

NOTE: Many binoculars come in 8x or 10x models. Our Top Picks focus on 8x binoculars, but the 10x versions generally perform comparably.

## Top of the Line (\$2,000–\$3,000; 14 reviewed)



### Zeiss Victory T\*HT 8x42 (27.7 oz.)

*Superb image. Birds pop out from the background. Great feel in the hand and good eye relief.*

Overall Feel: **4.7**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.9**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.7**

Close Focus: **6.2** ft  
Field of View: **408** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$2,444**

Quality Index:

**4.8**  
OUT OF 5



### Zeiss Victory T\*FL 8x32 (19.8 oz.)

*A smaller, more comfortable binocular that's not too small—with all the benefits of top-of-the-line glass and coatings. Gorgeous.*

Overall Feel: **4.6**  
Clarity/Crispness: **5.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.9**

Close Focus: **6.5** ft  
Field of View: **420** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$2,055**

Quality Index:

**4.8**  
OUT OF 5



### Swarovski Swarovision 10x42 EL (28 oz.)

*Really a fantastic binocular. The open bridge design makes it feel good in the hand and the image quality is excellent.*

Overall Feel: **4.6**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.8**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.7**

Close Focus: **4.9** ft  
Field of View: **336** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$2,777**

Quality Index:

**4.7**  
OUT OF 5



### Swarovski Swarovision 8x32 (20.5 oz.)

*A smaller binocular with excellent glass and coatings. A superb image sized for smaller hands and lighter carrying weight.*

Overall Feel: **4.8**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.8**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.7**

Close Focus: **6.2** ft  
Field of View: **423** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$2,399**

Quality Index:

**4.7**  
OUT OF 5



### Leica Ultravid HD 8x42 (27.9 oz.)

*Exceptionally durable, constructed with top-notch materials, and Leica's legendary image quality. A great companion for long forays into the back of beyond.*

Overall Feel: **4.4**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.9**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.6**

Close Focus: **9.8** ft  
Field of View: **389** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$2,099**

Quality Index:

**4.7**  
OUT OF 5



### Leica Ultravid HD 8x32 (18.9 oz.)

*Amazing brightness and crispness, with an exceptionally small size.*

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.8**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.3**

Close Focus: **6.9** ft  
Field of View: **404** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$1,899**

Quality Index:

**4.5**  
OUT OF 5

# The New Midrange (\$700–\$1,999; 19 reviewed)



## Zeiss Conquest HD 8x32 (22.2 oz.)

Testers loved this brand-new line from Zeiss. Smaller size makes them ideal for carrying along with lots of other gear. Super sharp and bright.

Overall Feel: **4.8**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.9**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.6**

Close Focus: **4.9** ft  
Field of View: **420** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$999**

Quality Index:

**4.8**  
OUT OF 5



## Zeiss Conquest HD 8x42 (28 oz.)

A slightly larger version of the Conquest 32s, with larger objective lenses for better performance in low light. The image is bright, clear, and true to color.

Overall Feel: **4.7**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.8**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.6**

Close Focus: **6.5** ft  
Field of View: **384** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$1,077**

Quality Index:

**4.7**  
OUT OF 5



## Leica Trinovid 8x42 (28.6 oz.)

A reboot of the long-admired Trinovid line—fantastic image and durability priced for the midrange class.

Overall Feel: **4.2**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.7**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.8**

Close Focus: **11.4** ft  
Field of View: **378** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$1,449**

Quality Index:

**4.5**  
OUT OF 5



## Vortex Razor HD 8x42 (24.7 oz.)

Vortex is the high-end line from the trusted manufacturers at Eagle Optics. These binoculars have a good image and feel with great close focus.

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.2**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.6**

Close Focus: **6** ft  
Field of View: **362** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$1,279**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



## Swarovski CL 8x30 (17.6 oz.)

Great for people who like small-form binoculars, with a very nice image that is just slightly less sharp than the top-of-the-line Swarovision 8x32.

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.3**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.0**

Close Focus: **9.8** ft  
Field of View: **372** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$1,054**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



## Meopta Meostar 8x32 (20 oz.)

Reviewers noted good close focus and wide field of view. The image crisp, clear, and bright.

Overall Feel: **3.9**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.3**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.3**

Close Focus: **5.7** ft  
Field of View: **420** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$959**

Quality Index:

**4.2**  
OUT OF 5

## The 400 to 699 Club (\$425–\$680; 26 reviewed)



### Nikon Monarch 7 8x42 (22.9 oz.)

*Fantastic binocular for the price category. Sharp image; a great feel in the hand. The Nikon Monarch has been a popular line for years, and this is their new top of the class.*

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.5**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.7**

Close Focus: **8.3** m  
Field of View: **420** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$530**

Quality Index:

**4.5**  
OUT OF 5



### Opticron Verano BGA HD 8x42 (26 oz.)

*An all-around solid binocular from a brand well-known in the U.K. Good feel in the hand, popular open bridge design, and good close focus.*

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.5**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.7**

Close Focus: **6.6** ft  
Field of View: **366** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$641**

Quality Index:

**4.5**  
OUT OF 5



### Celestron Granite ED 8x42 (25.6 oz.)

*Sharp and crisp; great close focus and field of view; colors seem warmer than real life. Open bridge design for comfort in the hand.*

Overall Feel: **4.0**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.3**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.5**

Close Focus: **6.5** ft  
Field of View: **426** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$440**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



### Eagle Optics Golden Eagle HD 8x42 (24.2 oz.)

*Features the tried-and-true design of the popular Eagle Optics Ranger but adds HD glass for a noticeably better image.*

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **3.9**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **5.0**

Close Focus: **5.1** ft  
Field of View: **347** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$600**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



### Vortex Viper HD 8x42 (24.2 oz.)

*Compact and comfortable. Firm focus wheel that is easy to dial in. The close focus is excellent.*

Overall Feel: **4.1**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.3**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.2**

Close Focus: **5.1** ft  
Field of View: **347** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$655**

Quality Index:

**4.2**  
OUT OF 5

## The 200 to 399 Club (\$210–\$399; 25 reviewed)



### Nikon Monarch 5 8x42 (20.8 oz.)

*Lightweight, well balanced, and comfortable in the hand. This and the Zeiss Terra ED are the only binoculars in this category to feature the clarity of ED glass.*

Overall Feel: **4.5**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.2**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.5**

Close Focus: **8.3** ft  
Field of View: **330** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$309**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



### Zeiss Terra ED 8x42 (25.4 oz.)

*This is one of the lowest priced binoculars in our review to feature ED glass—a clear step up in terms of materials and image.*

Overall Feel: **4.4**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.8**

Close Focus: **5.3** ft  
Field of View: **375** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$385**

Quality Index:

**4.3**  
OUT OF 5



### Opticron Trailfinder 3 WVP 8x42 (22 oz.)

*A fairly crisp image with a nice feel in the hand and a sensitive focus wheel that is quick to focus.*

Overall Feel: **3.8**  
Clarity/Crispness: **3.7**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.3**

Close Focus: **16.4** ft  
Field of View: **357** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$219**

Quality Index:

**4.0**  
OUT OF 5



### Eagle Optics Ranger 8x42 (21.8 oz.)

*A longtime favorite that has served thousands of birders well. Not quite as sharp or bright as the Best in Class, but still an excellent value for the category.*

Overall Feel: **3.7**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.1**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.3**

Close Focus: **5.2** ft  
Field of View: **341** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$399**

Quality Index:

**4.0**  
OUT OF 5



### Vixen New Foresta HR WP 8x42 (23.1 oz.)

*Not quite as crisp or bright as Best in Class, but very close. Open bridge design is a plus. Smooth focus wheel. Easy to dial into focus.*

Overall Feel: **3.9**  
Clarity/Crispness: **3.7**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.3**

Close Focus: **9.8** ft  
Field of View: **423** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$399**

Quality Index:

**3.9**  
OUT OF 5

## Budget Bins (under \$200; 18 reviewed)



### Celestron Nature DX 8x42 (22.2 oz.)

*Nice feel in the hand. Light weight. Reviewers were surprised at the excellent image these binoculars provide at a low price.*

Overall Feel: **4.4**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.5**

Close Focus: **6.5** ft  
Field of View: **388** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$185**

Quality Index:

**4.2**  
OUT OF 5



### Atlas Optics Sky King 8x42 (26.7 oz.)

*These binoculars offer a nice, crisp image for this price category, although the somewhat heavy and stiff feel may not be for everyone.*

Overall Feel: **3.7**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.5**

Close Focus: **6.0** ft  
Field of View: **365** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$199**

Quality Index:

**4.0**  
OUT OF 5



### Opticron Oregon LE WP 8x32 (18.2 oz.)

*Excellent value. Small size, ideal for smaller hands. Best of the lower-priced "small-sized" binoculars. Great for kids!*

Overall Feel: **3.8**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.2**

Close Focus: **5.9** ft  
Field of View: **423** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$155**

Quality Index:

**4.0**  
OUT OF 5



### Optics Planet OPMOD 8x42 (26 oz.)

*A sturdy, slightly heavy binocular that offers a good image for the price.*

Overall Feel: **3.8**  
Clarity/Crispness: **4.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.5**

Close Focus: **6.6** ft  
Field of View: **366** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$195**

Quality Index:

**4.0**  
OUT OF 5



### Eagle Optics Denali 8x42 (21.9 oz.)

*A lightweight binocular with a smooth focus wheel and a nice image.*

Overall Feel: **4.3**  
Clarity/Crispness: **3.8**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **3.7**

Close Focus: **7** ft  
Field of View: **408** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$199**

Quality Index:

**3.9**  
OUT OF 5



### Leupold BX-I Yosemite 8x30 (17 oz.)

*These are especially good for kids, with a nice image and feel, low price, and several fun colors.*

Overall Feel: **3.7**  
Clarity/Crispness: **3.0**  
Eyeglass Friendliness: **4.0**

Close Focus: **11** ft  
Field of View: **389** ft at 1,000 yd  
Price (MSRP): **\$129**

Quality Index:

**3.5**  
OUT OF 5