

Through Grandma & Granddad's Binoculars



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Through Grandma's
binoculars I see...



An elegant heron,
wading in the shallows,



An iridescent kingfisher,
swooping down for dinner,



Fun Facts and Morsels to Munch On



The binoculars that inspired this story date from the mid-1900s and belonged to my father. Binoculars allow us to use both eyes when viewing distant objects. They work like two telescopes placed side by side providing a three dimensional image. The area seen through binoculars is called the field of view.

The Great Blue Heron is the largest wading bird in North America. Despite their impressive size, most Great Blue Herons weigh only five to six pounds. This light weight is due in part to their hollow bones. The male and female Great Blue Herons are equal opportunity parents; they take turns keeping the eggs warm in the nest, and share the feeding of their offspring once they have hatched.



The Belted Kingfisher is the species of Kingfisher most commonly seen on Vancouver Island. These birds spend much of their time hovering over the water, searching for fish. When nesting they burrow into soft earthen banks. They sometimes share their tunnels with swallows. The females sport a bright orange band, making them more colourful than the males.

These eagle-eyed birds of prey don't need binoculars!



Bald Eagles are not bald. The original meaning of the word bald is white-headed. The Bald Eagle, the only eagle exclusive to North America, is Canada's largest bird of prey. The term "eagle-eyed" is apt. Although their eyes are about the size of a human eye, Bald Eagles have much keener vision. Their eyes have two foveae, or centres of focus, allowing them to see forward and sideways at the same time.