 9

Thursday, May 19, 4-5pm

\$8/child

Come to the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** for a puppet show about why birds sing and listen to a story about how different birds use different materials to build their nests. Then we will investigate several different nests from our collection. Using lots of different materials that we will collect around the store, you will build your very own nest to take home.

The Amazing Bird Chase - Santa Clara Valley Audubon's (SCVAS) Spring Scavenger Hunt for Families

(Session 1) Saturday, April 9, 9am-12pm
at Stevens Creek County Park &
Picchetti Ranch Preserve

(Session 2) Sunday, April 10, 1-4pm at
Palo Alto & Mountain View Baylands

Fee: \$25/group (must include at least
one child, with a four child maximum)

If you've never been birding before, this is a great activity to get to know some of your local species. If you've been birding all your life, this is a great activity to put those ID skills to the test! SCVAS will provide everything your group needs to participate, including knowledgeable SCVAS & Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) volunteers to help you locate and correctly identify the birds on your list – all you need to bring is a vehicle (to travel between locations), your "eagle" eyes, and your enthusiasm! Awards will be given for completed bird lists, best "rare" bird, fastest teams, best bird behavior, and more.

For more detailed information and to register, go to www.scvas.org, special events, **The Amazing Bird Chase**.



Hatley Fashions – Garden PJ bottoms with “Gone to Pot” tank top and birdie capri & tank sleep set.



Cardigans – Zipper, Pockets, Bird Embroidery (hummer, chickadee, and goldfinch). Easter sweater and vest.



New Coffee – American Birding Association’s Thanksgiving Songbird Coffee. Support a great birding organization and the birds that benefit from shade-grown coffee.



Local Bird Chart – Our wonderful bird ID “Cheat Sheet” is expanded to 200 birds and they are a bit bigger too.



3-D Tree and Birds Puzzle by Hip from Holland – I’m a sucker for birds and puzzles. This combines them and makes an interesting “objet d’art” for every bird lover, no matter the age. The best part is that you can change the birds and leaves around!



Jewelry – Scrabble pieces with decoupage bird images, bottle cap pins and necklaces with vintage bird images, and colorful beaded animal and bird pins. Nicely priced.



New Books – Adventure Publishers has several new magnificent books available. Also children’s books.



Weather Instruments from Conant Custom Brass and Weeks & Plath – We are reintroducing these lovely brass/copper/stainless steel thermometers, rain gauges and weather stations. Also in travel sizes.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher
King's Court Center
792 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032

#C0511

/ 2011

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires 5/31/11

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

Field Trips & Outings

Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks

Join us every Saturday morning for an enjoyable meander looking for birds. Call the store Friday nights after 7pm to find out where we are going the next morning. Except for our once a month all-day field trips, we go on a local bird walk from 8 to 10 am and return for bagels and shade grown coffee. Some of the nearby places we go to are Oka Ponds, Guadalupe Oak Grove Park, Belgatos Park, Almaden Lake Park, Shoreline and Charleston Slough.

No Charge.

Sunnyvale Audubon walks

First Wednesday of the month

April 6, May 4, June 1 - Noon to 1pm

Bring your binoculars (loaners are available) and meet Freddy at the **Sunnyvale Pollution Control Plant** where Borregas and Caribbean meet off of 237. After entering the plant turn left at the first stop sign and continue to the end of the parking area. We will see raptors, shorebirds, and lots of ducks.

No Charge.

Let's Go Birding to Arrowhead Marsh and Hayward's Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park

Saturday, April 16th 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Spend this day birding with Lisa Myers in this area that includes over 700 acres of walking and hiking trails and is home to Arrowhead Marsh, a popular East Bay birding hot spot. We'll spend time getting to know our many coastal shorebirds and marsh land species.

Fee: \$25 + share of gas

Let's Go Birding to California Raptor Center and Yolo Bypass

Saturday, May 21st - 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Join Lisa Myers for a trip to Yolo County near Sacramento. We have a 10:30 am docent led visit to the California Raptor Center at UC Davis where you will learn about this great raptor rehab facility and will get to meet some of the resident educational birds. From there we'll spend the rest of the day birding the open spaces of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. The breeding season will be in full swing and we'll look for nesting activity.

Fee \$25 + share of gas + \$5 donation fee to the Raptor Center.

Let's Go Birding to Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Saturday, June 25, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Lisa Myers will take us into the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains, hopefully where it is cool. We'll walk park trails in search of Pileated Woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, Swainson's and Hermit thrushes, Spotted Towhee, Purple Finch, and Allen's Hummingbirds. (The Marbled Murrelets can be visible at first light above the tree canopy and we'll arrive too late for this breeding activity)

Fee: \$25 + share of gas. Bring State Park Pass if you have one.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATE.

Use my email for newsletters and monthly notices:

Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

See Raptors from
WERC visit April 30th
on Page 2

Sage Advice...

It's all about sharing!



Sage helps Luke eat his O's.

Closed Easter, Sunday, April 24
Closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

Dates to Remember

4/1 April Fool's Day (Be Nice!)	5/31 Sage has been a
4/22 Earth Day	Howell for 8 years
5/8 Mother's Day	

Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.
Phone: 408-358-9453

