



# LOS GATOS Birdwatcher

December 2025

STORE HOURS

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

**Closing at 3:30 PM Dec 24th**

Closed Days: Sundays, Christmas, New Year's Day



Holiday Party by Eileen Sorg

# 'Tis the Season!

## Shopping Local Makes A Difference

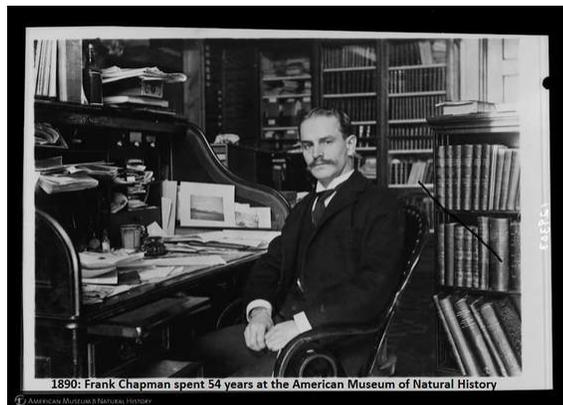
There's always something happening at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, but December is our busiest month of all. We're here to help with your holiday gift-giving needs. We are close to home, have a lot to choose from, and offer complimentary gift

wrapping! Remember we're closed on Sundays but open late on Tuesdays. (See hours listed above.) We look forward to welcoming you into the store this holiday season. *Photo: Alex is new to Los Gatos and helping us through the holiday rush.*



## From Shotguns to Spotting Scopes

### Christmas Bird Count Dec 14–Jan 5



Once upon a time, holiday tradition meant heading out with a rifle for the "Christmas Side Hunt", a contest to see who could shoot the most birds. But in 1900, American Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, proposed a radical shift; instead of shooting birds, why not count them? This sparked what we now know as the "Christmas Bird Count", the longest-running wildlife census on Earth. Each winter, thousands of volunteers across the Americas head outside to identify and count birds. The observations are collected and uploaded, helping scientists track population trends, both increases and declines. This can also lead to decisions about saving valuable habitats. Anyone can take part in this community science tradition including here in the South Bay. To learn more please visit: [scvbirdalliance.org/christmas-bird-count](http://scvbirdalliance.org/christmas-bird-count)

# Leave The Leaves

## A Community Reminder

We've shared this tip before, but it's worth repeating: if you can leave a small pile of fallen leaves

somewhere in your yard, both birds

and insects will benefit. What humans often see as "dead garden litter" is

actually an essential food source and shelter for many species. Take a quiet

moment to notice the birds in your yard tossing leaves aside to find all the

hidden goodies below. Towhees, Bewick's Wrens, juncos, thrashers...they all

appreciate a natural buffet. *Photo: Oak Titmouse at Vasona County Park –*

*Ron Machado*



## Binocular Sale

### December Deals

Nikon's Monarch binoculars are on sale

thru **Dec 20th**. Up to \$80 off. Our staff can answer questions and help you decide what may work best for you.



## Don't Let AI Fool You

### Not Every Bird is Real

Lately, stunningly colorful "birds" have been popping up online—glowing feathers, impossible patterns, dreamlike behaviors. They stop you in your scroll. But here's the catch: many of them aren't real. They're made by AI (Artificial Intelligence). We're all for creativity but when these images start blending into reality, it gets tricky. We've seen folks share AI bird images thinking they were a real species. Others mistake AI-generated videos for actual bird behaviors when most wild birds would NEVER behave in such a manner. Learn more about this in our newsletter [here...](#)

# Bird Seed

## Not Just a Commodity

The truth is, many lower-quality seed blends are full of filler that songbirds don't eat. The mixes you find at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher are based on what our local songbirds will eat, without unnecessary filler ingredients. Feeding birds during the colder months helps your backyard birds get through their day especially when native foods, open habitat, and insects are less abundant. You're not just buying seed, you're investing in your backyard ecosystem.

Here in our part of the Bay Area, you may regularly see:

- Lesser Goldfinches—fans of nyjer/thistle seed and fine sunflower chips
- House Finches—they like hulled sunflower and peanut chips
- Chesnut-backed Chickadees—love sunflower and suet with insects
- California Scrub-Jays—enjoy Nature's Trail Mix

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*Let's go* Birding

## Saturday Birdwalks Return in 2025

December is a busy month at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and we need to save all our energy to help customers with their holiday gift giving needs.

### Thank you for Shopping Local

#### Gifts to Celebrate the Wild Side

The store is full of nature-themed holiday gift items, from stunning nature art that brings the outdoors in, to festive functional bird-approved seed houses and wreaths. Don't wait as items fly off the shelf. The best finds go quick. *Photos: Wall Art and Mr Bird Seed House*





## Cavity Nesters Are Shopping

On a recent Let's Go Birding walk at Vasona County Park, we watched Western Bluebirds coming and going from a nest cavity. We've also received reports from customers noticing their own backyard birds checking out nest boxes. While it's not nesting season, and much too early for our local songbirds to be sitting on eggs, they are checking out available real estate. Before we know it, they'll be competing for the best places to nest. As we head into the new year, you'll want your nest boxes cleaned out and ready to hang. If you're looking for a meaningful nature present, gifting a nest box might be the perfect idea. *Photo: Western Bluebirds checking out a possible future nest site –Ron Machado*



## Bird ID

### Front Porch Visitor

A customer recently discovered an unexpected, feathered guest snoozing on her Los Gatos porch beam—a Western Screech Owl! She'd often heard the owl's trills at night but was surprised to see one up close in daylight and was concerned the owl may be injured. We decided the owl was simply taking advantage of her protected porch after what had been a stormy night. Did you know despite their name they do not actually screech? Their call is a series of trills and whistles. Have a feathered visitor of mystery bird of your own? *Share your bird photos with us at [info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com) or stop by the store.*



Western Screech Owl -Ros Edmonds

[Click Here to View Fall Newsletter](#)

# Store Hours

Open Mon-Sat 10AM–5PM. Tues 10AM–7PM.

Closing at 3:30 PM on Christmas Eve

Closed Days: Sundays, Christmas Day and News Years Day.

**Curbside pickup available. Call ahead 408-358-9453**



## Our Mission

We educate, share adventures, and have fun through the love and experience of birds and nature —*Lisa Myers, Bird Tour Leader, Store Owner, Educator*

[Los Gatos Birdwatcher in the King's Court Shopping Center](#)

792 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, Ca 95032 408-358-9453

[info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com](mailto:info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com)

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