

# Elements of a Birdwatcher's Armoury

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As their interest begins to rise,  
Birding newcomers quickly realise  
Their keen eyes and ears are not enough;  
And that, to gain full satisfaction  
From their bouts of birdwatching action,  
They require a lot of *other* stuff.

In the modern suite of birding tools  
That helps us enjoy nature's jewels  
Things divide into many classes.  
Within these verses let us list them  
And discuss using simple system,  
Starting with the choice of field glasses.

Binoculars boost a birder's eyes  
As they search the trees or scan the skies.  
"Ten by forty two" is what some choose  
But others think that "eight by fifty"  
Has merit since they're light and thrifty.  
These optic choices create strong views!

Factors such as ruggedness and weight  
Are also brought into this debate.  
Note though, binoculars do not cope  
When it comes to long distance viewing  
(Which birdwatchers are often doing);  
What's needed is a good telescope.

They're rather awkward to lug around  
And you need to find some even ground  
But when you do, they are so useful.  
With firm tripod and powerful 'scope  
One no longer needs to peer in hope  
And birdwatching becomes more fruitful.

These optic tools serve to magnify  
*But* the aim is to identify  
For which birders resort to field guides.  
Although old-style birders stick to books  
Modern ones exploit, with smirking looks,  
The many functions an app provides.

A camera is often toted;  
Alas, note-taking's been demoted,  
Replaced by big zoom lens images.  
Click, move on, ask the ID later,  
Not notice relevant field data,  
This bad practice, one discourages.

'Though when the camera's used for art  
As *is* the habit, in greater part,  
Such splendid photos now are taken.  
A glimpse of behaviour perhaps  
Or the bird's beauty captured in snaps  
Stimulates interest to waken.

Binoculars, telescope, field guide  
And camera; all are well-tried  
Tools in a birdwatcher's armoury.  
Their pros and cons are oft expounded  
Using arguments quite well-founded;  
These verses provide a summary.

But the most important tool of all  
Is a notebook; it helps one recall  
The subtle details of some sighting.  
'Though apps are fine if simply "listing",  
For birds a bit more interesting  
A person should be field-note writing.