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BIRDWATCHING BINOCULARS

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BIRDWATCHING BINOCULARS

- Compact binoculars with the objective lens diameter rarely bigger than **42mm**
- Birdwatching usually takes place in the **daytime**, meaning that bigger and bright binoculars have **no added value**
- Quality of the **focusing mechanism** is also one of the more critical properties
- The most common features:
 - 8x or 10x magnification
 - Objective lens diameter smaller than 42mm
 - Central focusing
 - Roof prism design
 - Small mass and size

PRISM TYPES IN BIRDWATCHING BINOCULARS



- The most commonly used prisms in birdwatching binoculars are roof prisms → **Schmidt Pechan prisms**
 - This type of binoculars are more compact and ergonomically more **comfortable** to use
- Other types of prisms, like Abbe-Koenig and Porro, are used very rarely

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ERGONOMICS OF BIRDWATCHING BINOCULARS

- The comfort of **holding** and **carrying** binoculars around the neck is **essential**
- Open bridge** design is trendy among birdwatchers since it allows the user to hold binoculars with only **one hand**
- For comfortable observations, it is vital that the observer's eyes do not get tired → The size of the **eyebox** is another feature that every birdwatcher needs to consider



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FOCUSING ON BIRDWATCHING BINOCULARS

- The **speed of focusing** is essential for Birdwatching. The birds move very fast, so it is important to have **fast focus** → The observer needs to change the focus from close to far distance very fast
- Focusing is one of the main **differences** between **Hunting** and **Birdwatching** binoculars
 - The birds do not stand still; they are almost always in motion, so the focus on binoculars needs to be **fast**
 - The game is usually dormant and move slowly. Unlike birdwatchers, hunters need **slow** focus and fine-tuning
- Premium brands, like **Swarovski** and **Zeiss**, began to manufacture binoculars that could **do both**

8X42 BINOCULARS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- 8x42 binoculars are very **versatile**, and a **preferred configuration** for many birdwatchers who don't have many experience or have just started with this hobby
- The image is still, so even the **beginner** can observe birds
- These binoculars offer a **big field of view**, but the image details are not so good as with 10x42 binoculars
- Many manufacturers produce 8x42 binoculars, so the competition between them is very fierce
- You can read more about 8x42 binoculars in our [Buying Guide](#), or watch the [video](#)

10X42 BINOCULARS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- 10x42 configuration is suitable for more **advanced users** that have calmer hands
- 10x magnification offers an image with **better details**
- The downside is that the field of view is somehow **smaller**
- Compared to 8x42, these type of binoculars does not perform very good at **dusk** → poorer performance is noticeable even on a **cloudy day**

10X50 BINOCULARS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- 10x50 binoculars are a compromise between the **bright image** and the **size and weight** of the optical device
- The **field of view** is about the same as with **10x42** binoculars
- The image **brightness** is as with **8x42** configuration
- In exchange for 10x magnification and bright image, the user has to deal with **larger** and **heavier** binoculars

8X32 AND 10X32 BINOCULARS FOR BIRDWATCHING

- 8x32 and 10x32 configurations belong to the group of [Compact binoculars](#)
- This type of binoculars do not perform great in **low light conditions**
- It is generally considered that 8x32 and 10x32 binoculars are not very comfortable for the user.
- The exit pupil diameter is very small → tiring for the eyes
- Great for **kids** → They are small in size and very lightweight, which makes them easy to carry around
- To learn more about Compact binoculars, read our [Compact Binoculars Buying Guide](#), or watch the [video](#)

BEST BINOCULARS

- Like everywhere else, it is hard to point out the best Birdwatching binoculars → Every binoculars has its **pros** and **cons**
- Decision depends on the **personal taste**
- Binoculars in the middle price range (1 000-1 500€) perform very good → a significant **progress** → middle-class binoculars are well worth considering
- Premium brands binoculars (like Leica, Swarovski, Zeiss) perform better than middle-class binoculars → is it worth paying extra money? → it depends on the personal taste



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