

Traveller BGA ED 8x32

Steve Young (February 2017)



Usually with a pair of review binoculars I can find details of weight and price on the manufacturer's website, but this Traveller model from Opticron really is so new there is no information anywhere! Even the box they arrived in had a note with it to say that this wasn't the correct box for this model, so I feel slightly honoured to be looking through "virgin" binoculars.

First impression is of a very small, compact and lightweight model, suited as the name suggests for taking on your travels anywhere. But sometimes quality is sacrificed when producing this size of binocular,

so it would be interesting to see how this model stood up to the test.

Field of view is 8.2 degrees which is good for this size of binocular, and I certainly had no problems using them with my spectacles with the click-stop eyecups fully down; if you don't wear "specs" then there won't be a problem as one of the three eye-piece settings will suit.

Colours were beautifully neutral with no noticeable colour cast, while sharpness was excellent; watching a Robin singing at dusk it was noticeable that the image was still nice and bright so obviously every last bit of light available was gathered, and a local Buzzard that I have been studying for a few weeks looked no different through these binoculars at dawn and evening than it did through my own pair. When watching six Cattle Egrets feeding with five Little Egrets in a grassy field it was good to see all the birds were a true white with no casting or fringing; even when the light changed from bright sun to cloud the colours were true.



For those that enjoy watching dragonflies and butterflies (when the weather turns warmer) then these binoculars will be ideal; close focussing is very good, down to just under six feet, which will give great views of even the smallest butterfly.

But talking of small brings me back to the size of these Travellers; weighing in at only 430 grams not only will they fit in any of my coat pockets, I could even manage to fit my review pair into my trouser pocket, so that shows how easy they are to carry around. For travelling abroad, when every little bit of weight-saving can be so important in these times of budget airlines and their strict weight limits, the Travellers will be an ideal companion on any holiday.

Quality hasn't been sacrificed at all in this model so whether you choose to buy a pair as your main binocular or as a second pair to save weight when on that plane, the Traveller doesn't look as though they will let you down wherever and whenever you use them; in the optics world these prove that size isn't everything and small really can be beautiful.

Complete with case, strap and rainguard, with a 30 year guarantee and nicely priced at £309 this new Traveller model looks like a great buy to me.

Steve Young

Steve Young is one of the UK's best known bird photographers; his work has been published in countless magazines and books and he is Photo Consultant for Birdwatch magazine. A keen bird watcher since the late 1970's Steve has used many different types of binoculars and telescopes over the years.

He writes a monthly column for Outdoor Photography magazine, has written two books on bird photography, is the Photo Judge for Birdguides' weekly competition and was overall winner of the British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA) in 2010.