



LOS GATOS Birdwatcher

February 2026

STORE HOURS

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



And you thought snipe's weren't real. Photo: Wilson's Snipe, a shorebird, winter throughout California and the Bay Area. Staten Island Road –Tony Woo

What We're Seeing Now

Some of the birds we have in
our yards this time of year are

here just for the winter. Once spring nears, they will be on their way north or east to find the right spot to raise a family. The female Merlin (pictured here) was so light in color it's thought to be of the "Prairie" race of this falcon species. Not very common out west it showed up in Lisa Myers' backyard.



Remember that February is the last month to enjoy some of our wintering species including the cranes in the Central Valley. Our wintering sparrows, warblers, geese, and ducks will be departing soon. But other favorite species like orioles, grosbeaks and buntings will be back in town before we know it! *Photo: Merlin (one of the falcons) through the scope in a Campbell backyard.* See the list of our local wintering species in our [blog here...](#)

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Photo: Screech Owl entering nest box

Presentation at The Terraces

Owls of Los Gatos

Tuesday, February 17 • 7 PM–8 PM

Join us for an evening with local resident Ed Klofas who has been studying Barn Owls and Screech Owls through cameras installed in his owl boxes. See real nesting footage, learn about courting and raising young, and even spot surprise visits. No registration required. Just show up. Park at King's Court Center and walk over to The Terraces located behind the store. Free event. Read more in our [newsletter...](#)



Bird Nests & Eggs On Display

Sat. Feb 14 at the store • 11AM-3PM

In honor of Valentine's Day, we'll have our nest collection on display out front and invite you to stop by to learn about the many ways birds build their nests and raise their young. Most of the nests that make up our collection were provided by our customers. Read more on page 2 of the winter [newsletter here...](#)



Valentine's Day Greeting Cards

We're offering a sweet selection of nature-inspired Valentines this year. Swing by to check them out. *Photo: Some of our art cards*

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Let's go Birding

Saturday Birdwalks

Open to all birding levels. Most walks start at 8:30 AM at the scheduled location unless otherwise specified. Pre-registration is required so please call the store to save your spot 408-358-9453. Learn more on page 4 of our newsletter [here...](#)

- **Feb. 7** Spend the Morning at Coyote Lake, Gilroy (Wait List only)
- **Feb. 28** Los Gatos Sunset Walk in Search of Owls. 5 PM-6 PM



Time to Get Your Boxes Up

Having birds nest in our yards can bring great joy. If you would like to add a nest box to your yard, now is the time. They will be looking for places to nest starting now! Hummingbirds are already nesting, so keep an eye out before trimming your shrubs. We also offer safe nesting material so your birds can make their nest-building easier.

Hot Pepper Bird Food

Why Birds Like It and Squirrels Don't

It's one of our most common questions: How can birds eat hot pepper bird food when squirrels can't? The answer lies in biology. Birds can't taste capsaicin, the compound that makes peppers hot.



To birds, pepper-treated seed and suet taste just like regular food. Mammals (squirrels) do feel the heat, which makes hot pepper bird food very unappealing to them. That's why hot pepper-treated seed and suet can help protect your feeders without harming birds or squirrels.

Lately, many customers are also asking about black squirrels appearing in their yards. These striking squirrels are simply a color variation of the eastern gray squirrel, and they're just as curious about bird feeders. Whether your local squirrels are gray or black, hot pepper bird food can help keep the focus on feeding birds. More details in our [blog...](#)



Look Up Next Time You Visit

We have a beautiful selection of John James Audubon bird art reproduced on canvas scrolls. An ideal way to brighten up your home and show your love of nature. Scrolls are displayed on our store walls. \$40 each

Bird ID of the Month

A white turkey? A flock of wild turkeys walking through this customer's neighborhood was nothing

new, but when a white one appeared, that was an unusual sight! It looks like the type of turkey raised on a commercial farm. Maybe someone decided to set him free and he found the flock. Wild Turkeys are native to California and are becoming more common in the South Bay. Keep your binoculars handy, you never know what surprise visitor might show up in your yard. Have a bird you can't identify? Send us your photos to info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com or stop by and share your sightings with us.



Turkey on the patio - John Saunders

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Closed on Sundays

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](#)

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info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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