

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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Book Signing by Nancy Rühle – *Doggone Mysterious*. Thursday, July 19, 6-7:00pm

Nancy has been a customer and regular on our birdwalks for many years. This is her first novel and is set in the Los Gatos/San Jose area. It is a good read and is told from the viewpoint of Sammy the dog. Come hear Nancy tell about her literary journey and have her sign your copy! *No Charge, however, we ask that you call to reserve your space.*



Art by: Kris Crane

3rd Annual Artist Exhibit Sunday, August 12, Noon – 4:00pm

There are many talented artists among our customers and this is a chance to see their work. Past art has been in oils, acrylics, watercolors, and pastels. This year we will have sculpture as well. *Refreshments will be served.*



Photo by: Gary Aspenall

7th Annual Photo Exhibit Sunday, August 19, Noon – 4:00pm

Come join us for an exhibit of bird photography by our talented photographer customers. There are photos from their backyards to across the globe. *Refreshments will be served.*



photo by: Richard Casserley

Photo Presentation by Richard Casserley - Birding the Mayan Ruins of the Yucatan Thursday, August 23, 6:30-7:30pm

This is the trip that John and Freddy shared with Richard Casserley. Richard took wonderful photos of the ruins and the birds. *No Charge, however, we ask that you call to reserve your space.*

**Birding Classes
with Lisa Myers
see Page 2.**

Annual King's Court Sidewalk Sale Saturday, July 14 Noon – 4:00pm

Mark your calendars! Watch your mailbox! Come for the music and the bargains!

We have been saving up the onesie, twosie things that are left from an order. We are running the "No Sale" report to see what has been "gathering dust." We have also been cleaning out our storage unit and who knows what we will find! Check out the special mailing/newspaper insert where you will find a coupon for **\$5 off purchase of \$10 or more**, excluding optics. Not valid on sale items.

Lisa Myers Offers Birding Classes at Los Gatos Birdwatcher



Many of you know Lisa Myers from the Field Trip section of our newsletter. She has led our monthly field trips to a wide variety of destinations for the last several years. We have collaborated on many projects over the years and she even did a stint gift wrapping over the Christmas holidays one year. Recently,

we shared in the purchase of our repurposed CalTrans porta-pottie trailer for more comfortable birding trips. After that successful project, we sat down over coffee to see what else we could do for you, our shared customer. First let me tell you a little more about her.

Lisa, a Bay Area native, has always been interested in nature, but it was her identification of a male Western Tanager that got her hooked into birding. She graduated with a B. A. in Communications with the goal to one day work with animals or in nature. Although Lisa spent the first two decades of her professional life working in her family's high school senior portrait business, Sanford & Myers Photo Graphic, Lisa made the time to teach birding classes through the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. With a focus on the beginning to intermediate birder, Lisa eventually started her own birding company called, "Let's Go Birding". She took her marketing and customer services skills from her retail experience and incorporated them into outdoor birding adventures; her goal, to provide fun birding classes and moments in nature for the adult birder. "I wanted to create a non-intimidating birding experience in order to get as many people into birding as possible". Lisa adds, "I believe nature needs all the support she can get." Through "Let's Go Birding" Lisa now teaches throughout the Bay Area, presents to area birding organizations and leads birding trips throughout California. She is a past board member of San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, led a Costa Rica trip for the Cheesman's Environmental Tours as well as managed their marketing, and has recently worked for a local nature non-profit. Lisa partners with area businesses and non-profits to fundraise for various organizations and increase people's awareness about birds and the environment.

One of Lisa's strong suits is her teaching ability. Our monthly field trips give her a chance to share her vast knowledge with participants and I always learn something new. When we talked, we discussed the idea of classes at the store. We came up with a Thursday

90 minute class and a 2 hour field trip the following Saturday. We also wanted to keep it affordable and above all fun, because Lisa, like Freddy, wants to invite you outside and see nature!

To sign up, please call the store.

Hummingbirds Class

Thursday, July 26, 6:30–8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, July 28, 8:00–10:00am

Fee: \$20/person

Did you know that hummingbirds are only found in the New World? Between North and South America there are 328 different species of hummingbirds with the possibility to observe 18 of them within the continental United States. Six different species can be found around the greater Bay Area. This workshop will focus on the fascinating life of the hummingbird. Our field trip will focus on hummingbird behavior, identification, breeding activities and more. Freddy will give a short binocular basics refresher so you are ready for the field trip.

Beginning Birding Class

Thursday, August 16, 6:30–8:00pm

Field Trip: Saturday, August 18, 8:00–10:00am

Fee: \$20/person

This workshop is ideal for anyone that wants to learn more about the hobby of birdwatching. We'll review optics, field guides, how species are categorized, local resources, birding ethics, ideal clothing and where to find different species. This will be a fun, casual introduction to a wonderful new activity you can add to your life. Our field trip will focus on what to look for when observing a bird for the first time and the steps you take to identify it. Freddy will give a short binocular basics refresher so you are ready for the field trip.

Migration Class

Thursday, September 20, 6:30–8:00 pm

Field Trip: Saturday, September 22, 8:00–10:00am

Fee: \$20/person

Migration is an incredible undertaking for the bird world and is just one of the things that make birding so much fun. The many species that arrived last spring to breed in northern habitats are now migrating back south to spend their winter. It's also the time of year when many species return to the Bay Area until next spring. This workshop will focus on how birds migrate and what species to look for at this time of year. Our Sept. 22 morning field trip will focus on migrants.

Black Phoebe Family saved by a Good Samaritan

Early in May, I received a panicked call from customer, Mark Dellamano, who was about to start a construction project right where a black phoebe family had set up housekeeping. Mark couldn't stop the workers any longer and was wondering if he could move the nest without spooking/killing parents and babies. The main concern was that since the young were so close to fledging, one or more would jump ship (nest) when they were moved. Mark and I discussed all sorts of contingency plans from bowls on top of the nest to a sheet held underneath the nest as it was moved. I suggested that a shelf house placed where the construction wasn't, might be the place to transfer the nest. Black Phoebes make a mud nest that is tall and narrow.

Mark managed to dislodge the nest, with parents nearby, climb down a ladder, and walk 15 feet toward the shelf house. He describes his trip, "Just as I started to place the nest inside the house, they all bolted to

all corners of the yard. By this time we had dispensed with the sheet thinking it was no longer needed, so we were able to capture a couple of them and return them to the nest where they promptly flew out

again. While they seemed able to fly 20-30 feet, they didn't seem ready to be on their own."

Mark observed that "one of the amazing qualities of the Black Phoebe parent is their tenacity. Sensing they were trying to gather the little ones, we caught one and placed it alongside one of the others in a far corner of the yard where the parents seemed to be trying to collect them. We had no idea where the other two were and had to just hope it would all work out".

Work out it did! Mark describes the next morning. " The next morning



Photo by: Mark Dellamano

I could see the parents gathering bugs as usual and flying into a tree away from all the commotion of the workmen. So I grabbed my camera fully expecting to see one or two survivors

and was thrilled to see all four perched on the branch you see in the photo below. The parents were busy feeding them in the evening as though nothing had happened. Although they were no longer in the tree when I returned home from work that evening I have a feeling they are all still together."

Good work, Mark and thank you for your concern. When you are planning a construction project, do check around the area for nests and move your feeders to an unaffected area.

Egg Cartons and Meat Trays Needed Again for Class Projects!

The last time we put out a call for egg cartons, we received enough to make 600 butterfly caterpillars for our butterfly life cycle program. Well, we have done many classes this year and our supply has been depleted. So we need to ask you again to bring us all cardboard (no Styrofoam, please) egg cartons so we can transform them into caterpillars.

We did many, many Weather Watcher programs this year and all the fish we made out of styrofoam meat/produce trays for weather vanes used up our supply. This time we are asking for white and yellow only as pink, blue, and black are hard to color. Please rinse them before bringing them in.

Thanks to everyone who has recycled these items with us in the past and we look forward to repurposing your trays.





**Los Gatos Birdwatcher's
Summer Nature Series 2012**

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

**Call to register.
(408) 358-9453**

Fantastic Fishers

Thursday, July 12

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

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Meet us at Oka Ponds to search for fantastic fishers. Discover different strategies to catch fish as we explore the trail in search of fishing animals.



Create your own fishing game to take home.

Creatures of the Night

Thursday, July 19

For ages 3 to 5: 11 am to 12 noon

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to Los Gatos Birdwatcher for a very special visit with LIVE nocturnal animals visiting from Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see a skunk, bat, owl, and tarantula up close. Make a craft to remember them by.



Teddy Bear Picnic

Thursday, July 26

For ages 2 to 9: 12 to 1:30 pm

(siblings under 1 free of charge)

Bring your favorite stuffed friend, lunch and a blanket to sit on to BelGatos Park for our annual picnic. Hear a funny story, adventure with your stuffed friend at the playground and on the trail, and create a boat to float in the creek.



Feathered Friends

Thursday, August 2

For ages 3 to 5: 11 am to 12 noon

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Come to Los Gatos Birdwatcher to visit LIVE birds visiting from Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Inspect their beaks and discover what they are perfectly designed for. Craft your own feathered friend to take home.



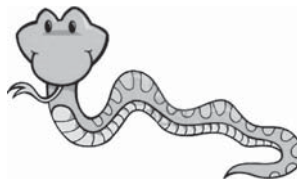
Terrific Tongues

Thursday, August 9

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

For ages 6 to 12: 1 to 2 pm

Adventure with us at Vasona Lake as we investigate the special things animal tongues can do. Meet a LIVE snake visiting from Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Explore the trails in search of animal tongues in action. Make a fun frog too.



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.

Oka Ponds

We will meet at the gate at the end of Oka Lane. Take Lark Avenue to Oka Road and follow it under Highway 85 to the end. Turn left on Mozart and take an immediate right on Oka Lane. Go to the end of the road and park along the street.

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).



Small Fountains

- We are always looking for good quality, interesting, and affordable small fountains. Come see our latest finds!



Jody Coyote

- New earrings, simple yet stylish!



Zulugrass

- Zulugrass now comes in multi-strand necklaces and bracelets!



Mail Boxes

- They're Back!!
Freddy finally found a new source for beautiful hand-painted mail boxes. Made in the USA!



New Owl Sweaters

- Pretty new Owl sweaters in two colors: cream ground with blue and green design or black ground with coral and green design

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

Seed Search

Thursday, September 27, 4-5 pm at BelGatos Park
For ages 3 to 9, Fee: \$10/child

Come join us at BelGatos Park to investigate all sorts of seeds. Discover which seeds different birds prefer. Adventure with us on the trails as we search for seeds and the creatures who like to eat them. Bring home some special seeds for the birds and squirrels in your yard.

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
None in July, August 1, September 5
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.**

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

#C0812

/ 2012

Pay to the order of Our Loyal Customer

15% Off One Item

Memo: Expires 8/31/2012

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

Let's Go Birding to Burleigh Murray State Park - Near Half Moon Bay.

Saturday, July 21, 2012 - 8:00am to 4:00pm

Lisa Myers will guide us to the coast for a summer's birding trip at Burleigh Murray State Park, a former ranch. The park's only active trail consists of the old ranch road, which runs from the parking lot up to the ranger residence. The trail then continues to the old barn, and on for about another mile before becoming overgrown and impassable. The habitats include mature eucalyptus groves, grassy valleys, and an extensive riparian corridor along the ranch road. It is a pleasingly birdy hike of just over a mile from the parking lot to the barn, with nearly constant activity and bird sounds. On our way back we will bird along Swanton Road. **Fee: \$30 + share of gas.**

Let's Go Birding and Batting to the Yolo Bypass with Lisa Myers

Saturday, August 25, 2012 - 12:30pm to 9:30pm

This is a little different from what we have done in the past. 2011 - 2012 has been named the Year Of The Bat, and this trip will include both birds and bats! The Yolo Bypass open space provides important habitat for many different species of birds throughout the year, but each summer the concrete bypass itself is also home to roughly 250,000 Mexican free-tail bats, which may make it the largest colony of Mexican free-tail bats in the state! These bats



are migratory and return to California each June to birth their pups and spend the summer. We'll spend the afternoon birding the open spaces around the bypass and we'll remain until the 7:36 PM sunset. It is at sunset we'll be able to witness thousands of bats heading out for their evening forage of insects. We may also find a few owls during this time. A portion of today's proceeds will be donated to NorCalBats.org
Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to Santa Cruz for Fall Migration

Saturday, September 15, 2012 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

The fall migration will be underway and birding the coast always turns up great species. We'll spend the day in Santa Cruz as we bird Santa Cruz's Lighthouse Field State Beach, Natural Bridges State Park and Antonelli Pond. Santa Cruz Lighthouse Field State Beach provides 36 acres of undeveloped coastal terrace. Also known as Point Santa Cruz, this area forms the northern boundary of Monterey Bay. The habitat here provides shade, shrubs, and trees for migrants to take shelter and rest before continuing their journey south. In addition to the historical lighthouse the 4200 feet of ocean cliffs provide an excellent vantage to scan the oceans below for marine life and ocean birds. We'll work our way to Natural Bridges and Antonelli Ponds where we'll look for more migrants taking refuge in this coastal oasis.
Fee: \$30 + share of gas.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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

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U.S. POSTAGE
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LOS GATOS, CA
PERMIT NO. 43

**Birding Classes
with Lisa Myers
see Page 2**

Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Guest Greeters

*Lucy gets a Henry's Vegetarian Dog
Treat from Mommy Julie*



photo by
Kirsten Harris

Dates to Remember

Closed July 4
Closed Labor Day - September 3

Store Hours

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

