

130 KILLER DEALS!
(FOR UNDER \$100)

Outside SUMMER 2011

BUYER'S GUIDE

SUMMER'S BEST GEAR

325
TORTURE
TESTED
PRODUCTS

**HOW TO BUY
SMARTER**

Waterproof
Cameras

GPS
Watches

Barefoot
**Running
Shoes**

All-Terrain
**Mountain
Bikes**

Ultralight
Jackets

High-Def
Sunglasses

Go-Anywhere
Daypacks

Family-Friendly
Kayaks



**The Only
Survival Kit
You Need**
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binoculars

2. PENTAX DCF BC 9X32 \$299

The compact, reinforced DCF BCs are perfect for stashing in the glove box, where they can withstand the beating meted out by the road but still remain within reach for chance wildlife encounters. The lenses of the roof-prism design are multi-coated and include an extra silver-deposited layer that did seem to help with light transmission. That said, they didn't perform as well as others in fading light. But for the price and toughness, these binocs are a steal. pentaxsportoptics.com
TAGS: WORRY-FREE, ECONOMICAL



2.

1. NIKON EDG 8X32 \$2,000

Yes, that price is correct. But what you get for the cost of a new bike is quite possibly the best new binocs out there. Made with the same glass Nikon uses in its top-end cameras, the EDGs are impossibly clear, with brilliantly crisp images even in low light. Everything else, from the easy-to-adjust focus knob to the rubber eyecups—not too hard, not too soft—added to the near perfect view. nikonbirding.com
TAGS: HIGH PRICE, HIGH PERFORMANCE



1.

3. CARSON 3D SERIES 8X42 \$350

Comfortable in your hand and equipped with impressive optics for a mid-tier model, the 3Ds are worthy companions for extended viewing—something we learned while watching a bull elk from 400 yards last fall. Rubberized coating helps them withstand inadvertent drops, thumb-holds and a textured body make them nonslip in hot or rainy weather, and the extra-long eye relief (19.5 millimeters) is perfect for sunny days when repeatedly removing your shades for a look gets tiresome. carsonoptical.com
TAGS: ARMORED, MOUNTAIN-READY



3.

4. LEUPOLD BX-3 MOJAVE 10X42 \$500

Ideal for the serious but thrifty birder—and great for anyone else—these binocs are well-balanced, easy-to-handle, and light (they're 24 ounces) and were on the eyes during extended viewing. Their close-focus distance (7.5 feet) allowed us to switch easily from viewing a far-off ridge to catching an impromptu (and shockingly close) visit by a golden eagle. And the silver-enhanced lenses provide clear images with accurate colors. leupold.com
TAGS: VERSATILE, BIRDER-FRIENDLY
—RYAN KROGH



4.