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Photo Contest Winners

This was the first time the Los Gatos Birdwatcher sponsored a photo contest. It was our way to celebrate Earth Day during the pandemic when many were staying close to home. Our birdwatcher community, all amateur photographers, emailed us nearly 100 different images. We had to narrow it down to twelve final photographs which will all be included in our first Los Gatos Birdwatcher calendar. Everyone on staff looked at the subject matter, composition and focus of each photograph and votes were then tallied. It was not easy picking twelve winners let alone the top three. The top three photographs are featured for you below and are of species we often talk about here in the store. Ironically all three photographs were taken in each person's own yard. **First place won a \$500 gift card** to the store, second place won a **\$250 gift card** and **third place won a \$100 gift card**. We want to thank everyone that took the time to enter our photo contest and congratulate the winners.

SUMMER
COUPON

15%
off

one item



Excludes all food items or seed, sale or consignment items, excursions & optics. Not to be combined with any other offers.

Expires 09/30/2021 #Summer093021



1st Place

Anna's Hummingbird Nest - Scott Hooper

Equipment - Sony A7R3 with an FE 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 GM OSS zoom lens and a 2x.

"This hummingbird nest was built in an orange tree located in the shade of an Avocado Tree in our Santa Clara yard. I set up a folding ladder about 13 feet away and was particularly careful to keep far enough from the nest so that the momma hummingbird would approach the babies without hesitation. We watched the process all the way until both chicks fledged."



2nd Place

Two Oriole Day - Stega (LC Boros)

Equipment - Canon EOS 5D Mark IV with a 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS II USM lens.

"Photographed through my office window, we had a Bullock's Oriole bathing in the foreground while a Hooded Oriole waited for his turn. We had at least five breeding pairs of orioles this year. This was a huge change from a couple of years ago because we carefully re-landscaped a barren section of our unincorporated San Jose yard into a beautifully planted garden."



3rd Place

Great-horned Owl on the roof - Malcolm Bramwell

Equipment - Nikon D5500 and a Nikon telephoto 70 to 300mm lens, at 300mm, ISO 1250, 1/125th second. f5.6.

"We felt this was quite the indigent look this Great-horned Owl gave us as it waited for the sunset. The owl arrived and stayed on our San Jose roof for about half an hour waiting for it to get dark enough to go hunting. While there its gaze switched between me and our cat Snooks who was equally interested in the owl."

The Breeding Season

– Helping Wild Birds Succeed

A few years ago research revealed the number of birds in North America is down over 2.9 billion breeding adults since the 1970s. The only way we can turn this around is if we work together with nature. The breeding season arrives each Spring, and neighborhoods come alive with bird song and courtship. If birds are not able to successfully breed during this time, their numbers decline. We can help birds increase their numbers if we work together. The Los Gatos Birdwatcher gets many phone calls during this time as people have questions about the birds and nests they find. Here are a few local success stories from this 2021 breeding season.

Dead Trees Make Great Birdhouses

– Did you know that dead trees are often alive with wildlife? Bugs will work on the dead bark, and holes in dead trunks provide great places to nest. At Vasona County Park, this dead tree became the ideal location to raise a family of mosquito-eating Tree Swallows!



Tree Swallow babies
– **Nancy Turek**



Praising the Pruneyard

– During the spring breeding season, the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell has a way of attracting both nesting birds and shoppers. We praise the management at the Pruneyard for allowing the birds to nest and educating folks on how to co-exist.

Left Bend Nest Box

– This past Spring the winemakers at Left Bend Winery asked for our help as they put up nesting boxes around their newly planted Santa Cruz Mtn. grapevines. The reports are in -Western Bluebirds are nesting in their organic vineyard.

Nesting bluebirds
– **R. Henke**





Hawk in the Yard

– They knew they had a Red-shouldered Hawk nest in their San Jose neighborhood, but they did not expect a newly fledged chick to land on their patio. Mom and dad keep a close eye on their chicks and we knew they were near.

Red-shouldered Hawk chick
– **M. Campbell**

Wildlife Over Dog Fun

– In early June, the CA Fish & Wildlife mandated the Los Gatos Creek dog park to be temporarily closed because a Killdeer (plover) made a nest on the rocky ground within the enclosure. To protect the nest the area is off limits for roughly three weeks until the eggs hatch and the family leaves.

Killdeer protecting her nest
– **Tom Grey**



Got My Eye On You

– Many people want to attract owls to their yard. This customer built their own Western Screech Owl box and found a spot in their yard. Their yard happens to back up to Santa Teresa County Park, which the owls like to frequent, and this season two babies fledged.

Baby Screech Owl
– **A. Rowe**

Our State Bird!

– California Quail thrive in a customer's Los Altos garden. A rosemary bush was a popular nesting spot for one pair. Mom incubates her eggs for three weeks while dad stands guard. One of several nests this season produced 14 chicks!

California Quail
– **Higgins Family**





Let's go Birding

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

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



The Los Gatos Birdwatcher sponsors two Saturday morning bird walks per month. Dates and locations are listed below and on our web page. These walks are free and open to all birding levels, but pre-registration is required. Call the store to register 408-358-9453. Walks fill at 20 people. Walks start on-site at 8:30 AM and end around 10:00 AM.

- July 10** – Stevens Creek County Park
- July 24** – Los Gatos Creek Trail at Meridian
- Aug. 14** – Sunnyvale Water Control
- Aug. 28** – Sanborn County Park
- Sept. 11** – Calero Creek Trail
- Sept. 25** – Palo Alto Baylands



Covid had us cancel our birding trip to Texas in 2020. We are now creating a new tour in early 2022 to South Texas, a birder's paradise at any time of the year. We'll enjoy the array of resident birds found in South Texas in addition to the abundance of wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. We will also experience wintering Whooping Cranes. For more information email: lisa@letsgobirding.com

Bird ID Workshops

– Open to all levels

These free workshops help customers learn how to identify four different species of birds found in the Bay Area per season. Workshops will take place at the Los Gatos Birdwatcher outside in our back parking lot from 5:00– 6:00 PM



Pied-billed Grebe
– **Sandra Brown**

We'll go over each species and review behaviors, food and habitat preferences plus species vocalizations. We ask that you bring your own folding chair and field guide with you. Workshop is limited to 20 people. Call the store to save your spot. **408-358-9453.**

- July 21**
– Bullock's Oriole, Hooded Oriole, Western Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat
- August 18**
– Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Gallinule, Song Sparrow
- September 22**
– Northern Pygmy Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl

New To Birding? Here is the class for you

with Instructor Lisa Myers
Sat. Sept. 18 • 9:00 AM – 12 noon
Class will take place entirely outside.

In the last year, many people have picked up binoculars and have started enjoying the birds they find in their neighborhoods or local parks. This class will review how to ID birds in the field, how birds get grouped together, how to find birds, how habitat and seasons affect what you will find, how to attract more birds to your yard, and much more. This will be a fun class geared for those new to birding. Call the store to register 408-358-9453.

Fee \$50

Better Birding With The Right Optics with Nikon Specialist Mike Freiberg

Saturday, August 14 • 10:30 AM – 12 noon at the store

Customers often ask how to select a good pair of optics so we designed this special event just for you. Come join Lisa Myers and Nikon's Birding Specialist Mike Freiberg for a fun and friendly review on optics. Optics are one of the primary tools to successfully finding birds in nature and knowing how to use them is important. At times learning how to use your optics is overlooked thus sacrificing the quality of your experience in the field. We know many of you have questions on how to use the binoculars you now have, or you may be thinking about getting a new pair.



Mike has been birding since the age of 5 and has previously worked as a professional bird guide around the world. Lisa met Mike when she was on the Nikon Pro-Staff. Mike will help narrow down the field and have you understanding what optics are best for your style of birding. **The event is free but call to reserve your space, 408-358-9453**

Updates Around The Store

by Lisa Myers

Paper or Plastic

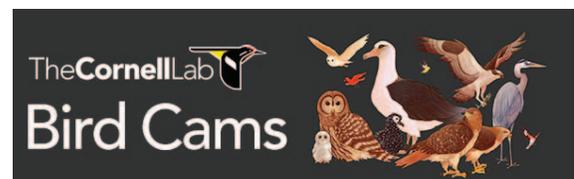
As Covid kept people at home, many started noticing their birds and the demand for seed increased. Transportation issues have also impacted the ability to get seed, by boat and by truck. And a one shop, brick & mortar community resource like the Los Gatos Birdwatcher is now facing powerful competitors like Amazon and Chewy who are pulling product from the same growers. As a result, I was forced to find a second distributor that could supply us with quality seed. With two suppliers came different packaging of both paper & plastic and some customers are disappointed with plastic. We understand your concerns and are working with our second supplier to see if they can use paper for their future packaging. However, at this time, as we continue to try and keep seed on the shelf, you will continue to see both paper and plastic when picking up your seed. We ask for your patience. Thank you!

Closed on Sundays

When Covid hit, the Los Gatos Birdwatcher was considered "*essential*" and allowed to remain open, however, we were required to reduce our store hours. So in March 2020 we closed on Sundays. Now that things are opening back up the Los Gatos Birdwatcher will remain closed on Sundays. It's a day of rest for both customers and staff. We will have extra staff available on Saturdays to help customers with their weekend questions and purchases.

Check Out Our New Live Camera Feed

When you go into a sports bar you often find monitors on the wall broadcasting live sporting events. Here at the bird store, we also have a new monitor with a live camera feed, however, we are broadcasting nesting birds and feeding stations from around the world. This season we have enjoyed watching American Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks being raised by dutiful parents. We also get to watch feeding stations in Panama, New York and beyond. We invite you to come check it out and watch for yourselves.



Cornell Artwork used with permission

Our Selection of Fair Trade Products

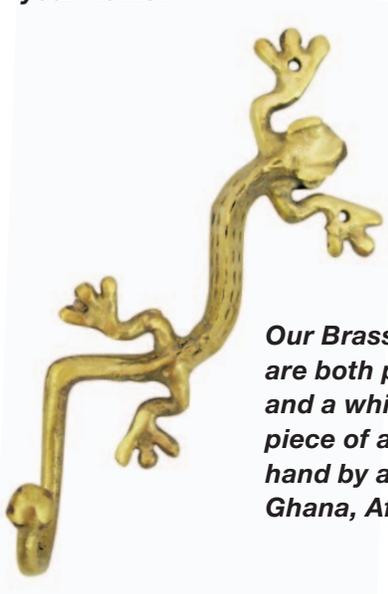


People come to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher for more than birdseed. We are also known for our unique gifts. Here are some of our Fair Trade products that come to us from all over the world.

“Fair Trade seeks to improve the lives of those in developing countries who frequently lack alternative sources of income. Also, as North American fair trade organizations grow as successful small businesses, they employ more and more individuals in their communities.”



Haitian artisans use metal drums, chisels and hammers to design art inspired by nature and culture. Metal art can be displayed both inside or outside your home.



Our Brass Hooks are both practical and a whimsical piece of art, cast by hand by artists in Ghana, Africa



Beaded Bracelets, hummingbirds and animals from Guatemala.



Colorful Flying Mobiles from Tulia's Artisan Gallery showcases high quality Colombian craftsmanship.



Colorful Bags are a beautiful gift embroidered by Guatemalan designers

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center

Will be at the store July 24 • 11 AM – 2 PM

We are very excited to have volunteers from the Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center returning to the Los Gatos Birdwatcher! Mark your calendars and come down to the store on Sat. July 24 from 11 AM – 2 PM. You'll get to meet volunteers from WERC and their ambassador birds. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn about several different species of birds.

WERC is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. They are there to help and we appreciate all they do for wildlife. We hope you can bring with you some extra cash to drop into their donation bucket. Our donations are what allow them to do their great work, and help them expand into a new facility.



Great-horned Owl is "Luna"



American Kestrel is "Apollo"

Word search – What Birds Eat

created by Lisa Myers

L A N J S N A K E S H U O H G
 V G P A J W K A Z I B C W F G
 V I E O F Y K Y D Y U R Y R I
 L E S P I D E R S V G A W U Z
 G N G Q S Q A D I D S W A I L
 I X D E H N E C T A R F T T P
 C I S T T B R I G A L I J Z V
 L C A F U A I O N W F S P W T
 A I P Z C B B R D S K H M C I
 M G Z G A Q E L D E E Q M R C
 S E R A R X S R E S N C U A K
 H G Z A R N M Q S S W T T B S
 B G L R I D Y S U V Z H S S X
 S S V S O N S M N I J G U E Z
 W P L A N T S A A M D L W D H

WORD SEARCH WORD LIST

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| CARRION | CRAWFISH |
| FISH | CRABS |
| LIZARDS | CLAMS |
| SQUID | SNAKES |
| GRAIN | EGGS |
| TUBERS | BIRDS |
| FRUIT | RODENTS |
| NECTAR | SPIDERS |
| INSECTS | TICKS |
| BUGS | PLANTS |
| SAP | VEGETABLES |



We invite you to share your photos to our Facebook page and we will provide feedback.

Do You Have Toxic Nandina In Your Yard?

Many of us are familiar with a common shrub known as Nandina. It is also called Sacred Bamboo or Heavenly Bamboo. It is a non-native, introduced plant that can be found in our own yards or as a common plant used in commercial landscaping. It has been around for decades and gardeners are still planting them today, but did you know that the red berries produced from this plant can be deadly?

Nandina berries contain cyanide and other alkaloids that produce highly toxic hydrogen cyanide (HCN) which is extremely poisonous to all animals from fruit eating birds like Cedar Waxwings, and American Robins to dogs and cats. We encourage you not to plant this species in your yard. If you already have this plant on your property and do not want to remove it, we encourage you to prune the berries as soon as you see them start to grow so they will not be eaten by an unsuspecting animal.



LOS GATOS

Birdwatcher

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

Dates to Remember

- July 4 – Independence Day (*closed Sundays*)
- July 24 – WERC Visit 11 AM – 2 PM
- August 14 – Nikon Optics Workshop Free
- Sept. 6 – Labor Day (*closed*)
- Sept. 18 – New To Birding Class
- Sept. 22 – First day of Autumn



LOS GATOS

Birdwatcher

Loyal Customer Discount

Mention this coupon and take...

15% off one item

Coupon Expires September 30, 2021

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

#SEPT2021

Store Hours

Please visit
www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com



Find us on