

Edited excerpt from

AFFORDABLE 8X42 BINOCULARS

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Published in **Birdwatcher's Digest Magazine, July/August 2016**

Opticon Discovery WP PC 8x42 • Overall Score: 9.2

The Opticon Discovery focuses closer than any other binocular in our survey: 4.9 feet. Wouldn't that be great for watching hummingbirds up close? Along with very good resolution and a good field of view (393 feet), that helped the Discovery be part of a three-way tie for second place in the overall score. It's compact for a 42mm binocular, only 5.2 inches long. Furthermore, it lets you fold its barrels closer together (53 millimeters) than any other binocular in our survey. If you need a binocular for a child as young as about age 7, or if you have trouble finding binoculars whose barrels will come together, this binocular could solve your problem.

Several judges noted that they liked the easy, smooth, slack-free focus knob. One remarked that the Discovery "feels natural in the hand." The diopter adjustment ring offers the right degree of resistance. It's not easy to see the tiny raised dot indicating whether you're on the center position, but fine tactile clicks let you count how much you're moving it. We like this binocular a lot.