

Steiner Peregrine: Building A Brighter Bird

The name “Peregrine” might lead you to assume that Steiner’s new center-focus, roof-prism binocular is only “for the birders.” Yep, it does have a 5.9-foot near-focusing distance. But its green rubberized coating, excellent light-gathering ability (it’s got a 5.2mm exit pupil) and superb optics make it an outstanding choice for hunting. And turkey hunting, particularly in areas as pretty as Western Kentucky, rates as “enhanced birding” in my book.

My previous experience with Steiner glass was with the company’s 10x42 Predator on a Quebec caribou hunt. I was very impressed

thundershowers, ground fog, high winds and occasional bright sunshine. Some of the time I used the Peregrine in fairly gloomy early-morning conditions and was impressed with the way it managed to suck up what light there was. Rating ergonomics, of course, is a highly subjective thing, but the Peregrine’s roof-prism configuration is just about perfect as far as I’m concerned. And the Peregrine—while (thankfully) not a compact—is petite enough to tuck into a shirt, so it doesn’t beat a hole in your chest when you’re on the move. It weighs 24 ounces and is 6.4 inches in length and 5.1 inches wide.



The Peregrine features big optics in a handy package, but don't call it a compact!



The 8x42 Peregrine offers bright color transmission and excellent ergonomics.

with the Predator, but for the kind of stuff I do on a regular basis, the 8x42 magnification level is probably a more sensible choice.

The conditions on my turkey hunt were an interesting mix of

A lot of the gobblers were henned up, so I wound up glassing a lot of edgeline for likely prospects before bailing into the woods to work in to a suitable calling position.

Granted, the Peregrine has more bulk and magnification than necessary for the job, but it worked and worked well. I was able to judge the larger of two gobblers several hundred yards away, and, when they began to work their way across various dips and swales, I managed to keep track of where they were looking by intermittent glassing as I snuck through the woods to get ahead of them. After I’d filled my nonresident turkey tag, I used the Peregrine to spot everything from far-off whitetail to snapping turtles on distant logs to a water moccasin swimming lazily in a culvert.

One of the main selling points of the Peregrine is that it’s very bright in terms of color transmission, attributable to what the company refers to as “dielectric prism coating,” which means that more than 40 layers of titanium oxide and minerals are applied. I don’t have the foggiest notion how that works, but it does. I was able to distinguish minor variations in different shades of bright-green spring vegetation, the metallic-iridescent breast feathers of Eastern gobblers and the dorsal-scale pattern of a sunning water moccasin and at distances varying from tens of feet to hundreds of yards.

The Steiner Peregrine can also be had in 10x42 persuasion, but the 8x42’s plenty for me. The MSRP is \$1,399, but I’ve seen it listed by various vendors in the \$850 range. Contact Steiner Binoculars, Dept. GA, 97 Foster St., Suite 5, Moorestown, NJ 08057; (800)-257-7742; steiner-binoculars.com.

—Payton Miller ■