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[Prepare Yourself for Birding](#)

Planning on birdwatching? Before you set out and join the birdwatching club, you should ask yourself if you are prepared for this fascinating activity. First of all, you will need a good field guide. There's nothing more frustrating than spotting a bird and you fail to identify what it is. A good field guide will give you tips of which bird features to look for to make a proper identification.

After procuring a field guide, the next thing you will need are some good equipment to make your bird watching experience truly pleasant and unforgettable. Bird watching is not as simple as reading things from a book. You will need some good quality gadgets to get the most from the experience.

One of the basic tool you should have is a good pair of binoculars. Choose binoculars that are of high quality, one that will not let you miss out on every detail, such as the type of birds you would see and even the feather details. Seeing the details are very important especially when you try to distinguish similarly looking birds apart. The difference might lie on minute details and having a good pair of binoculars will help you see the distinguishing marks. The orange blur that you are looking at from afar, with the use of binoculars, will come alive before you as bird that you may have never seen before in your life.

Now what should you consider when choosing a pair of binoculars? Be aware that there are different kinds of binoculars. You will have to decide on the size, shape and specifications that you want. More importantly, you need to know what type of binoculars you are looking for. There are multi-purpose pairs that can be used for different activities, including bird watching, concerts, star gazing, hiking and many others. Know what your binoculars are for.

How can you put a limit on learning more? The next section may contain that one little bit of wisdom that changes everything.

You also need to know what those figures represent. You will encounter numbers like 7x35 or 10x42. This simply means the magnification power and the diameter of the front lens of the camera, measured in millimeters. The larger the diameter lens, the more light that can enter the binoculars. With more light, the image becomes brighter.

It may not matter to you, but to some the brand name or the manufacturer counts. If you do not have any idea which binoculars are trustworthy, start knowing the equipment by asking friends or acquaintances who use binoculars about them. Try to borrow their equipment if you can and see how it feels. Some brand names may be too heavy on the budget though they surely catch your fancy. You do not need to splurge on a pair of binoculars as there are also many low-end but reliable brands. Ask your hobby shop for their recommendations. Better yet, try entering online forums and post questions there. You'll be surprised how many people will lend you a hand or voice out their opinions on various brands.

Now, if you are also interested in getting a scope, you should consider the magnification, aperture, field of view, optical design and eye relief. A spotting scope is a small telescope that is used for observing objects whose distance requires a magnification greater than that of the binocular. A spotting scope is ideal for birdwatching, scenic observing, beginning astronomy and surveillance.

What were mentioned are just two equipment, and yet probably the most important equipment to have, in bird watching. The key here is to properly prepare yourself for a birding experience.

About the Author

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