

Los Gatos Birdwatcher

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What is important this holiday season?
Great Selection! Unique Gifts! Saving Money!



Los Gatos Birdwatcher Holiday Open House

On Saturday, November 10 from 10am to 2pm you can get all three. All of our **Christmas and Holiday merchandise**, including **ornaments**, will be ready for your selection – all at **15% off**. All **optics will be 10% off** and limited to stock on hand. Coupons do not apply. Refreshments will be served.



More Opportunities to Save!

Countdown to Hanukkah and Christmas – Starts November 23!



November 23–29
15% off All Feeders
(including hummingbird and squirrel feeders)



November 30–December 6
15% off All Birdbaths
(turkey not included)



December 7–13
15% off All Jewelry



December 14–20
15% off All Clothing
(that includes SOCKS)



December 17–24
25% off All Holiday Items
(including Calendars)



Lisa Myers' Shorebird Workshop

Class: Thursday, November 15, 6:30 to 8:00pm,

Field Trip: Sunday, November 18 from 2:00-4:00pm (special time)

Fee: \$20/per person

Shorebirds are a group of birds that come in all shapes and sizes and most spend their time near water. They include ocean species that seldom come ashore and the waders that we find probing the mudflats in the tidal habitats found throughout the Bay Area and along our coastal shores. We'll review the most common shorebirds that we find in Northern California and what field marks to look for while learning about their migration and breeding behaviors.



Photo Presentation

– Don and Elaine Dvorak go to Midway Island

Thursday, November 29, 6:00-7:00pm

Don Dvorak has exhibited at most of our Photo Exhibits. Midway Island is not on everybody's "Bucket List" so this is a chance to see some spectacular bird photography by Don and Elaine taken during a photo safari last April. Eleven hundred miles northwest of the Hawaiian Islands lies the Island of Midway, known for its strategic location during WWII. Midway is also known for the more than two million albatross that nest there as well as many other birds.

No Charge, but please call to reserve your space.



Book Signing – Anne Creevey – Let's Go Birding You and Me

Saturday, December 8, 1:00-3:00pm

This is a fun birding guide for the younger set. Anne Creevey teaches beginning birding in Palo Alto and produced this guide for her granddaughter. It targets many of the birds that your children or grandchildren will see in their yards and in the local parks. The illustrations are also done by Anne and those of you who were at our August Art Exhibit had a chance to see her original cover design of an Anna's Hummingbird. Her books are \$10 each and will be personalized for you by the author.



Photo Presentation – Judy Bingman visits the Great Wonders of Egypt

Thursday, January 17 - 6:00 to 7:00pm

Travel with Judy back in time to the land of the Pharaohs. Discover temples large and small. See views from swaying camels walking over the sand. Witness a sunrise over the famous Nile River while floating silently in a hot air balloon. Stand at the base of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the great Pyramid and get goose bumps. See the hoopoes and hooded crows of Luxor. Visit Petra in Jordan.

No Charge, but please call to reserve your space.



Lisa Myers' Duck Workshop

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

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

Fee: \$20/per person

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.

A new chapter is about to begin for long-time employee, Laura Dangerfield

Laura started with us in 2004 and continued as a sales associate until October 31, 2012. She and her husband, Jason, are adjusting their lives to work from home and spend more time with family. Her store duties included inventory check-in, ordering several lines of product, and working with customers to find just the right answer to their questions or problems. She was gracious in her dealing with all our customers and received many compliments on her customer service. Being meticulous, Laura always made sure our supplies were well stocked and reminded me when things needed to be ordered.

Since you are reading this in our newsletter, you are seeing her new line of work. Laura was invaluable as proof reader and editor and will use these skills in her new online editing career. She caught the smallest mistakes and was very helpful in the overall cohesiveness of the newsletter.

Punctuality, reliability, and the willingness to work with our other employees made her an excellent team member and we are sad to lose her. However, we know that she will do well in her next endeavor.



Vintage bird book article sparked interest!

Soon after the last newsletter came out several people came in with their bird book treasures from their childhood. Rosemary Baum brought in an earlier copy of Neltje Blanchan's book under a slightly different title: "Birds Worth Knowing" and was copyrighted in 1917. In the preface, Neltje Blanchan discusses the "new" interest of birds. "An immense wave of interest in birds recently swept over the country where less than a generation ago was complete indifference to their extermination. Why this change of the people's thought? Largely as the logical result of persistent and highly intelligent educative work by the Audubon Societies, directed by scientific and altruistic men and women, in reaching school children, clubs of many kinds, granges, editors, and legislators." The work continues to this day.

I was rummaging through some books of ours and found one that had been given to me by some friends. It

had belonged to Don Blesi's mother, Marjorie, and had been presented to her in 1921 as a Reward of Merit. The copyright was 1907 and had yet another title by Neltje Blanchan, "Birds Every Child Should Know." Instead of paintings this book has black and white photos of nests and baby birds that are amazing in their detail when you consider that they were taken so long ago. In the preface the author states, "Interest in the birds trains the ear unconsciously. A keen, intelligent listener is rare, even among grown-ups, but a child who is becoming acquainted with the birds about him hears every sound and puzzles out its meaning with a cleverness that amazes those with ears who hear not." There have been many young birders who have heard, seen, and identified birds much faster than experienced adult birders!

As a follow up to researching Ralph Hoffmann and Roger Tory Peterson for the last issue, I looked up Neltje Blanchan and found out

that she was a prolific writer on birds and wildflowers. She married into the Doubleday publishing family and became a commissioner for the Red Cross, then traveled to the Philippines and China. Unfortunately she met with an early death at 52 in 1918 while visiting Canton, China in her Red Cross capacity. The Wikipedia entry describes her books as a "synthesis of scientific interest with poetic phrasing."

Bev Hesse also shared several birding books. The ones that caught my eye were the Red, Green, and Blue books of birds by Frank G. Ashbrook and illustrated by Paul Moller. These were small, paperback books with a different set of birds in each one. They were to be used in the field as they were pocket sized and had an illustration on one side and written information on the other. They were published in 1931 and are still available today through Barnes and Noble!

Who's Coming and Who's Going

Phone call 8:00am September 28, 2012. "I have three white-crowned sparrows in my yard! It's the earliest I have EVER seen them here!" said our enthusiastic employee, Kathleen Kawakami. She knows when she calls with such an event we will be excited. Even before she started working with us 9 years ago, the excited calls would come when an unknown bird came into her yard. First it was American goldfinch, then a black-chinned hummingbird.

Our golden-crowned sparrows, a single white-crowned, and a single fox sparrow showed up at our house the first week in October. The band-tailed pigeon numbers are way down from their peak of 50 or so this summer. We saw a Hermit thrush on our Saturday, October 6 walk. Now is the time to put more seed on the ground for these ground feeding winter sparrows. They prefer millet based mixes and appreciate it under a shrub to give them extra protection.

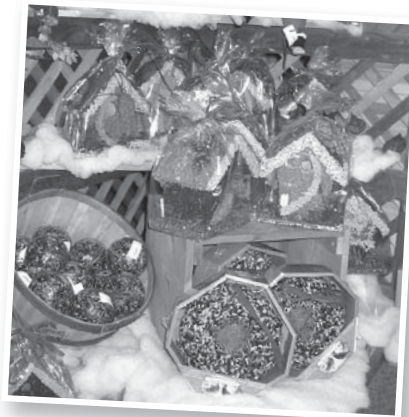
Our neo-tropical migrants: black-headed grosbeaks, Bullock's and

hooded orioles have all headed south to Central America for the winter. Cedar waxwings are coming back now as the various berry bushes ripen. Our madrone has set its berries though they have not ripened yet. The pyracantha have turned orange and the elderberries are a dark purple. Townsend's and yellow-rumped warblers will be very interested in your birdbaths and your suet feeders. American goldfinch are shifting in their territory, so if you haven't had them in the summer they are on their way and if you have had them, they are about to leave. The Lesser Goldfinch should be arriving to take their place, but don't be surprised at all their winter plumage. The bright yellow has dulled or in some cases turned to buffy tan. We are hearing early reports of high numbers of pine siskins coming in from up north for the winter. Put out the Nyjer/thistle and watch the fun!

Throughout the year, it is important to keep fresh water in clean birdbaths ready for whoever is in our yards.

Edible Ornaments and Seed Birdhouses

Dress up your yard and feed the wildlife. We just got our order of seed ornament garlands, seed covered birdhouses in several designs, seed ornaments in holiday shapes, and seed ball ornaments. For more ideas on ornament projects that you can do at home, pick up our **Los Gatos Birdwatcher Insider Information Sheet on Edible Ornaments**. There you will find detailed instructions for pine cone feeders, cookie cutter ornaments, peanut garlands, and orange baskets.

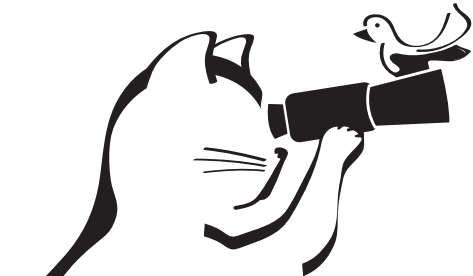


Festival of Trees includes Photos with Santa!

The 2012 Festival of Trees at King's Court kicks off on Saturday, **December 8th from 12:00 – 4:00pm** with entertainment, balloon artists, and photos with an excellent Santa. We will also have a table with great bargains. Every year selected local schools and community organizations vie for cash prizes by decorating trees at the shopping center. All the organizations will be attending the festival kick-off and will be able to answer questions about their missions. The winners are determined by your votes. Until December 18th you can support these local organizations by voting for your favorite tree at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and all the other retailers in the center. One vote per person, please. The Peoples' Choice awards will be announced on December 21st. Be sure to come see all the trees so creatively decorated and support your favorite with your vote.

Small Business Saturday

The Town of Los Gatos and King's Court Center are participating in Small Business Saturday which falls on Saturday, November 24, between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It is the day communities celebrate the Shop Small movement and support small businesses that help fuel the economy and invigorate communities. It will also save you on gasoline. **Check your mailbox for the one day coupon that saves you \$10 on a purchase of \$20 or more!** We so appreciate our customers who have supported us throughout our seventeen years. Thank you!



LOOK WHAT
FREDDY FOUND!

FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Wearables
- Hoodies, Sweaters, T's



Christmas Cards -
Nature and Bird designs



Nightshirts
- New designs, One size fits most, Really comfy, PJ's too



Tabletop candle holders and plates
- These make lovely gifts and are perfect for the holiday table



Socks
- Wear yourself or Give to friends and family. New - Fingerless Mittens



Hostess Gifts and Secret Santa
- Measuring Spoons, Dish Towels, Tea Light Holders - so much to choose from

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.

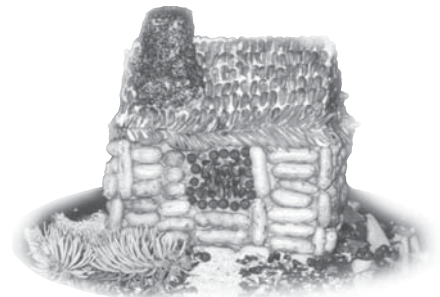
Reservation Required

November GingerSeed House Tradition

Ginger Seed House Workshop
\$25/ house

For the whole family: Friday, November 23rd, 3-4:30 PM

Join our after-Thanksgiving tradition. Don't miss this special family activity as we build festive houses together out of seeds for the birds and squirrels in your neighborhood to feast on. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting grubby. A great opportunity to create this masterpiece without having to fuss with the mess! *(Not appropriate for anyone with peanut allergies.)*



Ginger Seed House Kits

Ginger Seed House kits will be available to take and make on your own on November 21st. A sample will be available in the store to provide inspiration. For \$25 we provide all the basics; seed block for the foundation of the house, matzo for the roof, ice cream cone for the chimney and lots of different seeds for the decoration. All you do is supply a cookie sheet, the peanut butter and your imagination! Ginger Seed House kits make great gifts for families. *(We can make special "no peanut" kits upon request, just call to order.)*

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

#C1212

/ 2012

Pay to the order of *Our Loyal Customer*
15% Off One Item

Memo: *Expires 12/31/12*

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
November 7, December 5, January 2, 2013
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.**

No December Field Trip.

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count – check out the SCVAS.org website for all the details for these fun birding events.



Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers To Cosumnes River Preserve

Saturday, November 17, 2012 - 8:00am - 5:00pm

We'll spend the day at the Cosumnes River Preserve which is located north of Stockton in San Joaquin County. This preserve is a hot spot for many fantastic species that return here each winter, including waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes and raptors. According to their website "the Cosumnes River Preserve was created to protect this land as it is the only remaining unregulated river on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. In its lower reaches, it flows through one of the biologically richest regions in California's Central Valley, before merging with the Mokelumne River to flow into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and eventually the Pacific Ocean."

Fee: \$30 plus share of gas.

Let's Go Birding with Lisa Myers to San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

Saturday, January 19, 8:00am – 4:00pm

There is a brand new Visitor Center that just opened at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, located along the Pacific flyway provides the ideal habitat for viewing wintering species and now with the new visitor center, there is even more to experience and learn. Everything about the new, beautiful building is state of the art, environmentally friendly and "green". It will be home to the US Fish and Wildlife staff in addition to being a Tule Elk refuge.

Fee: \$30 plus share of gas.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher



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

Return Service Requested



Printed on
recycled paper

Part-time Canine Greeters

All greeters dressed for Christmas



Dates to Remember

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

11/1	Dia de los Muertos	December 17-21	9AM - 7PM
11/4	Daylight Savings Ends - Set clocks Back!	December 22	10AM - 7PM
11/6	Election Day - VOTE!	December 23	11AM - 6PM
11/11	Veterans Day - Remember	December 24	9AM - 4PM
12/8	Hanukkah begins	December 31	10AM - 4PM
12/21	Winter Solstice		
12/25	Christmas		

Store Hours

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

