



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Birding With Binoculars

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

Suggested items to have: Binoculars or camera with a zoom lens and a Bird Guidebook

Looking at birds with **binoculars** or a camera with a zoom lens gets you up close without disturbing the bird. Before you see a bird, you might need to get quiet and listen for them. You can also look for movement. To help identify a bird look at: It's size; shape, color, what the bill looks like and where it is. Is the bird on the ground, lower branches, in the top stories of a tree? Also look at the behavior of the bird.

With binoculars, you can get close-up to look at birds or even a nest with baby birds.



Make observations about the birds you see. For example, male species are usually more colorful than female species and often the male sings more. Looking through the binoculars will enable you to see birds in the sky easier. What do you wonder about the bird and what is it doing? You may see them soar; swoop and interact with other birds.

A **Bird Guidebook** can help you identify a bird, although it may not look exactly like the photos in the book. To identify birds, you can look at the color and markings. They are different for male and females. There may be a range map in your Guidebook that shows where the birds are found.

Guidebooks help you identify the bird, it also tells you about the bird, and has a range map. You can borrow Guidebooks from the library or look online at the many birding websites. A useful website is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (birds.cornell.edu). Ornithology is the study of birds. What are your favorite things about birds? You might enjoy the songs of birds, their calls, or watching them fly. What birds can you find?



If you have any questions, or want to share your bird observations e-mail: Education@DishmanHills.org