

03 Binoculars

1. Minox APO HG \$1,800

An upgrade to Minox's proven, staff-favorite HG line, the powerful APOs deliver great edge-to-edge color quality in a tough but lightweight magnesium package.

But that don't come cheap! 8.5x43; minox.com

2. Bushnell Excursion EX \$200

This versatile polycarbonate binoc has an upgraded, open-bridge design, creating a grip more comfortable than on previous Excursion models. The 400-foot-plus field of view is ideal for spotting game out in the wide open. 8x36; bushnell.com

3. Nikon Ecobins \$170

These "green" binocs use lead-free glass and non-chloride rubber, plus the case is made with eucalyptus pulp. And they're both water- and fog-proof, a claim verified after we dropped them in a stream. 10x25; nikonecobins.com

KILLER VALUE \$

4. Carson Raven \$79

These nimble, pocket-friendly field glasses delivered surprisingly crisp images for their size (and bargain-basement price), and they also performed well in the wet. 8x26; carsonoptical.com

5. Leica Ultravid \$750

Ideal for birdwatchers—but great for anyone who prefers seeing things afar in high definition—these palm-size Leicas fold down compactly. And at 9.6 ounces, they're the lightest binocs we tested. 10x25; leica-camera.com

6. Leupold Northfork \$780

The single-hinge design makes for a comfortable grip on these backcountry-ready binocs. And with a wide field of view and excellent clarity at dawn or dusk, they're ideal for viewing wildlife.

10.5x45; leupold.com

—HANK MUNDY



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