



# Opticron Aurora BGA 8x42

Are birds just a blur? Do you struggle to get a better view? **Steve Young** invites you to take a closer look with the new Opticron Aurora BGA 8x42 binoculars

**T**op of the range binoculars now cost about £1,000, so I was interested to receive the Opticron 8x42 Aurora BGA model for review, priced around £300 less. For those new to binoculars, the 8x figure refers to the magnification and 42 is the size (in millimetres) of the objective lens that gathers in light.

My first impression was that the binoculars were comfortable to hold, with a solid feel, yet still lightweight for the specifications. They felt good in the hand, due to the nicely finished protective rubber armouring, looked smart (they are available in green or black) and featured a well-positioned focusing wheel that was easy to use. In addition, the rotating click-stop



- ▷ Fully nitrogen gas filled waterproof construction to a depth of 5m
- ▷ Integral tripod adapter socket

- Weight 654g
- Field of View 7.12°
- Minimum focus 1.8 metres
- Models 8x42, 10x42
- Colours Black, green and black/gunmetal
- Supplied Leather case, rainguard and strap, 30-year guarantee

eyecups were ideal, and there was a click-stop dioptre setting for precise focusing. According to the press release these binoculars, 'achieve the highest possible clarity and colour contrast...stunning resolution...and handle like compact 8x32s.' Now, I'm not a great one for publicity blurbs, so only a lengthy field test would prove to me the binoculars' worth.

On a dull wet day, I took a walk around my local park to see if any redwings were still around. They were, and the colour, contrast and sharpness of the birds through these binoculars was excellent – raindrops

stood out sharp and clear on the bird's feathers, while colours were bright and true.

Throughout the next two months I used the binoculars at dawn, dusk, in sun, in dull conditions and in pouring rain. They were used in parks, on farmland, estuaries, and along the beach in strong winds. After being blasted with sand I was glad to see that none had worked its way inside the mechanism, and despite being soaked on a number of occasions no rain had seeped in.

In all situations colour rendition was superb, even in the dullest weather. Light gathering power was

excellent and at dawn or dusk the image was clear and sharp. Field of view was superb, even when wearing spectacles there was no loss when the rotating eyecups were completely down. ■

## Buying tips

**When choosing binoculars consider these factors:**

- ▷ Brightness and sharpness of image
- ▷ Weight
- ▷ Comfort in the hand
- ▷ Waterproof
- ▷ Rubber coating for protection

## Verdict

The Opticron Aurora BGA 8x42 are an impressive pair of binoculars. At around £700 they're not cheap, but when compared to other models, you could buy these and have £300 left for a weekend away.

## Other options

Contact 01582 726522, [www.opticron.co.uk](http://www.opticron.co.uk)

- ▷ Swarovski [www.swarovskioptik.at](http://www.swarovskioptik.at)
- ▷ Leica [www.leica.co.uk](http://www.leica.co.uk)
- ▷ Carl Zeiss [www.zeiss.com](http://www.zeiss.com)
- ▷ Pentax [www.pentax.co.uk](http://www.pentax.co.uk)
- ▷ Steiner [www.steiner-online.co.uk](http://www.steiner-online.co.uk)
- ▷ Bushnell [www.bushnell.com](http://www.bushnell.com)

- ▷ Pyser Hobby [www.pyser-sgi.com](http://www.pyser-sgi.com)
- ▷ Swift RSPB [www.vikingoptical.co.uk](http://www.vikingoptical.co.uk)
- ▷ Nikon [www.nikon.co.uk](http://www.nikon.co.uk)
- ▷ Olympus [www.olympus.co.uk](http://www.olympus.co.uk)
- ▷ Kahles [www.kahlesoptik.com](http://www.kahlesoptik.com)
- ▷ Canon [www.canon.co.uk](http://www.canon.co.uk)

- ▷ Summit [www.intro2020.co.uk](http://www.intro2020.co.uk)
- ▷ Vanguard [www.binoculars-uk.org.uk](http://www.binoculars-uk.org.uk)
- ▷ Yukon [www.yukonopticsglobal.com](http://www.yukonopticsglobal.com)
- ▷ Weaver [www.weaveroptics.co.uk](http://www.weaveroptics.co.uk)
- ▷ Eye Witness [www.eye-witness.co.uk](http://www.eye-witness.co.uk)