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What's YOUR New Year's Resolution?



We hope your New Year's resolution includes adding more time in nature. Get up from your couch, take a break from your cube, or look up from your cell phone to enjoy the great outdoors. A refreshing walk around your neighborhood or a hike in a nearby open space can help balance out your week.

We know that spending time in nature helps reduce stress, exposes you to some incredible sights and gives you a break from the day to day grind. For 2017, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will continue to provide you with educational and fun ways to help you enjoy the nature found in your own yard and the Bay Area.

We Had a Great Year – Lisa Myers

I want to start the New Year off by sharing how proud I am of my staff and the hard work they put into 2016. As all of you have noticed, I made some changes around the store including the introduction of our new software system. It has not always been easy and the staff embraced all the challenges that come with change including me as their new boss. I am also proud to own such a fantastic store that just celebrated 21 years at the Kings Court Center. This last month we celebrated our Anniversary with a Raffle. Hundreds of you participated but there could only be six raffle winners.

We'd like to share a few of the winners with you.



Larry won the grand prize "Birder Basket" which included a pair of Nikon Prostaff Binoculars, lens cleaner, birding books and everything a birder needs to go out into the Bay Area and see some great birds.



Laura won the "Garden Basket" which contained a beautiful Studio M flower pot, herb markers, beverage napkins and more. All items to help her to create a colorful and unique garden.



Nancy won the "Bird feeder Basket" which contained 5 pounds of our premium bird seed and a squirrel proof feeder with its own built in baffle.



Gaylene won the "Birdhouse Basket" which contained a bird house, nesting material and all the items she'll need to entice birds to nest in her yard this spring. We will help her decide where she can install her new nest box.

Great Backyard Bird Count February 17–20, 2017

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

Species	Count	Species	Count	Species	Count
Canada Goose	___	Downy Woodpecker	___	California Thrasher	___
Mallard	___	Pileated Woodpecker	___	European Starling	___
California Quail	___	Peregrine Falcon	___	Cedar Waxwing	___
Wild Turkey	___	American Kestrel	___	House Sparrow	___
Ring-necked Pheasant	___	Merlin	___	House Finch	___
Great Blue Heron	___	Black Phoebe	___	Purple Finch	___
Great Egret	___	Hutton's Vireo	___	Evening Grosbeak	___
Red-shouldered Hawk	___	Yellow-billed Magpie	___	Pine Siskin	___
Red-tail Hawk	___	California Scrub Jay	___	Lesser Goldfinch	___
Turkey Vulture	___	Steller's Jay	___	American Goldfinch	___
Cooper's Hawk	___	American Crow	___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	___
Sharp-shinned Hawk	___	Common Raven	___	Townsend's Warbler	___
Killdeer	___	Tree Swallow	___	Spotted Towhee	___
Rock Pigeon	___	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	___	California Towhee	___
Band Tailed Pigeon	___	Oak Titmouse	___	Song Sparrow	___
Mourning Dove	___	Bushtit	___	White-crowned Sparrow	___
Eurasian Collared Dove	___	Red-breasted Nuthatch	___	Golden-crowned Sparrow	___
Greater Roadrunner	___	Pygmy Nuthatch	___	White-throated Sparrow	___
Great Horned Owl	___	White-breasted Nuthatch	___	Fox Sparrow	___
Barn Owl	___	Brown Creeper	___	Lincoln's Sparrow	___
Western Screech Owl	___	Bewick's Wren	___	Dark-eyed Junco	___
Anna's Hummingbird	___	House Wren	___	Western Tanager	___
White Throated Swift	___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	___	Red-winged Blackbird	___
Belted Kingfisher	___	Western Bluebird	___	Brewer's Blackbird	___
Red-breasted Sapsucker	___	American Robin	___	Brown-headed Cowbird	___
Nuttall's Woodpecker	___	Hermit Thrush	___	Western Meadowlark	___
Northern Flicker	___	Varied Thrush	___		
Acorn Woodpecker	___	Wrenit	___	Other	_____
Hairy Woodpecker	___	Northern Mockingbird	___		

DAY _____ **TIME** _____

HOW TO COUNT THE BIRDS

You can count birds anywhere you like. We recommend at LEAST 15 minutes—or even longer if you wish. Keep track of the numbers and species of birds you see



and how long you watched. Make your best estimate of how many birds you saw of each species. For example, 2 American Robins, 7 American Crows. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable. Enter your list(s) online at **BirdCount.org**.

Photo: Dark-eyed Junco – Brooke Miller

Put in a new checklist:

- for each new day
- for each different location
- for the same location, same day, if you counted at a different time of day

Note: Look for the “Submit Observations” tab on the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) or eBird website. You can start entering bird lists at midnight local time on the first day of the count from anywhere in the world. If you want to enter your list via eBird, refer to **gbbc.birdcount.org** for instructions on how to set up your eBird account. Have fun!





Let's Go Birding is the tour division of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher.

On this page you'll find all the upcoming birding tours we have planned through the store. 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**

Join us most Saturday mornings for an enjoyable bird walk. You can meet at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher at 8:00 am, or meet at the trip location by 8:30 am. Walks end by 10:00 am. These two hour Saturday walks are open to all who are interested in birding. If the forecast calls for an 80–100% chance of rain in Los Gatos, the trip cancels. Unless you have a county or senior parking pass, some locations require a parking fee. A reminder to our location will also be found on the store's phone message. Just call **408-358-9453**.



Jan. 7 – No morning walk. Weekend tour to California's Central Valley

Jan. 14 – Oka Ponds, Los Gatos

Jan. 21 – Charleston Slough, Mtn. View. Meet at restrooms on Terminal Blvd. This will be a "Big Sit." We will walk to an observation spot and will observe as many birds as we can as we pivot from one location. This will be a great morning for those new to birding or with limited mobility.

Jan. 28 thru Feb. 6 – No local walks. Panama Birding Tour

Feb. 11 – McClellan Ranch, Cupertino

Feb. 18 – Belgatos Park, Los Gatos

Feb. 25 – No morning walk. Reservoir Run, all day tour

Mar. 4 – No morning walk

Mar. 11 – La Rinconada Park, Los Gatos

Tours below require a reservation, please call the store to save your spot, 408-358-9453.

Reservoir Run

Saturday, February 25, 2017

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Biologist Ryan Phillips will help Lisa co-lead this tour. We'll spend the day in south Santa Clara County visiting the many reservoirs found tucked away in beautiful, birdy habitats. The route will be finalized closer to the trip. Possible stops include Calero, Coyote and Anderson reservoirs.

Just some of the species we will be looking for include, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Wood Ducks, and wintering songbirds. **\$65 and includes transportation.**

Beginning Birding Workshop with Lisa Myers

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

6:30 – 8:00 PM at the store

& Saturday, March 18

8:00 – 11:00 AM field trip

This workshop includes one evening lecture in the store and a Saturday morning field trip. We will talk about what it takes to get into birding from optics to field guides and how to identify your birds. We'll introduce you to area birding clubs and area hot spots. **Fee: \$45 per person.**

Raptor Workshop with Biologist Ryan Phillips

Saturday, April 22, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Back by popular demand, Raptor expert Ryan Phillips will concentrate on the spring time activities of Northern California's breeding raptors. You will meet in the south San Jose birding hot spot known as Coyote Valley Open Space. Carpooling will be encouraged.

Ryan will discuss the different raptor families - eagles, buteos, accipiters, harriers and falcons. Lisa Myers will also be there to help with birding activities. Call the store to reserve your spot. **Fee: \$45 per person.**



*Bald Eagle
–Tony Woo*

Services Available from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher

- **Frequent Buyer Program** – Buy 9 of the same seed bags of 15# or higher at full price and get the 10th bag free. Coupons do not apply.
- **Home Delivery** - If getting into the store proves to be a hardship for you, we will deliver seed to your home. Your order must be a minimum of \$40 to receive free delivery. If your order is below \$40, there will be a handling fee of \$8 added to your total. Call the store for details.
- **Backyard Bird Consulting Program** – We will come out to your home 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 \$25 consultation fee per visit. With your visit you'll receive a \$10 Los Gatos Birdwatcher coupon.
- **15% off one item** – The newsletter coupon is available every two months. You don't have to bring in the physical coupon, but you do have to let us know at the time of the sale that you would like to use it. One coupon per household. Coupons are not applied automatically. The coupon excludes optics, trips and sale items. Coupon does not apply to frequent buyer program purchases.
- We offer **Gift Certificates** and complimentary gift wrapping.
- **Outreach to community organizations about birding.** We have educational programs about birds and birding, ideal for gardening and other service groups. We can also do "show & tell" of the many items we carry in the store.

Keeping Feeders Clean in Winter – Changes for the Wet and Cold Season

During this time of the year our backyard birds really appreciate the food we provide and you probably notice them eating more. The added food provides calories and energy which helps your birds maintain during the colder days. We want to help you maintain your feeders and food during the cold season. **Here are some tips:** Monitor your seed. If you use "hulled" (without shell) seed it is susceptible to absorbing moisture. So when refilling your feeder, be sure to empty out any leftovers; if allowed to build up, this hulled seed can become a hard cake that can grow mold. Understandably, mold is not good for your birds.

You may consider switching to seeds with shells this time of year. The outer shell helps to protect the seed during wet months. If you have tube feeders, we suggest you fill them half as full - twice as often so all the seed gets eaten quickly before re-filling. If you have a mesh Nyjer/thistle feeder, shake the seed up and down in the feeder on a daily basis when it's raining. This moves the seed around and gets air into the feeder. You can also add suet to your backyard program, or add baffles/rain guards to help keep the rain off feeders.



Keeping feeders clean is an important part of a good feeding program. We sell a non-toxic, safe product designed especially for keeping birdhouses & feeders clean. We'd be happy to show it to you the next time you are in the store. We also provide a complimentary cleaning service, and while staff is happy to clean your feeders for free we do ask that you make a minimum donation of \$5 or more per feeder to one of the Bay Area charities we support. We have donation boxes for the Youth Science

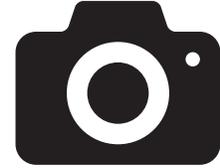
Institute, Injured & Orphaned Wildlife, Wildlife Education and Rehab Center WERC, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, and Friends of the San Martin Animal Shelter inside the store.

We now clean feeders on **Tuesday and Thursday**. You are welcome to bring your feeders into the store anytime during the week and we will let you know when they will be ready for pick-up.

In 2016 the Los Gatos Birdwatcher cleaned over 350 feeders and raised nearly \$2000 for local non-profits. We want to thank our customers for being responsible about their backyard bird feeding and allowing us to help.

Upcoming Events

Los Gatos Birdwatcher is proud to bring fun, entertaining and educational photo presentations to our local community.



Presentations include topics of public interest and/or locations from around the world. Birds are most often the theme, but we also experience all kinds of wildlife, and at times learn about the nature saving efforts being made by local organizations. Presentations take place next door at The Terraces and we are grateful that they invite us to use their theatre. The Terraces is located behind the Los Gatos Birdwatcher and presentations start at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to park at The Terraces, or use our Kings Court parking lot and take the short walk next door. These presentations are free and there is no need to pre-register, but you are welcome to call the store with any questions.

A Little Different Area Down Under

Thursday, January 12

The Terraces, 7:00 – 8:00 PM



While most of us have heard of the Sydney Opera House, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Great Ocean Road, what about the Atherton Tablelands? A little known but wonderful

little part of Queensland with magnificent birds and mammals. Pamela will share photos and insights of why she loves Queensland and especially the are known as the Tablelands. Pamela Warren is a successful Silicon Valley professional but her true passion is to be out in nature and caring for animals as a volunteer wildlife rehabilitator. She currently volunteers with Harbor Seal pups at The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito. She always looks forward to introducing others to wildlife – either through her lens or in nurturing others' interests in wildlife.

Bay Area Hummingbirds

Thursday, February 16

The Terraces, 7:00 – 8:00 PM



Joan Sparks, wild life photographer, has been traveling the bay area photographing some of the tiniest birds found on the planet, the hummingbird. Did you know that

hummingbirds are only found in the Americas? Throughout the year they can be found from Alaska to the tip of South America, in fact, there are over 325 species of hummingbirds. Joan will share with us several different species of hummingbirds, as well as the blossoms they enjoy for nectar, predators lurking nearby and typical birds that share their living space. Numerous tips will be given that you can implement to encourage the hummingbirds to permanently reside on your property. Don't miss this enlightening presentation filled with images of these incredible little birds.

SCVAS Spring Birdathon March 26 – May 1

Each spring our local Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society holds their most important fundraiser known as the Spring Birdathon. To participate you can form your own Self-Guided team or join one of the already prearranged Guided Teams. The goal of a Birdathon is for you to get folks to support your efforts and gather pledges ahead of time and then you go out and count or photograph bird species within the Spring Birdathon window from March 26 – May 1. You can count up to four hours, or go out the entire day.

Our own Lisa Myers has been leading team "Persistent Picidae's" for many years. She welcomes your support if you would like to sponsor the team, or you are welcome to join the Picidae's on Saturday, April 8 when they will bird in Los Gatos from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Visit www.scvas.org to learn more about this year's event.



Santa Clara Valley
Audubon Society



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Dates to Remember

- Closed New Years' Day – January 1
- Martin Luther King Day – January 16
- Groundhog Day – February 2
- Valentine's Day – February 14
- President's Day – February 20
- Daylight Savings Time Begins – March 12



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Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Expires February 28, 2017

One Coupon per customer please.
Excludes sales items, excursions and optics.
Not to be combined with any other offers.

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Store Hours

Monday – Saturday: 10 AM to 6 PM
Sunday: noon to 5 PM



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