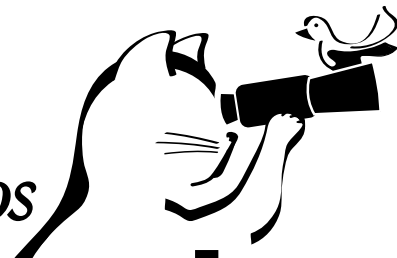


Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center Fundraiser

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center (WERC) will again visit Los Gatos Birdwatcher for its annual fundraiser. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 4 from 11am – 2pm**. Break into your piggy banks. Dig deep into your pockets. Bring what you can to help this great organization continue caring for injured and orphaned native birds and wildlife. Volunteers from WERC will bring non-releasable wild animals for you to meet. These animals now serve as educational ambassadors for WERC.



Workshops at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher Store



Dr. John Harshman, Workshop

- Using DNA to understand the true relationships of birds.

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

The field of molecular phylogenetics, also known as the analysis of DNA sequences, is revolutionizing our knowledge of bird relationships and providing a new understanding of how bird species are or are not related. DNA sequences are teaching us some of the oddest and most interesting new discoveries. Dr. Harshman received his PhD. in evolutionary biology from the University of Chicago and throughout his career has worked in the molecular phylogenetics of birds.

No charge but call to reserve your seat



Debbie Ballentine, Workshop

- Gardening is for the birds!

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

From charming to glamorous to downright amusing, birds catch our eye with their colors and antics. While combating habitat loss and increasing bird populations you can enjoy a fuss-free, water-wise garden with California natives. Come learn what birds need and want, and how to create a sanctuary garden that provides for them. Debbie Ballentine shares her knowledge of California native plants through her writing, speaking and photography. She is currently a garden writer for Houzz.com.

No charge but call to reserve your seat.

Take Notice

Spring Migration is Underway!

It is amazing how quickly a year zips past when you know the comings and goings of the birds in your neighborhood. And although we are still in the midst of our winter, for the birds, the spring migration is underway. Birds that migrated south many months ago are now returning from Central & South America. They are flying hundreds if not thousands of miles to come back here to find a mate and raise chicks before returning again to the tropics to spend their winter. There are 200 species of birds that make this annual journey and they are called "neotropical migrants". So keep an eye out for your visiting spring arrivals!

Transition Update

Freddy teaches Lisa how to go shopping

As John & I prepare to retire, it is my goal to make the transition of ownership as smooth as possible. This is for Lisa's sake and for all of our customers. This time of year there are many different clothing and gift fairs and I am taking Lisa with me so she can see how I select all the gift items we offer in our store. I also get to introduce Lisa to the many vendors that we have worked with throughout the decades. From clothing to wind-chimes, jewelry and bird baths there is so much to see. Lisa also provides a new set of eyes for making product choices.



Lisa & Freddy at the San Mateo Fashion Mart

Hooded Oriole, *by Lisa Myers*

We've all heard of the baseball team from Maryland named the Baltimore Orioles. Out here in the west we rarely see this eastern species. However, there are two species of orioles, the Bullock's and the Hooded that do show up in the Bay Area. In fact, you should keep your eyes open because they are returning to the area right now. Here are a few fun facts about the Hooded Oriole. The name comes from the bright yellow-orange hood found on the male. This colorful hood is in direct contrast with his black mask, eye and bib. While his body is a brilliant orange-yellow, his back, wings and tail are black, although he has two white wingbars. While she too has white wingbars, the female is less colorful in shades of olive, gray and yellow. Her less flashy plumage is to her advantage as she incubates the eggs and does not want to be noticed. Contrary to many other species, the Hooded Oriole has been experiencing a range expansion. At one time you had to go to the deserts of the southwest to find this bird, but as suburbs expanded and people landscaped with ornamental palms the Hooded Oriole followed.

Hooded Orioles build their hanging nests on the underside of palm fronds. They even use fibers from the palm fronds in the construction of their nests as they weave the fibers together.



Male Hooded Oriole
- Ellen Bateman

Their nests are a work of art and we welcome you to come into the store to see one. While they use their slender-bill to weave their nests, they also use it to eat insects, fruit and drink nectar from flowers. Although a shy bird, Hooded Orioles have adapted to living in close proximity to people and will take advantage of your sugar water via both hummingbird & oriole feeders. They are quite vocal and hearing one can help you to locate it in your yard. Their song is a rapid combination of whistles, rattles and trills. They are one of the "neotropical migrants" that come to North America for their breeding activities and afterward migrate south to Central or South America for the nonbreeding season.

Earth Day April 22, 2015

Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson. The idea for an official "Earth Day" came after Gaylord personally witnessed the destruction from the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara. With so much happening in American politics at that time, including the Vietnam War, he wanted to increase the nation's environmental awareness. Nelson's idea resulted in the largest demonstration in U.S. history as millions of Americans observed that first Earth Day in April 1970. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. Earth Day continues to grow as people take time out to celebrate nature. In 1995 Gaylord was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest honor for civilians, and remained a national figure in environmental politics as Counselor of the Wilderness Society until his death in 2005. All of us at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher encourage you take time out this year to enjoy a bit of nature and celebrate Earth Day.



Photo Presentation: Birding Down Under –Australia and Papua New Guinea

Thursday, March 19, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Terraces



Pati Rouzer, Birding Down Under: Australia is both a country and a continent with some of the oldest landmass on Earth. Through photographs, Pati will share her trip throughout arid Australia in contrast with tropical Papua New Guinea. Pati is on the board of directors for Sequoia Audubon and the Belize Raptor Research Institute, and leads international birding tours for the Sierra Club. No charge but call to reserve your seat.

No charge but call to reserve your seat.

Photo Presentation: A Photographer's Dream, the Wildlife of Botswana and Namibia

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Terraces



Please join Jim and Sue Liskovec for their "Cruise Through Southern Africa". Using the professional guiding services of Letaka Safaris, their journey included 23 days throughout Botswana and Namibia with four adventurous friends as they covered 2200 miles using one vehicle. During their adventure they observed 40 different mammals and enjoyed 280 species of birds. Jim & Sue started with Sierra backpacking in the 70's which led to

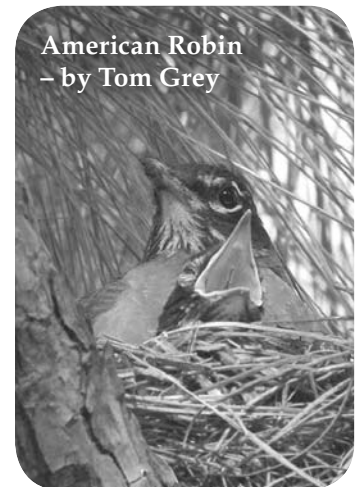
wild flowers which led to birds. Today both are active members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

No charge but call to reserve your seat.

The Breeding Season Has Arrived!

by Lisa Myers

With the breeding season comes bird songs and plumage changes. And while some of the species that have been in your yard all winter will be leaving, many that left last fall are now returning. We referenced the data from the 2007 "Breeding Bird Atlas of Santa Clara County" by Bill Bousman to give you the general date ranges of when you can expect your backyard birds to start nest building and incubating. We hope that by giving you these dates you will be able to enjoy the breeding activities happening in your own yard. For many species they just need 3 – 4 weeks to successfully raise the next generation and you can help. Here are a few tips to help your backyard birds successfully raise their chicks. Avoid spraying pesticides during this time as mother birds need insects to feed young and toxins can kill the entire family. Before you pull out your hedge trimmers or call a professional tree trimmer take a moment to be sure you don't already have a bird quietly nesting underneath a shrub or tree branch. While trimming vegetation, you may inadvertently destroy a bird's nest. Consider keeping your cat indoors, as young, innocent birds become an easy meal. If you find a helpless chick has fallen out of its nest, you can gently place it back into the nest. If you do find an active bird nest in your yard and you want to know when it will be safe to move around the area just call the store and we can help you ID the species and tell you when the chicks will fledge.



American Robin
– by Tom Grey

When they start to nest by Species

Mid February: Great Horned Owl

Dec. – August: Anna's Hummingbird

Late February: Bushtit, Oak Titmouse, House Finch, Northern Mockingbird

Early March: American Crow, Barn Swallow, Cooper's Hawk, Mourning Dove, Wild Turkey

Mid March: American Robin, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Bewick's Wren, Black Phoebe, California Towhee,

Downy Woodpecker, House Sparrow, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Orange Crowned Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Western Bluebird

Late March: Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common Raven, Dark-eyed Junco, Hooded Oriole, Lesser Goldfinch

Early April: Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Western Scrub Jay

Mid April: Acorn Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, Barn Owl, California Quail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted Towhee

End of April: Brown-headed Cowbird

Early May: Western Screech Owl

Tree Trimming – Watching out for Wildlife

by Jackie Turner, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley

Each year local wildlife rehabilitation centers receive large numbers of baby birds and squirrels that have been injured or orphaned by tree trimming. Tragically many of them do not survive. Most of these patients arrive in the spring, which is the worst time to prune a tree for both the tree and the wildlife living in it.

By following a few simple guidelines you can help reduce the number of baby birds and squirrels injured, orphaned, and killed by tree trimming.

In the past, arborists believed the best way to maintain a tree was to cut out about a third of its interior branches every few years, ostensibly to let light into the canopy and to “tidy up” the tree. But then research in tree care showed that pruning can actually harm trees. Not only does it traumatize them, causing them to expend a great deal of energy to recover, but it also makes them susceptible to disease. For these reasons, tree care researchers now say that the best pruning is none at all. Arborists recommend that you prune only to remove dead or diseased wood or branches that may injure the tree by chafing against each other. For aesthetics, you may also cut branches that cross the center of the tree, but otherwise, just leave the tree as Mother Nature intended.

If you absolutely have to prune a tree, be sure to check the area for squirrel and bird nests first. Squirrels nest twice a year from February to May, then again from July to September, and their nests look like a big clump of leaves and twigs caught in the junction of two branches (either near the trunk or farther out on the limb). Bird nests are smaller and harder to find, especially hummingbird nests,

which are about the size of eggcups, so just look for a dark spot tucked among the smaller branches. If you find a nest filled with eggs or babies, leave it alone. Moving a nest can severely hurt the babies’ chance of survival, and it may even be against the law. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it’s illegal to harm or remove the nests of all migratory and native birds, and most songbirds. So to be absolutely safe, put off pruning until the babies have fledged.

Keep in mind that some seasons are better for pruning than others. Arborists recommend pruning in the winter when trees have the greatest reserves of energy stored in their tissues and can cope with the shock of pruning or in the fall, just after deciduous trees have lost their leaves. In California, trees don’t lose their leaves until December, so that’s generally accepted to be the best time to prune. By then, baby squirrels and birds have reached self-sufficiency and their parents have wrapped up their procreation activities for the year. The worst time to prune a tree is in the spring. That’s the height of the nesting season for most birds and squirrels, and it’s also the time when a tree is directing all of its energy into producing new growth. Pruning in the springtime can not only impede a tree’s growth, but also increase its chances of becoming diseased.

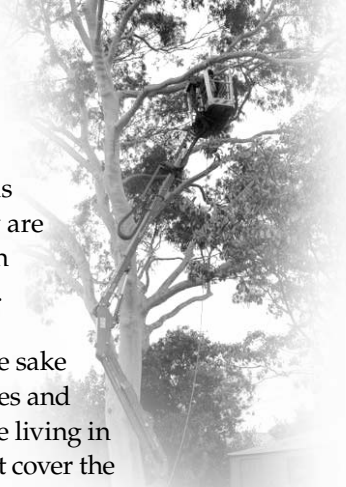
As always, there are exceptions to the rule. Dead wood can be removed anytime of the year, and weak shoots that sprout out of existing limbs or old wounds should be pruned in the later summer, after the tree has finished its growth spurt. Just be sure to check the area for nests before you cut. Most fruit trees are pruned annually, but again the best time

to do this is while they are dormant in the winter.

And for the sake of your trees and the wildlife living in them, don’t cover the stubs of freshly cut limbs with those black wound dressings. Birds can foul their feathers by brushing up against the goo, and the dressings can make your tree vulnerable to widespread damage by covering up early signs of bacterial infection. Just make a clean cut and leave it at that. Your trees will heal the cuts themselves and your wildlife will be healthier for it.

If the worst happens and you find baby birds or squirrels on the ground either in their nest or outside of it, don’t panic. Wildlife rehabilitators have had great success reuniting babies with their mothers in recent years. Poke holes in a shoebox and place the babies inside on a soft cloth to keep them safe and warm. Do not attempt to feed them or give them water. Call your local wildlife center (such as Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley 408-929-WILD) and they can advise you on whether reuniting is possible and if so, how to do it. Contrary to the popular myth, baby birds and squirrels are not rejected by their moms if they “smell of humans.” If the babies are injured, the wildlife center will advise you on how to transport them to a rehabilitation facility.

Jackie Turner is a volunteer wildlife rehabilitator at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley and a master gardener. With acknowledgements to Wildlife Rescue of Palo Alto/Peninsula Humane Society and Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, San Jose





A LOOK AT
WHAT'S NEW!



Nest boxes made from recycled mango wood



Crystals to hang in your window



Our battery operated "Attack Spider" is a bird deterrent



Colorful Art Poles with special messages for your garden



Nesting material you can provide for your birds



Beautiful new scarves come in several colors

SCVAS Spring Birdathon March 28 – April 26



Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society holds their most important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate you can form your own Self-Guided team or join one of the already prearranged Guided Teams. The goal of a Birdathon is for you to get folks to support your efforts and gather pledges ahead of time and then you go out and count or photograph bird species within the Spring Birdathon window from **March 28 – April 26**. You can count up to 4 hours or go out the entire day. You can even join the Big-sit competition where you sit in one spot and count all the birds around you for up to four hours. This is a very important fundraiser for SCVAS and the people who raise the most money win great prizes. Every year the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to donate one of the top prizes. For all the information about this and several other Birdathon events and how you can participate please visit their website (www.scvas.org).

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 six charities (Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, Friends of San Martin Animal Shelter, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife, and Henry W. Coe State Park Bat Project.). 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.

- **Children's nature 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 + \$15/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 **reusable canvas tote** with royal blue handles – quite spiffy! The tote is also for sale for \$4.99 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.

Re-Cap of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird presentation

We wanted to thank everyone that came out for Brian Sullivan's eBird presentation Feb. 5. It was a great success as we filled the room over at the Campbell Community Center. Over 100 people learned from Brian how eBird is documenting the presence or absence of species, as well as species abundance through the on-line checklist data provided by birders from all over the world. We now have a new friend over at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. If you want to learn more about eBird please visit www.eBird.org.



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

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March / April 2015

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Excludes sale items, excursions and optics.
Not to be combined with any other offers

Field Trips & Outings



Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks

Join us most 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. Our local bird walks are from 8 to 10 am and we return to the store 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
March 4th, April 1st, May 6th
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 Lone Tree Road

Saturday, April 18, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Lone Tree Road is a beautiful country road north/east of Hollister. Lone Tree winds its way up to 1200 feet in elevation and dead-ends 10 miles into the foothills. It's a great place for spring birding as the road travels through different habitats, fields, along streams and under woodland canopies. This location is ideal for Golden Eagles, Lazuli Bunting and much more. **Fee: \$60 Bus and Birdaloo**

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to Mines Road

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Mines Road is located on the eastern side of the Mount Hamilton Range is an annual event for birdwatchers. This long, rural road allows for many pull-outs as we spot Golden Eagles, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow and many more. We never know what to expect and that is one reason this day is always an adventure. Evergreens and Oak Trees cover the hillsides and our birding will be done along road side pull outs where we study the landscape and find our birds. **Fee: \$60 Bus and Birdaloo**

Belize Raptor Tour

August 10 – 19, 2015

Here's an opportunity to bird Central America with the Belize Raptor Research Institute. Along with observing new species, and exploring habitats throughout Belize, you will also enjoy educational enrichment through a series of lectures, as well as participate in field research and the Annual Raptor-a-thon fundraising event. The trip will be focused on raptors (Birds of Prey), but will look for and appreciate all wildlife. This trip will be co- led by Lisa Myers of Let's Go Birding , Ryan Phillips, Founding Director of the Belize Raptor Research Institute (BRRI), and Roni Martinez the Belize Raptor Research Institute President, as well as local guides at each site. Contact lisa@letsjobirding.com for details.



Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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Remember Me Well

??/??/2013 - 2/11/2015

An escape artist to the end, Marley was killed by a motorcycle as she gave chase. Keep her in your hearts. -*Freddy and John*



Dates to Remember

Daylight Savings Time – Begins Sunday March 8
St. Patrick's Day – Tuesday March 17
First Day of Spring – Friday March 20
Good Friday & Passover – Begins April 3
Easter Sunday – April 5 (Closed)
Mother's Day – Sunday May 10

Store Hours

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

