

Savanna WP 6x30

Tom Dunkerton (August 2016)



I've been running the Savanna 6x30 through some serious testing this past month. Being something of a compulsive birder and nature photographer anything I carry is subject to some fairly adverse conditions at times. This brings me to the first of several attributes of this binocular. It's very comfortable to wear all day long. The neoprene strap is a plus but the weight, shape, and size of the Savanna 6x30 is quite a joy. I like to wear them draped in front of me so they are always at the ready but quite possibly because of the shape of this small porro prism gem, they do not bounce around as a cumbersome object. They are also lightweight enough to grab, hold, and focus one-

handed for quick glances out in the field.

The twist up eye-cups are rock solid and very comfortable. The ribbed focus wheel is a breeze to adjust quickly. One of the most important things to me, about a binocular, is to never have to think about why I couldn't find my target and be constantly reminded of its presence when I'm not using it at all. So far the Savanna 6x30 is an A+ on all accounts!

Now let's get to the glass. This is an incredibly bright optical instrument. Certainly you can expect that it should be with a 6x magnification, considering the 30mm objective lens makes this a "whoa" factor for sure. The 8° FOV is a wonderful pairing with the 6x to make wildlife viewing and tracking easy as well. I've had the pleasure of using this binocular in a variety of conditions. In the rain, gray, overcast skies, dense fog, and deep shaded understory of wooded areas in early mornings as well as evening light, the Savanna 6x30 in some cases at the very least equals substantially more expensive competitor products I've used. The fact that it's also waterproof is just the proverbial icing on the cake.

Okay, so now that I've mentioned the cake. What's the "a la mode" of this binocular you ask? The depth of field. I know right? What business does a \$99 binocular have possessing awesome depth of field? I don't know, but I love it. Couple that with a focus wheel that goes from close focus to infinity with a hair less than three quarters of a turn and I can't help but utter "Where have you been all my life?" At least when the wife isn't around anyway!

As an experienced birder for the past 25 years or so I'm very impressed. For the young birders that I hope to introduce this binocular to in the near future, I think the ease of use, comfort, and clarity could very well expedite and hopefully solidify their passion for the birds and other wildlife they will see with the Savanna 6x30. The IPD (Interpupillary Distance) is such that even the youngest birder or wildlife enthusiast can adjust the Savanna to view comfortably. Over the years I've encountered a few complaints about difficulty finding a comfortable binocular for those that possess a narrow IPD whether because of youth or simply a smaller framed face, a minimum distance of 50mm would surely be an answer to many.



The Savanna 6x30 would seem geared more for the younger audience but I would clearly argue that it's for everyone and anyone. I've always been using either 8x or 10x binoculars but in the time I've exclusively used the 6x, I don't find that I've missed anything. In fact, at the end of perhaps a 10 hour birding excursion my eyes feel noticeably less strained.

In short, this is an excellent first binocular for the young or beginning birder who will enjoy the Savanna 6x30 for a good long while before needing to up the ante on their optics. This is also a very utilitarian binocular for the experienced birder who might benefit from having these as a spare for hiking, vehicle glove box, or travel.

See you out there!

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