


Type 1c: 804 Audubon Mark II W.A.

1968—1970	
Focus Knob: between hinges, metal.	
Eyecups: Metal, "retractable."	
Strap attachment: lugs on back.	
Tripod Attachment: Center hinge.	
Objective Cap: metal, 3 white bands.	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 10-12	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Cover Plate: R) AUDUBON (no Mark II); FOV in ft. and m. (red); L) Swift bulls eye (white), "Feather Weight."	
MSRP: unknown	
Made by: Tamron Optical Co. JL E-45.	
Note: First ad to mention "Swift's slotted prisms". Probably also used on earlier types.	

The 1968 brochure shows a cover plate change that is notable for *not* including "Mark II," since it is clearly called one in the catalog. In addition, the objective caps have two narrow white bands at the leading edge. Heaven only knows why this gargantuan binocular continued to be labeled "Feather Weight" on the left cover plate. Whatever the reason, Type 2 also carried this strange appellation until 1984.

(Photos below by EMH.)




Two white bands



"Feather Weight" Mark


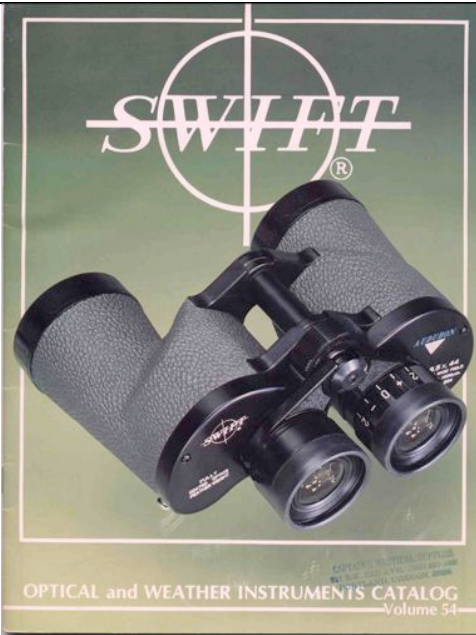
Type 2a: 804 Audubon Mark II — Wide Angle

1971–1979 (approx.)	
Focus Knob: between hinge and bridge, short.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible."	
Strap attachment: side shoulder rings.	
Tripod attachment: Right side.	
Objective Cap: metal	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 12-13mm est.	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Designation: Audubon Mark II, C.F.	
MSRP: \$98.00	
Made by: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	

Type 2a involved a major design change, probably involving body castings and optics. It is distinguished by a focusing knob between the top hinge and bridge, strap rings at the shoulders, roll-down rubber eyecups, and an unusual tripod adapter positioned on right side. A modified casting was probably required for the tripod adapter and strap attachments. Drawings from the 1971 ad show the emphasis placed on these new features. The unchanged 38.4 oz. weight was claimed to be "convenient," — but "Feather Weight" was still marked on the cover plate. Note price reduction of 25%.

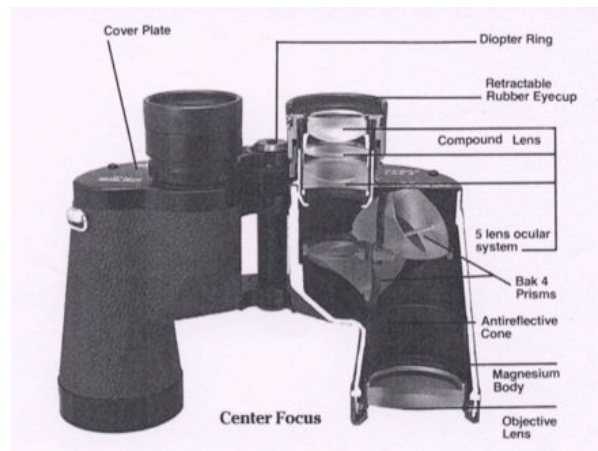
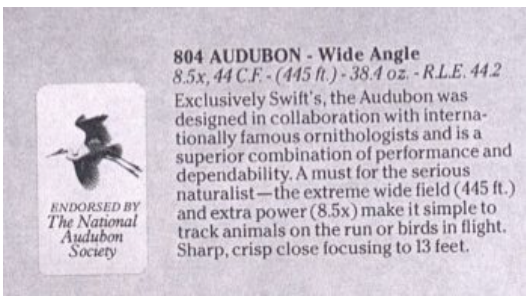
	<div>  <p>CONVERTIBLE EYECUPS Unique composition eyecups, in extended position, block out extraneous light and maintain the right ocular distance. When rolled down, they provide a cushion for eyeglass wearers. Eyecups snap into circular grooves of ocular cell so there is no chance of losing them. Full field of view is clear in either position.</p> </div> <div>  <p>TRIPOD ADAPTER Built-in and threaded to fit most standard camera tripods. The tripod adapter is at the objective end of the focusing knob; except, on wide angle binoculars, where it's located on the side of the body. Extra-large focusing knob permits rapid focusing.</p> </div>
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Type 2b: 804 Audubon Mark II — Wide Angle




1980 —1984	
Focus Knob: behind hinge, short.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible."	
Strap attachment: side rings.	
Tripod attachment: Right side.	
Objective Cap: metal.	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 12-13mm est.	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Designation: Audubon Mark II, C.F.	
MSRP: \$240	
Made by: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	
Note: Slotted prisms mentioned through 1982 catalog. Major price increase in 1980.	

Type 2b appeared about 1980 and was the first to use a Mark II triangle on the right cover plate below the word AUDUBON. What optical improvements were made is unknown. The same white triangle marking was again used on Type 4 in 1985 with the introduction of the 804R. The cutaway drawing below shows 5-element ocular and monobloc construction. The first and only evidence we have of the endorsement by the National Audubon Society appeared in 1982, but it was not stenciled on the binocular itself — as far as we know. In deference to tradition, "Feather Weight" is still retained on the left cover plate. The catalog also describes Swift's slotted prism system, suggesting that it was used throughout Type 2 production.


(Catalog 1980, Vol. 54 shown above)

 <p>Labels in diagram: Cover Plate, Diopter Ring, Retractable Rubber Eyecup, Compound Lens, 5 lens ocular system, Bak 4 Prisms, Antireflective Cone, Magnesium Body, Objective Lens, Center Focus.</p>	 <p>804 AUDUBON - Wide Angle 8.5x, 44 C.F. - (445 ft.) - 38.4 oz. - R.L.E. 44.2 Exclusively Swift's, the Audubon was designed in collaboration with internationally famous ornithologists and is a superior combination of performance and dependability. A must for the serious naturalist — the extreme wide field (445 ft.) and extra power (8.5x) make it simple to track animals on the run or birds in flight. Sharp, crisp close focusing to 13 feet.</p> <p>ENDORSED BY <i>The National Audubon Society</i></p>
1982 Audubon Society Endorsement	

Type 3a: 804 Audubon Mark II — Wide Angle

1972 (approx.)—1984	
Focus Knob: extra long, between hinges; rubber coated.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible."	
Strap attachment: side rings.	
Tripod attachment: Right side.	
Objective Cap: Hard.	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 12-13mm est.	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Cover Plate: R) AUDUBON Mk II (blue); L) Swift reticule (white) Blue & White Ribbon.	
Made by: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	Rubber Ribbed Focus Wheel
<p>Type 3 shares the same basic body casting as Type 2, except for modifications necessary to locate a rubber-ribbed focusing wheel between the main hinges. Since no reference to them was found in Swift's San Jose archive, it was confirmed that Type 3 was developed offshore for the European market and sold in parallel with Type 2 in the US. Most specimens have ribbon markings, but some exist without it. Type 3a is the blue ribbon variety, possibly marketed in England. Original prices are unknown.</p> <p>(Photo lower right courtesy of Julian Bosley, Oxford, UK.)</p>	
	

Type 3b: 804 Audubon Mark II — Wide Angle

1972 (approx.)—1984	
Focus Knob: extra long, between hinges; rubber coated.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible."	
Strap attachment: side rings.	
Tripod attachment: Right side.	
Objective Cap: Hard.	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 12-13mm est.	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Cover Plate: R) AUDUBON H.R. (gold); L) Swift reticule, Gold & White Ribbon.	
Manufacturer: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	

The three Type 3b "Gold Ribbon" specimens shown here looked the same as the Blue Ribbon Type 3a. Closer examination revealed that the eyecups on the (possibly older) model at the lower left have a different ribbing pattern than Type 3a specimens. The model at lower right shows a "H.R." designation was used well before HR/5 appeared on Type 4b. A specimen (not shown) was also found with metal eyecups similar to a Type 1, and some of the focus wheels were apparently painted metal, not rubber.

(Photo lower right by author R de V)




Eyecup Ribbing Variation



"H.R." Marking

Type 3c: 804 Audubon Mark II — Wide Angle

1972 (approx.)—1984	
Focus Knob: extra long, between hinges; rubber coated.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible."	
Strap attachment: side rings.	
Tripod attachment: Right side.	
Objective Cap: Hard.	
Field of View (ft.): 445.	
Eye relief (mm): 12-13mm est.	
Close Focus (ft.): 13	
Weight (oz.): 38.4	
Cover Plate: R) AUDUBON Mk II (blue); L) Swift reticule (white) Fully Coated Optics, Feather-Weight.	
Manufacturer: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	

Since European distributors were given a fair amount of latitude in determining cover plate markings, it shouldn't be too surprising that Type 3c would appear with no ribbon markings at all. Like all the large body types marketed in America, it is stenciled "Feather Weight," and "Fully Coated Optics," which support the notion that Type 3 used the same optics as Type 2.




"Feather Weight" like Types 1 & 2



Marked "Mk II" (blue) like Type 3a

SMALL BODY TYPES

Type 4a: 804R Audubon Mark II — Wide Field

1985—1989 (approx.)	
Focus Knob: extra long, between hinges; rubber coated.	
Eyecups: Rubber, "convertible" style.	
Strap attachment: plastic lugs at rear.	
Tripod attachment: Center hinge; spring loaded.	
Objective Cap: Shock-absorbing rubber; thin blue/white band.	
Field of View (ft.): 430.	
Eye relief (mm): 14	
Close Focus (ft.): 14	
Weight (oz.): 29.5	
Cover Plate: R) AUDUBON Mark II (white triangle), Model No 804R; L) Swift (blue)	
Made by: Hiyoshi Kogaku, Ltd. JL B-56.	<p>The "Revised" 804R</p>
Note: Vol. 60-62 refers to "chamfered prisms," rather than slotted prisms.	

Type 4a may be the most *important* design change in the evolution of the 804 Audubon—demurely labeled the "804R." (Swift confirms, "R" means "Revised.") It has narrower FOV, smaller size, and 8.9 oz. less weight. Longer, narrower eyecups herald slightly more generous eye relief, and a large rubber-ribbed focusing-wheel is located between the main hinges as in Type 3. Shock absorbing rubber objective caps were added that also reduce glare. "Multi-Coated Optics" (MC) is seen on left cover plate, and a white triangle on the right. The author's specimen at lower left says "Mark II" inside the triangle, but Ted Nordhagen's, on the right, says "Wide Field."

(Upper and lower left by author EMH. Lower right courtesy Ted Nordhagen, Montana)

