



Store Location
King's Court Center
792 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-358-9453
info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com
www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com

Store Hours Mon-Sat • 10 AM-5 PM | Tues • 10 AM-7 PM | Closed Sundays

Offering Mealworms to Your Insect-Eating Birds

By Lisa Myers

If you have ever been by the store on a Tuesday morning you know that is when we get our Volkman seed delivery. Every week you'll see us unloading four, five, and even six pallets of fresh birdseed. And during the Spring the birds are chowing down as they need the added calories to fuel their migration, help them defend a territory, or feed young. But what about the insect-eating birds that don't come to seed feeders? We can help you with them too. Insect-eating birds look for insects in the leaf litter on the ground, or high in the tree tops. They'll even pluck flying insects like gnats and mosquitos right out of the air. One more reason to eliminate using pesticides in your garden – just let the birds eat your bugs. No mistake, if pesticides remove this food source, it will also remove the birds.



Handful of dried mealworms

Have you considered offering mealworms to your insect-eating birds? Mealworms are the larval form of the yellow mealworm beetle, *Tenebrio molitor*, a species of darkling beetle. In its larval state, it's a welcome juicy piece of food. We sell both live and dried mealworms at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher. The live mealworms come in a container that you'll need to keep in your refrigerator. You'll also need to feed them fresh carrot or potato every few days. While the dried mealworms can be tucked away in your pantry. Even some of your seed-eating birds will take advantage of mealworms as an added treat. Especially during the breeding season which happens NOW!



Western Bluebirds enjoying live mealworms – Gina Dias

There are many ways you can offer mealworms to your birds and our staff would be happy to help. It may take your birds a few days to find your generous offering, but during this breeding season they'll be back for more.

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

*Are You
Ready?*

*Happy
Father's
Day!*

Mother's Day is May 11, followed by **Father's Day on June 15**.

We have all kinds of unique and thoughtful gift items for both, from jewelry to clothing, binoculars, and bird feeders. We encourage you to buy local. It's convenient and supports our local neighborhoods.

We're here to help, answer your questions, and wrap your gifts!



Tour Division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher sponsors weekend 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. **Please refer to our website for details** per adventure and then call the store to register at **408-358-9453**.

April 12	Shoreline Lake, Mountain View
April 27	Birdathon fundraiser, So. San Jose
May 3	Vasona County Park, Los Gatos
May 18	Ed Levin County Park, Milpitas, Lazuli Bunting
June 14	Lake Cunningham
June 28	TBD depending on reports

Now Open - The Larry Ellison Conservation Center for Wildlife Care

Here at the bird store we often get that first panic call when someone finds an injured animal. Through the years we have worked closely with the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley to help you get help for your injured bird, raccoon, or opossum, but everything has changed now. The new Larry Ellison Conservation Center for Wildlife Care is now open!

This new Wildlife Care Center, operated by Peninsula Humane Society, is now open to accept sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. This state-of-the-art 197-acre center is located at 24103 Congress Springs Road, Saratoga, CA 95070. It is open to the public seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to admit wildlife, book docent tours, walk along the Learning Path, and schedule education programs and outreach events. This new facility is fully funded so donations are no longer needed. To contact the center, please call (650) 340-7022 or visit their website at <https://phs-sPCA.org/found-a-wild-animal/>



Illustration of the new facility

The Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance's 2025 Spring Birdathon

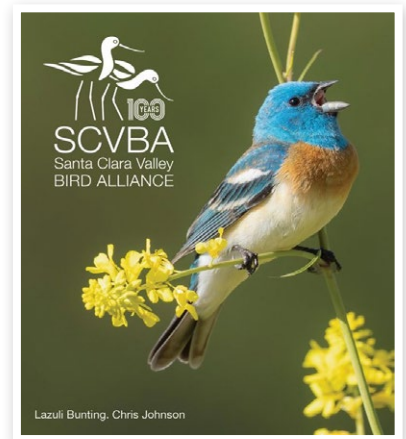
We invite you to join the Los Gatos Birdwatcher team led by Lisa Myers

Sunday Sunset, April 27 • 4:30 – 8:30 PM

Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance holds an important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate, you can form your own team or join a pre-arranged team. Lisa Myers will once again lead team "Los Gatos Birdwatcher." Team participants are expected to donate and/or fundraise at least \$50 to participate on this team. Birders of all levels are welcome, even if this is your first birdathon.

For new birders, it is a fabulous and fun way to see new birds. Lisa has created a new itinerary. The team will spend a Sunday sunset along the Calero Creek Trail open space looking for a variety of spring-arriving species. And after sunset, the team will hope to hear or see owls and poorwills. Details can be found on our website. We will be walking throughout this birdathon on well-maintained trails into the darkness.

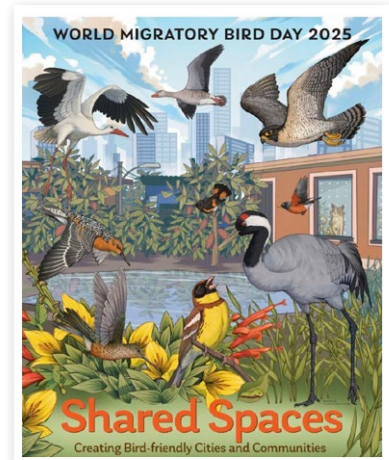
If you cannot join us, we welcome your support, as this is a fundraiser! We'll have a SCVBA Spring Birdathon donation box located at the store through most of May. You are welcome to drop off your support donations there. Thank you! See details here <https://scvas.squarespace.com/birdathon>



World Migratory Bird Day

Store Celebrating May 5 – 17

The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) theme for 2025 is dedicated to “Shared Spaces” and creating bird-friendly cities and communities. “Bird-friendly” means making our environment safe and welcoming for birds. We can do this by planting native plants, providing clean water, and avoiding the use of harmful chemicals. By creating and protecting shared spaces, we can help birds on their long journeys and make our communities more beautiful and healthy. We sure know that at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher as we spend everyday helping all of you with your nature-themed gardens. WMBD 2025 focuses on creating and adapting environments that support migratory bird populations across all communities, from rural farmlands to bustling cities plus sprawling suburbs like those in Silicon Valley. This year the goal is to raise awareness about the many challenges migratory birds face due to human activities and expanding urban development. There are actions everyone can take to protect our shared spaces with wildlife.



To help spread the word for this year’s theme, in May we will have a section of the store dedicated to WMBD with the 2025 designed T-shirts available for purchase, plus posters and free coloring sheets and stickers for the kids. We’ll also have a selection of other items you can add to your yard to help your birds co-exist with you from window decals to bird baths. We’re also hosting a raffle from May 5 – May 17. The raffle winner will receive a World Migratory Bird Day Gift Basket containing many products you can use to make your space safer for your wild birds. A percentage of the sales from these two weeks will be returned to the non-profit, Environment For The Americas.

Presentation at The Terraces with - Craige Edgerton

The Flora & Fauna of Máyyan Òoyákma Coyote Ridge

Tuesday, May 27 • 7:00 PM Free

Author, and expert of Coyote Ridge, Craige Edgerton will share with us the wildlife and wildflowers found on this south county open space. Craige is a long-time volunteer docent for Green Foothills,



Wildflowers along Coyote Ridge

Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance, The Land Trust of Santa Clara County, Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Bay Area Older Adults, and Greenbelt Alliance, but since 1999 he has spent much of his volunteer time with the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s Máyyan Òoyákma Coyote Ridge located between San Jose and Morgan Hill. He is a wealth of information and history. We hope you can come! Read more at this link: <https://losgatosbirdwatcher.com/store-events/>

Bird ID Workshops

Open to all levels these free workshops help customers learn bird identification skills as we study four different species of birds found in the greater Bay Area. Workshops will take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher outside in our back parking lot from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. We’ll go over each species and review behaviors, food and habitat preferences plus vocalizations. We ask that you bring your own folding chair and field guide with you. Call the store to save your spot. 408-358-9453.



Horned Lark – Tom Grey

April 8 – Pied-Billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark’s Grebe

May 20 – California Thrasher, California Towhee, Green-Tailed Towhee, Spotted Towhee

June 17 – Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Horned Lark, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler

Offering Safe Nesting Material to Your Birds

Lisa Myers



Active Anna's Hummingbird nest with cotton lining – John Hurley

Spring is the time for nesting, and there is no one way to nest. Different species build their nests differently. Some birds are “cavity nesters” which means they need to find a hole in a tree in which they will build their

nest. Offering a nest box also serves this same purpose if there are no available holy trees. Local backyard birds that nest in cavities include Bewick's Wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, woodpeckers, Oak Titmice, nuthatches, and bluebirds. The other ways birds nest is by using sticks, twigs, and plant material they weave into a cushioned nest. Some nests are well camouflaged so you must look carefully to find them. Birds that make their nests this way include Mourning Doves, hummingbirds, American Robins, jays, sparrows, and raptors.

After birds are almost done building their nests they will often line the nest with something soft. It's the final touch for their chicks!

You can help by offering safe nesting material, but be careful:

Dryer Lint – This is not a good option. Lint consists of chemicals and microfibers made up of a variety of fabrics. Whatever it consists of may not be breathable, could stick to the birds just as lint sticks to our clothes, and it may not dry after getting wet in the elements.

Pet Hair – This is OK to use if the hair is short and there are no flea or tick chemicals in the fur.

People Hair – Some folks clean out their hairbrush and offer the hair to their birds. This is OK if your hair is not long. You do not want birds to get entangled.

Yarn – This is OK to offer to your birds as long as it has been cut into tiny pieces. Again, you do not want the birds to get caught. It's best if the yarn is made of breathable fibers.

Cotton – We recommend you use chemical and color-free cotton nesting material made specifically for wild birds. We have a few safe options available at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

Final tip: Leave some twigs and leaves in the yard for your birds. Racking up all the plant debris takes away needed nest making materials.



Warbling Vireo with Cotton Nesting Material – Teresa Cheng

DID YOU KNOW?

It's now officially the breeding season. Birds are building nests, incubating eggs, or raising chicks. You can inadvertently destroy an entire nesting family when trimming your landscape! So be careful. And do not hedge trim away the blooms. Insects, hummingbirds, and nesting birds all benefit from your blooms. Please talk to your gardeners.



Loyal Customer Discounts

Loyal Customers are in our store's database and receive: one email per month, our seasonal newsletter, two 15% off coupons each quarter, and enrollment in our frequent buyer program.

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.

Frequent Buyer Program: Buy 10 bags of the same seed 20 lbs or higher at full price and get the 11th bag free.

One coupon per customer. Not to be combined with other offers. Coupons Expires June 30, 2025.