

## PLAN AHEAD

If you're heading out on a trail for the first time, check eBird.org (or install the app) to see what birds have been spotted in that area. That way you'll know what to look for.

Check the weather forecast, and dress accordingly, or plan to go out when it's no longer raining/snowing.

Trails can be muddy in the spring and fall, and are frequently flooded. These might be good times to visit a public park instead, or keep watch in your back yard.

Take a bottle of water with you, and always bring your phone.

### Take photos!

Use a camera or phone to photograph the places you go and the birds you see. Be quick! Birds won't pose for you. A photo can help with identifying the bird later on when you have time to look through the books in the kit.



## USING BINOCULARS

1. Remove the lens caps  
- front and back (4 covers)
2. Turn the lens cups (small end) to the left so they pop out (keep down if you wear glasses)
3. Hold the binoculars up to your eyes, and gently adjust the width  
- they pivot in the middle
4. Use the wheel located next to the right eye lens to adjust the focus



### BIRDING TIP

Look for the bird with your naked eye, then bring the binoculars up to your eyes while keeping the bird in sight the whole time.



## APPS & RESOURCES

**Merlin (app)** - quick and easy bird identification

**Birdnet (app)** - record bird songs/calls then the app will tell you what bird it is

**Audubon Field Guide (app)** - lots of bird info, use offline

**eBird.org (or app)** - look up locations on a map, and see what birds other birders have spotted there, or look up a bird species then find out where it's been seen

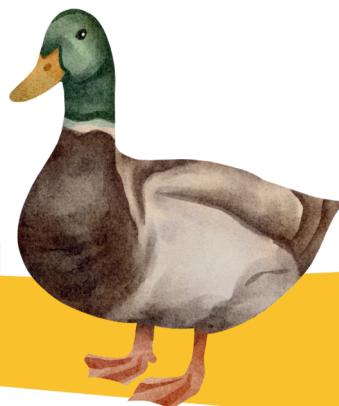
**allaboutbirds.org** - information about different bird species, including photos, information on behaviour, etc.



## NATURE THOUGHTS

Share your finds and exploration tips with others! Make notes or drawings in the Nature Thoughts book so the next person to borrow the kit can read them.

Be sure to return this with the rest of the kit.



## NATURE JOURNAL

The kit comes with a small journal for **you to keep!**

It looks like this:



Make notes about the birds you see, draw pictures and maps to remind you later on. You might want to record:

- What type of bird, what it's called
- Where you found it and what time of day
- What the weather was like
- It's size, colour, and markings
- What it was doing - eating, sitting on the ground or a tree, flying, etc.

## PLACES TO GO BIRDING

A local park - Innisfil Beach Park, Centennial Park  
A Provincial Park - borrow a pass from the Library!  
Tiny Marsh (near Elmvale)

Find more information at  
[www.innisfilidealab.ca/explorers\\_backpacks](http://www.innisfilidealab.ca/explorers_backpacks)