

### Store Hours

Mon – Sat • 10 AM – 5 PM | Tues • 10 AM – 7 PM  
Closed Sundays

### Holiday Hours

Wed, Nov 27 • 10 AM – 4 PM (Closed Thanksgiving Day)  
Tue, Dec 24 • 10 AM – 4 PM (Closed Christmas Day)  
Tue, Dec 31 • 10 AM – 4 PM (Closed New Year's Day)

## The Largest Bird at Your Feeder

by Jessica Guenther

Many of our customers have been reporting Band-tailed Pigeons coming to their bird feeders, so we thought we'd share a bit about this species. Native to California and the West, band-tails travel and feed together in flocks totaling hundreds of individuals at times. They prefer forest habitats throughout their range but can now be found in suburban areas near parks and orchards. Their diet is mostly vegetarian including seeds, fruits, and flowers and they will travel long distances to find food. This species is quite large and when they show up in your yard they can quickly empty a bird feeder. As a result, a common question we get at the store is how to keep them away from feeders. If you find yourself overridden with Band-tailed Pigeons, one method is to take down your feeders for a couple of days, to have the pigeons move on to other areas. Another method is to install a baffle above your feeder or use a feeder with small perches, too small for the band-tails to perch.



Band-tailed Pigeon – Fred Lim

If they are a visitor to your yard, it may be hard for you to imagine that this species has experienced a decline in population over the last century. Considered quite tasty and a threat to crops, in the 1920's they were heavily hunted until public outrage led to them being federally protected, especially after hunting caused the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. However, hunting resumed in the Pacific Northwest in the 1960s-80s.

Band-tails have long breeding seasons and can have up to three nests a year, but each nest will usually only include one egg. Like other nesting birds, their eggs will often be predated by the likes of ravens, jays, crows, and even squirrels. Because of this, most pairs successfully raise only one chick per year.

Another common threat to Band-tailed Pigeons is the disease Avian Trichomonosis which is a growth that can block their respiratory and digestive tracts. If you notice a sick Band-tailed Pigeon at your feeder we advise you to take down feeders and clean them to stop the spread of this disease.

While their numbers are now considered healthy, the data shows a reduction in their population by 2% every year since the 1960s. Habitat loss impacts all wildlife including the Band-tailed Pigeons so they do take advantage of the food offered at bird feeders. Sometimes they visit backyard gardens at the same time every year and simply move on after a few weeks. Our experience shows that they move about their range and their time in your yard is usually short-lived.



### Nikon Sale Starting November 4

The sale starts November 4 and runs through December 7. **Save \$60 per pair on our store's line of Monarch M7 binoculars** or get **\$40 off a pair of Monarch M5 8x42s or 10x42s**. Perfect timing for holiday gifting.

# Migration—Birds On The Move

by Lisa Myers

When you slow down from the day-to-day grind and start to appreciate birds, you soon realize just how small the Earth really is. Because of their ability to fly, birds are able to move across the landscape throughout the year in search of ideal nesting habitat, adequate food supplies, and any other resources required to continue their species. The major movement from one area to another is called migration and may consist of a few hundred miles, or thousands of miles depending on the species. Many different species of animals migrate including butterflies, bats, bison, and whales. Such movements are usually triggered by the seasons. In the



**Waterfowl Sunset**

– Tony Woo

bird world, September and October put us in the middle of the Fall Migration. Birds that spend the breeding season (spring and summer) in the far north must fly south before the Arctic temperatures make it inhospitable. And

some of the birds that spent the breeding season in our area will head south where they'll find plenty of bugs and places to safely spend the winter. **Having bird feeders available for birds will NOT keep them from migrating, on the contrary. Feeders can provide exhausted birds with needed food and help fuel their journey.**

Some birds migrate at night including shorebirds and many of the songbirds. Sparrows, warblers, orioles, and thrush migrate at night when temperatures are cool, thermals are fewer, and predators can be avoided. Nighttime migrants are known to use the stars and moon for navigation. You may wake up to find some new birds in your yard that arrived while you were sleeping. Shorebirds migrate at night in flocks. The parents will leave weeks before their young so it is believed that the route is already within the juvenile shorebird's DNA. How else would the spring-hatched young know where to go on their first migration without the guidance of the adults?

Ducks, geese, and swans (waterfowl) will migrate during the day or night. Waterfowl are heavy birds and powerful flyers and will take advantage of the weather conditions

to help them on their journey whenever the time is right. A great tailwind will help them move faster, or like competitive cyclists “drafting” behind the cyclist in front of them, waterfowl move into location behind the bird in front to reduce the wind resistance, saving them energy in flight. We see this as the birds fly in formation.



**Townsend's Warbler**

– Brooke Miller

Some of the species that migrate during the day include swallows, hummingbirds, hawks, and cranes. Insect-eating aerialists such as swallows can grab a meal while in flight throughout their journey. Hummingbirds can stop for nectar while en route. Cranes are known to use visual landmarks (mountain ranges, volcanoes, lakes, marshlands) to help them find their way. In fact, young cranes make their first few migrations with their parents so they can learn the route. Hawks often join others of their own species and migrate during the day in large flocks. If they can catch thermals, these warm currents will aid them in their migration.

Through research, ornithologists conclude that birds feel the magnetic pull and can orient between north, south, east, and west helping them circumvent the Earth.

**You can help migrating birds by providing a safe, pesticide-free garden with food, shelter, and water. Keeping your cats indoors will also save many a bird.**



**Townsend's Warbler Range Map**

– Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
(orange=breeding season / yellow=migration / blue=fall-winter)

# Leave the Leaves!

by Lisa Myers

Fall is the time of year when deciduous plants and trees drop their leaves. Everyone loves the “change in colors” as the landscapes turn from various shades of green to maroon, orange, yellow, gold, and brown. Some people even plan their vacations to visit areas where this change in season is an anticipated annual event.

After the leaves change colors, they usually fall off the tree. Even if you call yourself a nature-loving person, many of you will come along and sweep up these leaves, or better yet, you’ll pay your gardener to blow the leaves off your property. We would like you to reconsider how you handle the piles of leaves in your fall yard.

Maybe you can allocate a bit of space in your yard to leave behind a percentage of them; it’s the way nature intended it to be and it’s great for your birds and the other creatures living in your yard. Below are some excellent points for you to consider.



*Chico (on Lisa’s right) recently adopted from the Milo Foundation is Easy’s new brother. They along with the wild birds enjoy the leaves that blanket Lisa’s garden.*



**California Thrasher**  
– Tony Woo



**Golden-crowned Sparrow**  
– Ron Machado

- **Natural Mulch** – Without human intervention the fallen leaves would remain and become an essential part of a tree’s natural life, returning nutrients back to the tree through the roots. Free mulch!
- **Protects Roots** – The fallen leaves add a layer of protection that aids the roots against weather and loss of moisture.
- **Inhibits Weed Growth** – A thick layer of fallen leaves can keep weeds from growing up through the soil.
- **Natural Fertilizer** – The decaying leaves become their own natural fertilizer allowing you to avoid the need to spend money on added fertilizers.
- **Provides Habitat** – Lots of tiny creatures can live under the leaf litter. Instead of stripping the landscape of everything, you can provide a home for the creatures that need a place to live. A pristine garden is actually a loss of habitat for animals.
- **Supports Insect-Eating Birds** – The tiny insects that live within the leaf litter become food for the birds. Insect-eating species like sparrows, thrashers, flycatchers, flickers, wrens, and warblers need insects to survive. If we wipe out the insects, we wipe out the birds.
- **Minimize Blowing** – Have your gardener spend valuable time doing something else in your yard instead of blowing away leaves. Spare neighbors from the sound of leaf blowers.





**Tour Division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher**

Let's Go Birding tours get you out of your yard and into different habitats where you can experience a variety of species not found at home.

**Saturday Morning Local Bird Walks**

**FREE**



The Los Gatos Birdwatcher sponsors Saturday morning bird walks. Dates and locations are listed below and on our website. Unless it is a special workshop, these walks are free and open to all birding levels, but pre-registration is required. Unless otherwise stated, walks start on-site at 8:30 AM and end around 10:00 AM. Space is limited. Please call the store to register at 408-358-9453.

<b>Oct. 19</b>	Vasona County Park – Los Gatos
<b>Oct. 26</b>	Beginning Birding Workshop Field trip
<b>Nov. 9</b>	Calero Reservoir County Park
<b>Nov. 23</b>	The Morning at Sanborn County Park <i>(see details page 5)</i>
<b>Dec. 7 &amp; 8</b>	Central Valley Birding Weekend <i>(see details page 5)</i>
<b>Jan. 4 2025</b>	Celebrating the New Year with Sandhill Cranes. Updates to come!

The **Cornell Lab** of Ornithology  
**Project FeederWatch**

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. FeederWatch is survey that runs **(November 1-April)** of the birds that visit all locales in North America. With FeederWatch, you become a scientist in your own backyard and your counts become part of something bigger. You can count birds as often or as little as you have time, the schedule is completely flexible. All you need is a bird feeder, bird bath, or plantings that attract birds. It's a fun way to learn about your backyard birds. Visit for details – [feederwatch.org/welcome-to-feederwatch](http://feederwatch.org/welcome-to-feederwatch)

**Bird ID Workshops Will Return In 2025**

**Beginning Birding Workshop**  
**Tuesday, October 22 • 6:00–7:00 PM**  
**+ Morning Field Trip Sat, October 26**

This evening workshop at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is geared for those new to birding and will include a morning field trip on Saturday October 26.

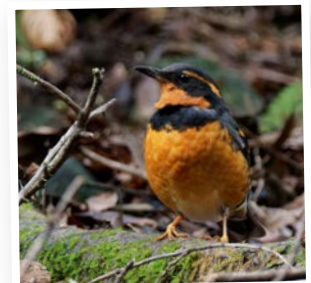


In the last few years, many people have picked up binoculars and have been using phone apps to help ID birds.

This workshop will take you beyond the Apps and help you with all aspects of birdwatching like how birds get grouped together, how habitat and seasons affect what you will see, and how to use your binoculars. We'll talk about how to find the birds and you'll learn about the many Bay Area birding resources available to you. Bring all your questions! Call the store to register **408-358-9453**. **Fee: \$25**

**Birding the Morning at Sanborn County Park**  
**Saturday November 23 • 8:30 AM–noon**

We'll spend the entire morning birding the shady mountain trails in Sanborn County Park above Saratoga. This will allow us the added time to try and find the more elusive species like Hermit and Varied Thrush, Pileated Woodpeckers, Pacific Wren and more. The dirt trails will include a variety of levels so you'll need good hiking shoes. Bathrooms are available. Parking fee required. Participants will meet at the park. Call the store to register **408-358-9453**. **Fee: \$25**



Varied Thrush  
–Fred Lim

# SAVE THE BAY

## Bay Day

October 5 • 10:00–2:30 PM Palo Alto Baylands

Bay Day is a regional holiday celebrating the heart of our home, San Francisco Bay. This one-day shoreline festival held at the Palo Alto Baylands offers a unique opportunity to connect with Bay Area community members.

Their 9th annual Bay Day includes activities for people of all ages. From restoration projects to Bay Trail tours. Store owner and birder Lisa Myers will be leading a bird walk at the event starting at 10:00 AM. Save the Bay plans for it to be an event you won't want to miss! Learn more at [BayDay.org](http://BayDay.org)

## SFBBO's California Fall Challenge 2024

Now thru October 31

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) is a nonprofit with the mission to promote sustainability in the Bay Area and beyond by engaging communities in avian research, habitat restoration, and education. Each year they raise money for their programs with the California Fall Challenge (CFC). Donations of \$80 or more are eligible to receive this year's CFC T-shirt



designed by Anastasia Nguyen, on a vintage navy shirt, showcasing Wilson's Phalaropes, a declining species that SFBBO is studying and working to protect. To learn more, visit [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) or write to [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org).

The Los Gatos Birdwatcher is helping SFBBO reach its fundraising goals by donating to the Silent Auction a nature-themed gift basket and a men's Port Authority warm weather jacket with an embroidered Nikon logo.

Until Oct 31 there will be a donation box for this year's CFC located inside the store and the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will match all donations collected!

## Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Featuring author of Nature's Best Hope, Doug Tallamy  
Sunday, November 17



Keynote Speaker  
**Doug Tallamy**

We want to share with you the upcoming conference at the Santa Clara University Mayer Theater on Sun, Nov 17. This will be the 20th Anniversary of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and they are excited to announce Doug Tallamy, NY Times bestselling author of Nature's Best Hope as the keynote speaker. The Golden Gate Bird Alliance and to the California Native Plant Society's Santa Clara Valley Chapter are partnering to help with this event. Native plants are a wonderful way to attract nature to your gardens including butterflies, bees and birds! To learn more about this event and upcoming garden tours please visit <https://bringingbackthenatives.net/>

## December Weekend–Birding the Central Valley

Saturday and Sunday, December 7–8

Lisa Myers plans to go birding and you are invited. We'll leave the Bay Area early Saturday morning and return Sunday evening. We'll bird the Sacramento and Colusa National



Snow Geese in the thousands  
**–Tony Woo**

Wildlife Refuges. Here we will find the millions of birds that leave their northern breeding grounds to spend the winter in California. We'll spend the evening in Williams where we'll dine together and celebrate our day. We'll experience over 70 species including Tundra Swans, Ross's & Snow Geese, Greater White Fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagle, and White Faced Ibis. There is no fee for this adventure. The weekend fills at 15. Participants will drive themselves or carpool. Participants will be responsible for all their expenses from the hotel room, to gas, food, and refuge entrance fees. Everyone will reserve their own hotel room. If you want to learn more please email Lisa at [lisa@letsgobirding.com](mailto:lisa@letsgobirding.com)



**Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help you with your holiday shopping.**



**Gift Wrapping** – We will gift wrap your items using a variety of options from wrapping paper to garment boxes and bags made from recycled materials.



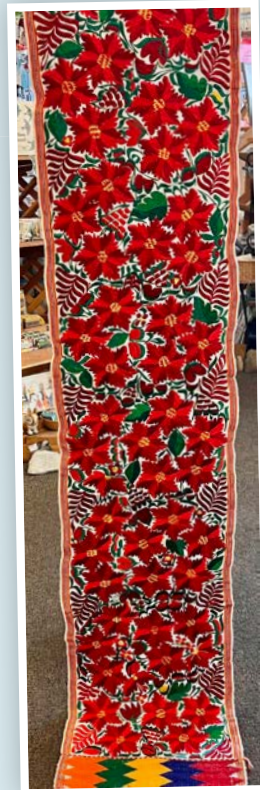
**Camera Feeders**

– We have both hummingbird and seed feeders equipped with the latest camera technology



**Garden Stones**

– Garden stones with just the right saying make for great gifts



**Holiday Ornaments**

– Our holiday ornaments will be out at the end of October



**Wine Stands**

– Let us help you dress up your wine for the season



**Nature Decorations**

– Are you looking for nature themed decorations?

**Home Decor**

– Table runners from Guatemala are here in a variety of designs



**Quality Wild Bird Seed**

– Gifting a 5 or 20 Lb. bag of Volkman bird seed may be the perfect solution for the bird lover on your list.

**SEASONS GREETINGS!**

## Presentation at The Terraces

### Bald Eagles in Haines, Alaska

Thursday, November 14 • 7:00 PM Free  
 Presenter & Photographer – Joan Sparks

A few years ago, Joan Sparks was invited to photograph bald eagles with a team of National Geographic photographers in Haines, Alaska. During the winter, there is an unfrozen two-mile stretch of the Chilkat River about 20 miles north of Haines where 2,000 to 3,000 eagles congregate to feed on the salmon. Come meet Joan and learn about this awesome winter Alaskan landscape and our American icon in its natural habitat.



Adult Bald Eagle on the ice!  
 –Joan Sparks



### Honoring Veterans with a 20% Discount November 4–17

November 11th is Veterans Day, a day to honor all our veterans. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher also wants to honor our vets and to do that we are giving veterans 20% off their entire purchase **Monday, Nov. 4 through Saturday Nov. 17.**

## Upcoming California Birding Festivals

### Monterey Bay Festival of Birds

October 11–13, 2024 | [birdschoolproject.org](http://birdschoolproject.org)

### Lodi Crane Festival

November 2–3, 2024 | [Lodisandhill.org](http://Lodisandhill.org)

### California Swan Festival

November 8–10, 2024 | [caswanfestival.org](http://caswanfestival.org)

### Central Valley Birding Symposium

November 21–24, 2024 | [cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org)

## Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Help you to ID your birds**

– We can help you ID that mystery bird in your yard. Just take a photo using your cell phone and email it to [info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com), or drop by the store and show your photo to our staff.

- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program**

– We will come out to your home (15-mile radius) and talk about what you can do to attract more birds to your yard—what species you can attract, where to set up feeders, bird baths and nest boxes are just some of the topics we'll cover. There is a \$50 consultation fee per visit. With your visit, you'll receive a **\$25 Los Gatos Birdwatcher gift certificate.**

- **Frequent Buyer Program**

– Buy 10 of the same seed bags of 20# or higher at full price and **get the 11th bag free.** Coupons do not apply.



# Anna's Hummingbirds Are Here All Year Long

If you grew up in the east you had only one species of hummingbird—the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This species spends the winter in Mexico and Central America and migrates to the United States and Canada each Spring.

They are a welcome sight after a long Minnesota winter! In the fall, all the ruby-throats migrate south back to warmer climates. Many of you walk into the store asking when our California hummingbirds will leave and are surprised to learn that here in the west our Anna's Hummingbirds stay all year.

So leave your hummingbird feeders up all year, but remember that the sugar water in hummingbird feeders grows bacteria and mildew. You must take care to clean your feeders when replacing the sugar water. And replace the sugar water on a regular schedule depending on the outside temperatures. If keeping your hummingbird feeders clean is a hardship, we recommend you plant hummingbird-loving flowers in your yard instead.

Male Anna's  
Hummingbird  
– Tom Grey



## Reminder

*The nectar formula to use is:*

- 4 parts water to 1 part sugar
- Do not use red coloring, organic sugar, honey or brown sugar.



King's Court Center  
792 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
408/358-9453  
email: [info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com)  
website: [www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com](http://www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com)

Find us on Facebook  
and Instagram



## Dates to Remember

- Oct 5** – Bay Day at Palo Alto Baylands
- Oct 11** – Monterey Bay Festival of Birds starts
- Oct 19** – Vasona County Park bird walk
- Oct 22** – Beginning Birding Workshop at the store
- Oct 26** – Beginning Birding Workshop Fieldtrip
- Oct 31** – SFBBO's California Fall Challenge ends
- Nov 1** – Project Feeder Watch starts
- Nov 2** – Lodi Crane Festival starts
- Nov 4** – Nikon sale starts at the store
- Nov 8** – California Swan Festival in Marysville starts
- Nov 9** – Calero Reservoir County Park bird walk
- Nov 17** – *Bringing Back the Native Garden Tour Event*
- Nov 21** – Central Valley Birding Symposium starts
- Nov 23** – Birding the Morning at Sanborn County Park
- Dec 7, 8** – Birding the Central Valley



## Loyal Customer Spring Discounts

Loyal Customers are in our store  
database and receive a monthly email.

**15% Off  
Seed**

Loyal Customers mention this coupon and get 15% off one item. Excludes consignment items, Haikubox, sales items, excursions, optics.

**15% Off  
One Item  
(not seed)**

Loyal Customers mention this coupon and get 15% off one item. Excludes bird seed & chicken feed, consignment and sale items, Haikubox, excursions, and optics.

One coupon per customer. Not to be combined with other offers.

Coupons Expire December 31, 2024

## Store Hours

Monday – Saturday • 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Tuesday until 7:00 PM • Closed Sundays

