

City Library birding backpack



What's in the backpack

- ▶ This sheet
- ▶ Binoculars and case
- ▶ Sibley's *Guide to Birds of Western North America*
- ▶ Folding *Pocket Guide to Birds of Vancouver*

Please make sure everything is included when you return the backpack to the library.

Birding ethics

1. The welfare of the birds comes first.
2. Protect habitat by using trails, pathways and roadsides to avoid trampling vegetation and degrading habitat.
3. Keep disturbance to a minimum. Always assume that a bird is sensitive to your presence.
4. Be cautious about advertising the presence of rare or sensitive birds. For their safety, please do not report owl locations to anyone.
5. Respect the rights of landowners by not entering private property without permission.
6. Follow the rules regarding public areas in places such as parks and conservation areas.
7. Be considerate of others. Try not to disrupt other birders' activities. Be helpful to beginners — they will thank you for it.

Bird responsibly wherever you are and have fun!

Useful birding apps



eBird



Merlin



Audubon



Feeder Watch



iNaturalist

Identifying birds

Consider these factors to help identify a bird:

- ▶ size
- ▶ shape
- ▶ behaviour
- ▶ plumage
- ▶ sounds
- ▶ habitat
- ▶ time of year

Use the guides included in the backpack and apps to find out when a particular bird can be expected in the Vancouver area.

Binocular tips

1. If you wear glasses, collapse the eyecups by twisting left or right. Otherwise leave them extended.



2. Adjust the barrels to match the distance between your pupils (IPD) by pulling the barrels apart or squeezing them together until you see a single image.



3. Choose an object about 60 feet away. Close your right eye or cover the right lens. Focus your left eye on the object and adjust the centre focus wheel until the image is sharp.



4. Close your left eye or cover the left lens. Adjust the ring on the right eyepiece (called the diopter ring) until the object is in focus. From this point on you will only need to use the centre focus wheel.



5. If the focus is not sharp when you open both eyes, repeat steps 3 – 4.

6. Practice aiming the binoculars. If you are looking at a bird, bring the binoculars up to your eyes without taking your eyes off the object. Note some other feature or landmark near the bird's location and where the bird is in relation to it. This will give you another reference point.

7. The binoculars are waterproof and can be used in the rain. Please keep them away from dirt and sand. Care is needed when cleaning the lenses — please use only a non-abrasive lens cloth.

