

Birdwatching Binoculars Buying Checklist

Tick each point off before you buy. Taken from our full birdwatching binoculars guide.

☐ **Magnification**

8x gives a wide, steady view for most birding. 10x adds reach for distant birds but narrows the view and shows more hand shake.

☐ **Objective lens**

42 mm gathers the light you need at dawn and dusk. 25 to 32 mm keeps things compact for travel, with a dimmer early and late view.

☐ **Field of view**

Wider makes finding and tracking birds far easier. Look for 350 ft or more at 1,000 yards; the widest pick in our guide reaches 444 ft.

☐ **Glass**

ED glass cuts the colour fringing you see around high-contrast edges, like a bird against a bright sky.

☐ **Coatings**

Fully multi-coated optics pass more light to your eyes, so the image looks brighter and cleaner.

☐ **Weatherproofing**

Waterproof and nitrogen fog-proof construction keeps the view clear in rain, cold and humidity.

☐ **Weight**

Under about 28 oz is comfortable for all-day carrying around your neck.

☐ **Focus wheel**

A smooth, fast centre focus wheel helps you lock onto a bird before it moves on.