



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

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

Cranes, Community, and Conservation

By Lisa Myers, Store Owner

As we start the new year, the staff and I have been reflecting on some of our highlights of 2025. One of my personal highlights was the opportunity to meet **George Archibald**, co-founder of the *International Crane Foundation* (ICF), and to welcome him to the store.

If you've ever gone winter birding with me, you know that cranes are my favorite group of birds. Over the years, I've led many *Let's Go Birding* tours to see the Sandhill Cranes that winter in California, and in 2022 our Texas tour included observing Whooping Cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

This past October, I joined a group of fellow "craniacs" at the *Yampa Valley Crane Festival* in Colorado, gathering with crane lovers from across the country. The Sandhill Cranes we observed were just beginning their southbound migration, and our days were spent discussing how to ensure the continued success of the most numerous of the world's 15 crane species.



Sandhill Cranes in Lodi
– Chris Overington

For decades I have been a supporter of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and George Archibald. I always donate a percentage of the proceeds from all *Let's Go Birding* crane tours back to ICF. George Archibald was a keynote speaker at the festival in Colorado, giving me the chance to finally meet him. A few weeks later, George visited Silicon Valley to meet with supporters. Over dinner with ICF board member **Susan Carnahan**, we discussed what's needed to help cranes thrive. The following morning, George stopped by the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, where we continued our conversation. It was an honor to welcome him to the store and to share in our mutual commitment to crane conservation. To learn more about cranes and the *International Crane Foundation*, visit savingcranes.org.



George Archibald, Susan Carnahan & Lisa

Owls Are A Customer Favorite

By Jessica Guenther-Dang

Customers ask us all the time how they can attract owls to their yard. And we receive a lot of questions so we thought we'd cover the three most common owl species we find throughout our neighborhoods – Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, and the Western Screech Owl.



Great Horned Owl
– Tony Woo

Owls are birds of prey, also known as "raptors". Their beaks and talons are powerful and designed to catch and kill live food. Depending on the size of the owl they will eat rodents, lizards, insects, and occasionally even birds. Most species of owls are nocturnal; hunting at night and sleeping during the day, but some are crepuscular,

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OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE, SHARE ADVENTURES, AND HAVE FUN THROUGH EXPERIENCING BIRDS AND NATURE.



Let's go Birding

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 run from 8:30–10:00 AM. They are 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**.

Jan. 10	Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Ponds
Jan. 24	Los Gatos Creek Park – Campbell
Feb. 7	Spend the morning at Coyote Lake in Gilroy
Feb. 28	Los Gatos sunset walk in search of owls. Special time 5:00 – 6:30 PM
Mar. 14	Los Capitancios Ponds, San Jose
Mar. 28	Martial Cottle Park, San Jose
Apr. 11	TBD

Valentine's Day Celebration

Bird Nests: A Valentine's Day Nest Showcase

Birds have the unique skill to build or even weave nests which they use to incubate their eggs and raise young. Before they lay eggs they may need to find a territory, find the perfect tree or shrub to build a nest, and, of course, find a mate! So in honor of Valentine's Day, we will have our Los Gatos Birdwatcher nest collection on display at the store from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sat. Feb. 14. We invite you to stop by and enjoy some refreshments, and explore the many nests our customers have brought to us over the years. And learn about the various birds that made each nest like Hooded Oriole, Bushtit, American Robin, California Scrub Jay, Bewick's Wren, just to name a few. We'll also feature a sale on nesting material you can place in your own yard for your birds to use to build their own nests.



Birding The Morning at Coyote Lake - Harvey Bear Ranch County Park in Gilroy

Saturday, February 7 • 8:30 AM – Noon

We'll spend the entire morning birding Coyote Lake, the dam and surrounding habitat. We can expect a variety of waterfowl, plus songbirds, and raptors. The trails are level, but we will be standing or walking the entire time. Bathrooms are available. Parking fee required. Participants will meet at the park. Call the store to register **408-358-9453**.

Fee: \$30 plus parking cost.

Belize & Guatemala Tour

August 10–17, 2026

Let's Go birding is partnering with the Belize Bird Conservancy to create a one-of-a-kind eco-tour through Belize and Guatemala that blends world-class birding, rich culture, and real conservation impact. Lisa is excited to return to Belize as she once again partners with Belize's top birder and educator Roni Martinez for this 7-night/8-day adventure.

We'll explore premier birding hotspots—from rainforest trails and boat cruises to the iconic Tikal National Park. Highlights include chances to see rare species such as Orange-breasted Falcon, Ocellated Turkey, Jabiru Stork, Lesson's Motmot, and the endemic Yucatan Jay. And we also stop to enjoy the mammals that live in the jungle. Best of all, tour proceeds directly support the Belize Bird Conservancy's vital research and raptor conservation program. If you are interested or have any questions please email Lisa directly at Lisa@letsgobirding.com.



Jabiru Stork

\$2,895 Double / \$3,475 Single

Price does not include flights, alcoholic beverages or tips to the people working to make your trip awesome.

Presentation at The Terraces with Ed Klofas – Los Gatos Barn Owls, Courting, Nesting & Young

Tuesday, February 17 • 7:00 PM • Free

Ed Klofas is a Los Gatos resident who in his retirement installed owl boxes in prime Los Gatos open space habitat. With cameras fixed on his owl boxes Ed has had a chance to study the behavior of the various pairs of Barn Owls that have nested in his boxes. Even some Western Screech Owls have popped into camera view. Ed will show us some of the videos he has recorded throughout the nesting season and share with us his observations. This will be a great chance to learn something new about owls. Registration is not required. Park at the King's Court Center and walk over to The Terraces located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.



Barn Owl babies in their nest box
– **Ed Klofas**

Staff Share 2025 Meaningful Moments

It is because of our Los Gatos Birdwatcher Community that we continue to thrive into the new year. And as 2026 begins the staff was asked to reflect on the customer interactions that stood out from 2025 — from customer conversations to shared love of nature.



Lauri: During a regular day at the store we talk about everything in nature, and I really enjoyed the conversations I had with customers who planted milkweed and were successfully attracting Monarch Butterflies.

Amy: Cell phones make it easy to share and I enjoy all the photos and videos our customers show us so we can help identify a bird or simply enjoy what they saw in their yard or out on a trail. We love it! Bird nerds united!!

Lisa V: A couple came in asking about bat boxes because bats were living in their attic. Rather than just getting rid of them (*like many people would do*) they wanted to offer them a safe alternative nearby. They left with a beautifully made bat box.

Cathy: I'm one of the "seed-slingers" who works on the seed delivery day. I help move thousands of pounds of seed each week. I enjoy visiting with all the customers as they pass by the pallets or need help getting their seed out to their cars.

Danny: I am also one of the "seed-slingers". I also enjoy talking to customers as they walk by us in amazement at the amount of seed we have to move into the store. We often discuss which birds people are seeing in their yards and what birds are coming to their feeders.

Kathleen: I love watching nature-based wild bird webcams from around the world which we now stream live inside the store. I enjoy sharing my enthusiasm and knowledge with them as they stop to watch and ask questions depending on what is happening on the screen.

Alex: My favorite customer moments are when someone walks in with their dog. I love kneeling down to say hi, giving them a treat, and watching their tail wag with pure excitement. Most dogs know exactly where we keep the treats. It instantly brightens everyone's day.

Jessica: A gentleman came in wanting a second pair of binoculars. After we talked through his options, he chose one that was currently on order. He would have to pick them up at a later date. He told us he had no problem waiting for them, it was worth it as he appreciated all our help and knowledge.

Chris: Sometimes customers come to the store with a broken bird feeder. Determining what parts need to be repaired is always a fun puzzle to solve. It's rewarding to see how happy they are and to hear the wonderful feedback when their feeder gets fixed and they get to continue to use it.

Owls Are A Customer Favorite

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meaning they are also active at dawn and dusk. When there is an abundance of food, owls will sometimes cache their food to eat even days later.

Great Horned Owl – Customers report hearing owls at night “hooting” back and forth to each other. The “hooting” they describe is the call of the Great Horned Owl. It is often during the fall that one would hear their calls as that is the time of year they look for a mate. This large owl



Great-horned Owl sitting on nest – Helen Daley

starts incubating their eggs early in the year, weeks before other birds start to nest. They do not use a nest box, but will utilize a large nest made by another bird the previous year. These nests may be in trees, on a deserted building, or even a cliff ledge. Great Horned Owls are at the top of the food chain. If you have Great Horned Owls in your area you may not find any other species of owls.

Barn Owl - Barn Owls make an ominous sounding call that is described as a “scream”. This owl does indeed use man-made nest boxes and you will often see these boxes on top of posts throughout farmland. A family of Barn Owls can consume between 3,000 to 4,000 rodents

per year and farmers want the owls in their fields to help with rodent control. Barn Owls will also nest in buildings, between hay bales and cavities of trees.

Western Screech Owl – This is one of our smallest species of owls measuring 5 to 9 inches tall and only weighing 5.4 oz. The noise they make is considered a soft “trill”, and nothing close to a screech for which it is named. This is an owl that nests in tree cavities made by other birds like woodpeckers, and it will also use a man-made nest box.



Western Screech in nest cavity – Fred Lim

If birders find nesting owls out in nature they are asked to keep its location secret. It is un-ethical to disturb any nesting species, but all raptors are carefully protected. Attracting owls to your yard is not easy. Depending on where you live, you’ll need a mixture of tall trees and open spaces, cover, water, and limited artificial lighting. Owls are sensitive to noise, bright lights, and feral cats so it is harder to attract them in cities, but it is not impossible. Your area must provide good habitat for them to be able to find food. The biggest threats to owls are climate change, habitat loss, and poisoning via rodenticides. We invite you to attend our Feb. 17 presentation at The Terraces which will focus on owls nesting in our area.

DID YOU KNOW?



During cold temperatures, or when food is scarce, some species of birds can enter a “*temporary hibernation*” called torpor allowing them to lower their heart rate and body temperature. This ability to slow down, saves them energy. They come out of torpor when temps rise or food becomes available. Hummingbirds, swifts, poorwills and even doves do this.



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 March 31, 2026.