

Opticron Verano BGA VHD 10x42

Elis Simpson (September 23)

I have been an Opticron user for many years and have had a binocular supplied by Opticron for over 12 of those years. It has travelled the world with me during our quest for waders and never let me down once. It has been an old faithful that has served me well. But eventually, like everything, it got to a point where the binocular could be serviced no more. At that point of course I looked through the Opticron catalogue and picked a pair of Verano BGA VHD 10x42 to replace my old friend.



I fully expected the Verano to feel 'wrong' at first but it did not. It is very easy to handle and feels good in the hand, easily adjusted to my eye specifications and the transition to being an extension of me was completed very quickly. The adjustment to my eye difference was straightforward and quickly achieved. The focus wheel is smooth and travels from near to far with ease. If I am looking at a bird on the feeders in my garden, for example, and a movement in the hedge at the end of the garden catches my eye, I can refocus quickly with less than half a turn of the wheel. And then, having established it is just another Dunnock, I can swiftly return to the Marsh Tit on the feeder. Light gathering is excellent too and the close focus, essential for insects such as butterflies that you cannot approach too closely as they spook so easily, was great, coming to just in front of my toes!

The Verano is about 12 grams lighter too which doesn't sound much (about the weight of a Marsh Tit as it happens) but that small difference combined with the cushioned neck strap, makes it really comfortable to wear. Once the strap was adjusted to my needs, it is swift to bring to bear when seeing a movement in a bush or tree; what more does a birder need?

Elis Simpson; co-founder and trustee of Wader Quest