

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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Thank You, for a great 2012.



7 great years
of Photo Exhibits.



Lots of great Saturday bird walks.



Great up close encounters
with our local wildlife.

...so many great experiences with our customers.

We would like to thank you, our loyal customer, by having a one day only SALE.

Saturday, February 2
**EVERYTHING IN
THE STORE WILL BE 10% OFF.**

– seed, feeders, clothing, baths, *even* OPTICS

And, just because you didn't have enough goodies during the holidays, we will have refreshments too!



Lisa Myers' Duck Workshop

Class: Thursday, January 24, 2013, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, January 26, 9:00-11:00am

Ducks are a fabulous group of birds. They are large enough to find, easy to observe, and come in many different plumages from the colorful wood ducks to the dapper Gadwalls. Some ducks dive for their food as they eat fish, mollusks, and shellfish, while others dabble on the surface finding insects and vegetation. Some ducks make their home in the ocean while here in the Bay Area we can see over twenty different species of ducks. We'll review 25 different species of ducks to help you identify them all.

Fee: \$20/per person



Sharon Thorp takes us to Spitsbergen and the Svalbard Archipelago

Thursday, February 14 – 6:00 to 7:00pm (bring your sweetheart)

The Svalbard archipelago lies east of Greenland and north of Norway extending from 74 degrees to almost 82 degrees latitude north to within 500 nautical miles of the north pole. Join Sharon as she shares photographs of the flora, fauna, and landscapes seen on a voyage through the Arctic waters surrounding this mostly protected region.

No charge, but please call to reserve your space.



Lisa Myer's Avian Romance Workshop

Thursday, February 28, 2013, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, March 2, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00am

Spring is in the air and February workshop will focus on birds and the breeding season. As the days get longer birds start to get restless and start looking for a mate. Plumages change, birds start to sing and even their bodies go through physiological changes in preparation to lay eggs and raise young. It's an exciting time to be in the field.

Fee: \$20/per person

Local Artist Spotlight

"Belted Kingfisher"

Original paper art by paper engineering artist, **Oliva Ady**.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher employee, Oliva Ady, graduated from Maryland Institute, Center of Art specializing in paper art. In August she entered her Red-winged Blackbird in our third annual Artists Exhibit. It was quite the hit and "flew" home with Freddy and John. Her Belted Kingfisher is very detailed and quite amazing! *Come see it before it flies away.*

Available for purchase.



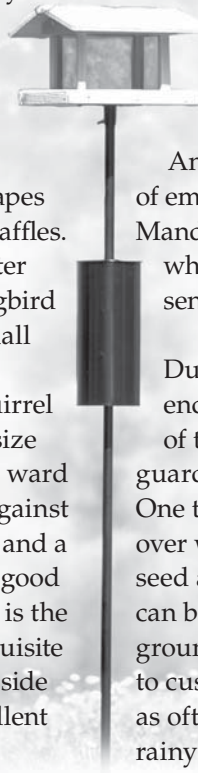
Winter Tips

You can hang up seed ornament and other treats or put out seed blocks, nuts, and black oil sunflower. For the ground feeders here until February, scatter millet on the ground under the bushes or hang our millet sprays on the lower branches. Flocking behavior by pine siskins and goldfinches adds to the risk of disease (see irruptive year article below). Hang more prefilled thistle feeders to spread the flocky birds out and to reduce the threat of disease. Fill your feeders late in day so birds have food available just before nightfall and at daybreak, when birds need a boost after the long cold night. Add suet feeders to give the birds more fat to keep them warm. If it is raining long and hard, consider taking your feeders in at night.

Use baffles for squirrels, weather protection and cleanliness.

Baffles just aren't to prevent squirrels from getting on your feeders, they do a great job at keeping the top of the feeder clean of bird droppings and help in keeping the feeder dry in the rain. If there is wind with the rain, no baffle will prevent rain from getting into the seed.

There are many different shapes and sizes when it comes to baffles. The smallest is 12" in diameter and works best for hummingbird feeders, suet feeders, and small seed feeders. The 12" size doesn't always work as a squirrel deterrent, though. The next size up is 16" and works better to ward off squirrels and does well against rain. We carry a plastic style and a metal leaf pattern that looks good in the yard. The next size up is the 20" and when placed the requisite six to eight feet away from a side launch point, it does an excellent job against squirrels.



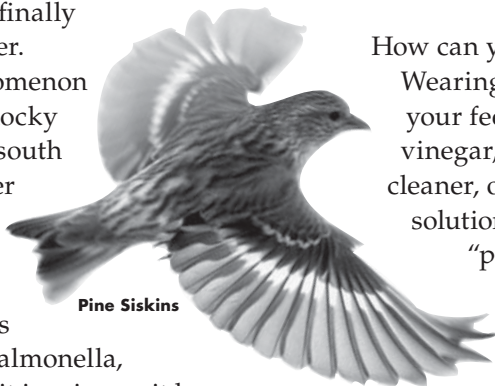
There are also several different styles of baffles. Those that sit on the top of the feeder with the bail or hanger going through a hole in the baffle work well if the weight of the baffle does not interfere with the feeder (not acceptable for the Buster mini or the Buster Classic).

Another style that is a favorite of employee, KC Harris, is the Mandarin baffle (AKA Witch's Hat) which is highly adjustable and sends the squirrels flying.

During the rainy season we encourage people to be careful of the seed in the feeders and to guard against mold and fungus. One trick is to never put dry seed over wet. Always dump out the wet seed at the bottom. If it isn't moldy, it can be spread on the ground for the ground feeders. You will hear us say to customers – fill half as full twice as often – many times during the rainy season.

Irruptive year for Pine Siskins-Salmonella comes with it.

One of our occasional winter visitors is the Pine Siskin. Their normal year-round territory is northern US and Canada. Every three to five years three things happen and we get a huge number of them coming south to this area for the winter. There is an overpopulation, then low food availability, and finally early cold weather. When this phenomenon happens, these flocky little birds head south where it's warmer and where there is more food. Unfortunately, this usually leads to outbreaks of salmonella, especially when it is rainy as it has



been, that causes pine siskins and their close cousins, the goldfinches, to puff up, become lethargic, and usually die fairly quickly. If you find a dead bird, take a plastic bag and put it over your hand, pick up the bird, then pull the bag over the bird and dispose of, thanking them for the joy they give.

How can you help?

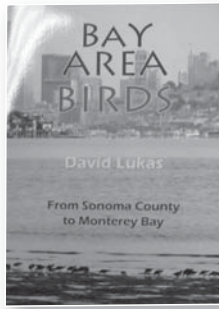
Wearing gloves, clean your feeders with white vinegar, a soy enzyme cleaner, or a bleach solution if you see a "puff" bird. We clean feeders on Monday and Thursday asking only

a donation to one of our four charities. Again, wearing gloves, clean off any build-up of droppings under the feeders as well. Adding a baffle to the top keeps some of the droppings off the feeder and will help keep things drier in the rain. When it is raining fill your feeders half as full twice as often and don't put dry seed over wet. Also, check under your feeders and rake up and dispose of any build up of soggy or moldy seed. You can also spray our seed and hull digester onto the ground to hasten its disintegration.

The Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley at 408/929-9453 will accept sick birds.

New Books On The Shelves

Bay Area Birds, from Sonoma County to Monterey Bay by David Lukas is a great companion book to any field identification guide.



No pictures or photos, just well researched information about each species "Life History", status, and range information. In my personal study of birds and in fielding questions from customers, I have scoured many field guides and books for rather esoteric information. This book is now on our reference shelf as it has answered several questions already. I had read that male marsh wrens built several nests for the female to choose from. According to Lukas it is more like "they build 20 "dummy" nests to deceive nest predators but also indicates the male's vigor to prospective mates." Another fact that I didn't know was that these "cute" little birds that are full of 200 types of songs, are also "intensely competitive whereby both males and females seek out and destroy eggs and nestlings in every nest they can find,

a behavior that forces other marsh birds, like blackbirds, to nest in groups. In one study up to 50 percent of all red-winged blackbird nest failed due to marsh wrens." This 300 page book, that fits easily in most packs, contains descriptions of 320 species that occur in the Bay Area, including migrants and seabirds. **Price: \$21.95**

Room to Breathe,

The Wild Heart of the San Francisco Peninsula edited by Kristi Britt is the celebration of forty years of preserving open space that is published in collaboration with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). Forty years ago a group of visionaries created MROSD to protect the hills and valleys of the San Francisco Peninsula from teeming residential development. There is a map in the preface that shows all of the preserves under MROSD's jurisdiction combined with their



mission statement. Following these are paintings, photographs, and poems about the various preserves. Long-time customer and accomplished artist, Laurie Barna, introduced us to this book because her work is featured on page 49. Laurie's wonderful watercolor on tissue paper was of Boris, now Boris-a, an ambassador bird from a Hayward wildlife rehabilitation center. Each artist was asked to also write a paragraph about

their art and Laurie told of a "meeting a number of rescued birds from the Sulphur Creek Nature Center at an educational event." That was an event that we put on with our educational

coordinator, Christine Wolf, who is the pre-school director and handler for Sulphur Creek. Customers Jim Liskovec and Karen DeMello are also featured in the book. Through photos and paintings one can experience the many faces of MROSD, but there is nothing like getting out and experiencing them first hand. **Price: \$24.95**



Word Search

- | | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|
| BUNTING | LARK | THRUSH |
| DOVE | PEEWEE | VIREO |
| FINCH | PHOEBE | WAGTAIL |
| FLICKER | RAIL | WATER THRUSH |
| JAY | ROBIN | WAXWING |
| WREN | SHRIKE | WARBLER |
| JUNCO | SPARROW | TOWHEE |



LOOK WHAT
FREDDY FOUND!

COMING SOON!
BLUE Q POUCHES AND TOTES IN LOTS
OF SIZES AND GREAT BIRD DESIGNS FOR
ALL YOUR CARRYING NEEDS.



Solmate Baby and Kids Socks

- 2 baby sizes and 3 kid sizes in three cheerful color patterns, all mismatched. Baby socks come in sets of 5's (2 pairs and a spare) and kid socks come in sets of 3's (1 pair and a spare).



Wrapping Paper from Pomegranate

- lovely designs with birds and flowers



Nesting Boxes

- Wood, Wool, Rustic, Decorative and Useful



Another New Card Line

- Artists to Watch joins Pumpnickel, Leanin' Tree, JQ, Hatley, Ramona Lowe, Judy Bingman, and Penelope Krebs



Acrylic Cups with straws

- Raven Lunatic and other fun designs



Flags, Flags and more Flags

- Garden and regular sizes for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter celebration as well as patriotic, spring, and summer designs. New colorful garden flag holders.

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 (availability may be limited)

• 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 \$3.99 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.



Kid’s Corner

Call 358-9453 to reserve your space.

Reservation Required

Duck Expedition

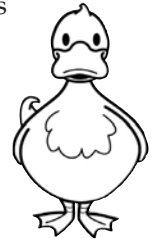
\$8/child

For ages 3 to 9

Thursday, January 24

4-5 pm

Bundle up and join us on the trails around Oka Ponds in search of ducks. Come see their beautiful feather colors and designs. Discover how they dive, dabble, and travel far. Play duck bingo and create your own floating duck to take home.



Valentine’s Day Party

\$8/child

For ages 3 to 9

Thursday, February 14th

4-5 pm

Come join the fun at our Critter Valentine Party. Discover special things different birds do for their partners.



Visit some adorable pet mice visiting from

Sulphur Creek Nature Center that are the very best of friends. Design a mouse to remember them by, and make a treat to put out in your yard for the birds and squirrels that you love.

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

#C0213

/ 2013

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires 02/28/13

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.



Sunnyvale Audubon walks

First Wednesday of the month

Feb. 6, Mar. 6 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 with Lisa Myers to Bolinas

Saturday, February 16, 8:00am – 5:00pm

We'll head north of San Francisco to bird areas in and around Bolinas and Stinson Beach. We'll scan the ocean and bird Bolinas Lagoon providing an assortment of wintering water birds. We'll also walk a birdy fire road as

we look for songbirds. Winter is an ideal time to visit this beautiful part of our coast.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to Pleasanton

Saturday, March 16, 8:00am to 4:00pm

The Marily Murphy Kane Trail in Pleasanton is a relatively new trail and we have never birded this area before so this will be a new adventure. It is a level open space trail that meanders around the 500 acre Bernal Ranch. While 200 acres of this ranch have been developed, the remaining 300 acres is beautiful open space and home to rolling hills, oak trees, arroyos and view of Pleasanton Ridge. We will be birding from the trail so there will be a fair amount of walking.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to Santa Clara County Foothills

Saturday, April 20, 8:00am – 4:00pm

The open spaces of the eastern Santa Clara County foothills are home to some wonderful species. These rolling hills offer the open habitat preferred by many species we don't see down in the valley, and the spring migration will be underway! We'll travel Marsh Felter and Serra Roads in search of golden eagle, rock wren, Lazuli bunting, lark sparrow, blue grosbeak, and more. Time permitting, we'll check out Calaveras Road too to look for the bald eagles that have nested there for years.

Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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website: www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

One Day Sale February 2nd!
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Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Dogs on Duty

Best friends forever.



Dates to Remember

1/21/13 Martin Luther King Jr Day
2/2/13 Groundhog Day
2/10/13 Lunar New Year
2/14/13 Valentine's Day
2/18/13 Presidents' Day

Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

