

# OPTICS TRADE

## Birdwatching Spotting Scopes

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# GENERAL FEATURES OF BIRDWATCHING SPOTTING SCOPES

## **Birdwatching**

*Activity that involves more extensive groups of people participating at the same time*

## **Birdwatching Spotting Scopes properties:**

- Big and heavy
- **95mm to 100mm** objective lens diameter
- **20x to 70x** magnification

# WHY ARE ANGLED SPOTTING SCOPES MORE SUITABLE FOR BIRDWATCHING

- Tripod enables good stability
- Angled spotting scopes are more appropriate for birdwatching → better adjustment of a tripod to all the people in the group



# FOCUSING MECHANISM ON BIRDWATCHING SPOTTING SCOPES

- Birdwatching spotting scopes have either:
  - **one rotating** knob mechanism (knob located on the top of the body)
  - **two-piece** focusing knob mechanism (first part is for fast and rough settings, the second part is for finer adjustments)
- Some models have unique **focusing ring** that goes around the entire body
- Single knob mechanism is usually not the best option for birdwatching

# DIGISCOPING WITH BIRDWATCHING SPOTTING SCOPES

- **Phone** or a **camera** connects with a **spotting scope**

The best choice for digiscoping are angled spotting scopes:

- They require **more** supporting rails and therefore **bigger** and **heavier** equipment
- Special supporting rails provide good **stability**
- Regardless of the size and weight of the mounting, angled spotting scopes remain first choice among **photographers**



# WATERPROOFNESS OF BIRDWATCHING SPOTTING SCOPES

- Most of the spotting scopes are **waterproof** and filled with either **nitrogen** or **argon**
- The only weakness is the **bayonet mount** for interchangeable eyepiece, which is a part of the most premium angled spotting scopes
- More affordable spotting scopes have a fixed eyepiece → better protection against **water intrusion**
- **No permanent damage** if the water comes in the middle space
- **The problem:** removing eyepiece while exposed to rain (unclear images)
- **Recommendation:** fixing the eyepiece somewhere in a dry space

# BEST BIRDWATCHING SPOTTING SCOPES

- Leading brands are: Swarovski, Leica , Zeiss and especially Kowa
- Swarovski and Zeiss → only two who offer **95mm** spotting scopes on the market:
  - Swarovski ATX
  - Zeiss Harpia





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