

Review of the Opticron IS 60 R ED Spottingscope.

Opticron promote their range of spottingscopes as being of “excellent value” and versatile, an assertion that, from our experience of the IS 60 R ED paired with the 40933S HR2 16-48x zoom eyepiece, seems to be very much the case.



Birdwatching often involves a fair amount of travel, both to and around the site of interest. The IS 60 R ED model perfectly caters for this demand as a result of its compact, lightweight design. One will not find this scope too difficult to pack or exhaustive to lug around (This is somewhat influenced by choice of tripod). Furthermore, the robustness of the scope; it has protective rubber armour and waterproof construction; means it can withstand intensive use and transport.

The scope facilitates great quality of image with consistent clarity across the field of vision and superb colour rendition even in poor lighting. Inevitably as the magnification is increased, the brightness of the picture is compromised and the field of view does become slightly impaired around the edges but this is hardly noticeable until in exceedance of 32x. Even then the central object of focus remains clear and defined. For its size, the IS 60 R ED provides top quality vision that seems adept for most situations. The 40339S HR2 eyepiece seems costly until one compares it to similar models from other manufacturers.

From personal experience of Opticron products, I have always found them the most comfortable and easy-to-use of optics, which is a massive selling point. This scope is consistent with this. Although the focus wheel can feel a bit stiff at first, sharp resolution is quickly obtained. There is just the single focus wheel and this makes the scope a lot less hassle to adjust but more expert birders might prefer to have more fine-focus control. However, for beginner and intermediate birders or use on the move, the simplicity of this model is a definite bonus.

All in all, the IS 60 R ED is an excellent value, user-friendly scope that is pretty well suited to anyone, anywhere.

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