



# GREAT BIRDING PROJECTS



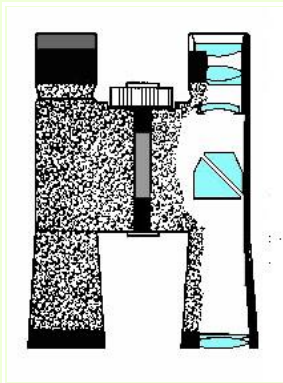
*An approach to bird-related editing, education, tourism, and marketing*

*1 April 2013*

## ***New Optics Line Launched***

*Products just released in USA*

Zeus Mega-Views were released on the American market today, 1 April 2013, after having been field-tested in Europe, Asia, and Antarctica. The response to testing has been phenomenal.



Structure of Zeus MVs

Rugged, weather-resistant, and made with a titanium frame, the MVs, as they are called, have been measured to be the finest binoculars the market could ever produce. Two models currently available are the 8.7 x 45 MV and the 11 x 45 MV. Comparisons have amazed sophisticated birders and big-game hunters who have had the opportunity to try out these models. The first MV is 4.5 grams lighter than the 20.5-ounce Swarovski 8 x 32 EL. The second MV has a field of view that is wider than that of Leica 10 x 42 Ultravids, boasting a field of view is 12 inches greater at 1,000 yards. Both MVs have focusing mechanisms quicker than any Zeiss Victory or Conquest, by at least 0.003 turns.

The 8.7 x 45 MV has a list price of only \$14,500, and the 11 x 45 MV list price will be closer to \$17,200. A companion Zeus spotting scope is expected to be released at the Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix in late May. No further information is available on the scope, except that a special window mount will also be available for Lamborghinis (Aventador LP 7004 and Gallardo LP 560-4 models only).

## ***Overweight Canal-living Ducks***

The Dutch Waterways Commission released a study conducted by Dr. Albert Van der Berg which found that ducks (mostly Mallards) that lived on canals weighed, on average, a pound (0.45 kilograms) more than ducks that lived on rivers. The slow-moving canal waters apparently provided the ducks with less opportunity for exercise, and they gained weight.



Dutch Canal-living Mallard

The findings prompted a debate among ornithologists over whether ducks in canals were more likely to be fed by passers-by and tourists, thereby gaining excessive weight. In any case, it is unclear if avian diabetes or heart disease will follow.

Late breaking news: Parallel investigation in the U.S. has indicated that American Mallards in habitats similar to the Dutch canal birds have been found to be three pounds heavier than river birds.

## Cause of Massachusetts Crow Deaths Reported Today

Authorities in Massachusetts found about 200 dead crows near Plymouth last month, and there was concern that they may have been victims of Avian Flu. A bird pathologist, Dr. Marie Schwartz, was called in to examine the remains of all the crows, and she confirmed that the problem was definitely not Avian Flu.

However, she determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by impact with cars.

The commonwealth of Massachusetts brought in an ornithological behaviorist, Dr. Fred Lauranz, to determine reasons for the disproportionate percentages for truck-kills versus car-kills. The ornithological behaviorist determined the cause in short order, in findings he announced today, 1 April 2013.



American Crow on Alert

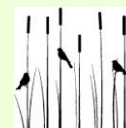
Of course, when crows gather to consume road kill, they always set-up a look-out crow in a nearby tree or post to warn of impending danger. The behaviorist's conclusion was that the lookout crow could clearly say "Cah", but could not say "Truck."

## ABC's Bird of the Week

The folks at the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) regularly produce an excellent "Bird of the Week" emphasis, focusing on a species that deserves some concern in the Americas. A few of the recent North American birds profiled have been Rusty Blackbird, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Lark Bunting, and Wandering Tattler. The most recent species profiled, from last week, certainly deserves some attention. It can be found [here](#).

## Words to Consider:

"There is a very fine line between 'hobby' and 'mental illness'."  
- Dave Barry



## For More Information:

If you wish, you can contact GBP concerning your avitourism interests, site and trail/byway evaluations, psychic channeling sessions for extinct bird species, and group presentations. More details [here](#).

