



The Gear Used in 1,222 Astronomy Photographer of the Year Images

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

How the numbers were counted

1,222

SHORTLISTED IMAGES

2018–2026

NINE YEARS OF SHORTLISTS

- 452 landscape images (including aurora), 442 deep sky, 328 planetary (including solar and lunar)
- Full methodology on my website
- Data generously provided to Skies & Scopes by Royal Museums Greenwich



rmg.co.uk/whats-on/astronomy-photographer-year

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape Astrophotography

Cameras, lenses and trackers

LANDSCAPE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

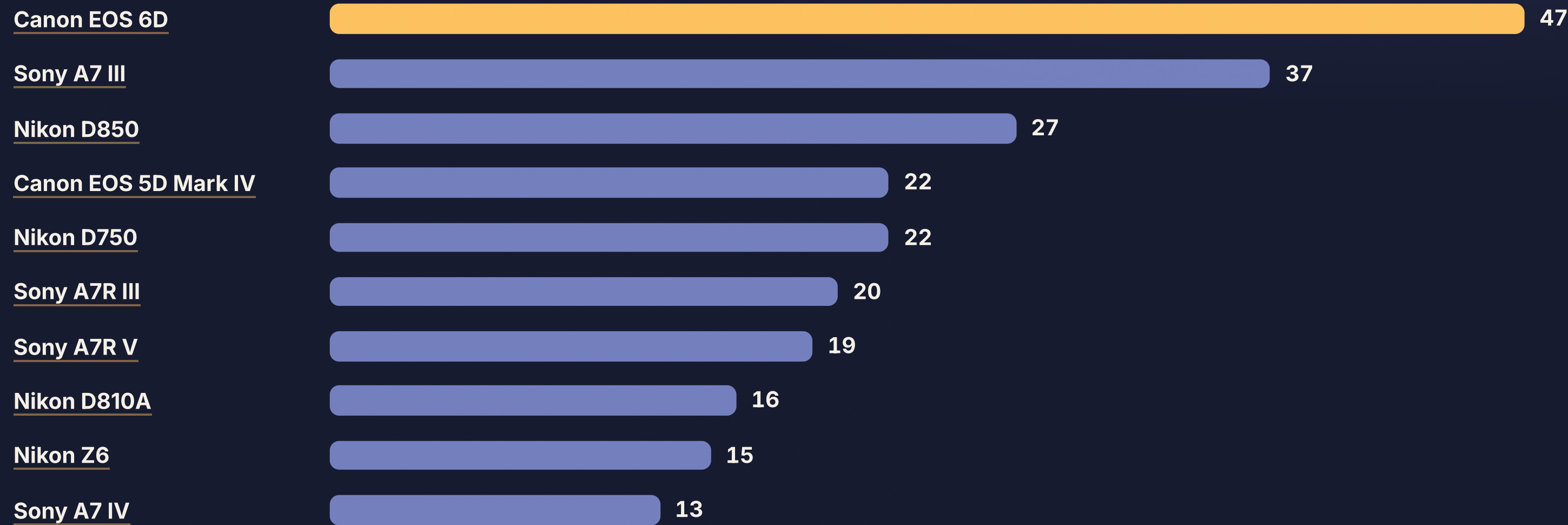
Cameras

Which bodies, which brands, and why full-frame

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape cameras

Most-used cameras for landscape astrophotography



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=452 landscape images)



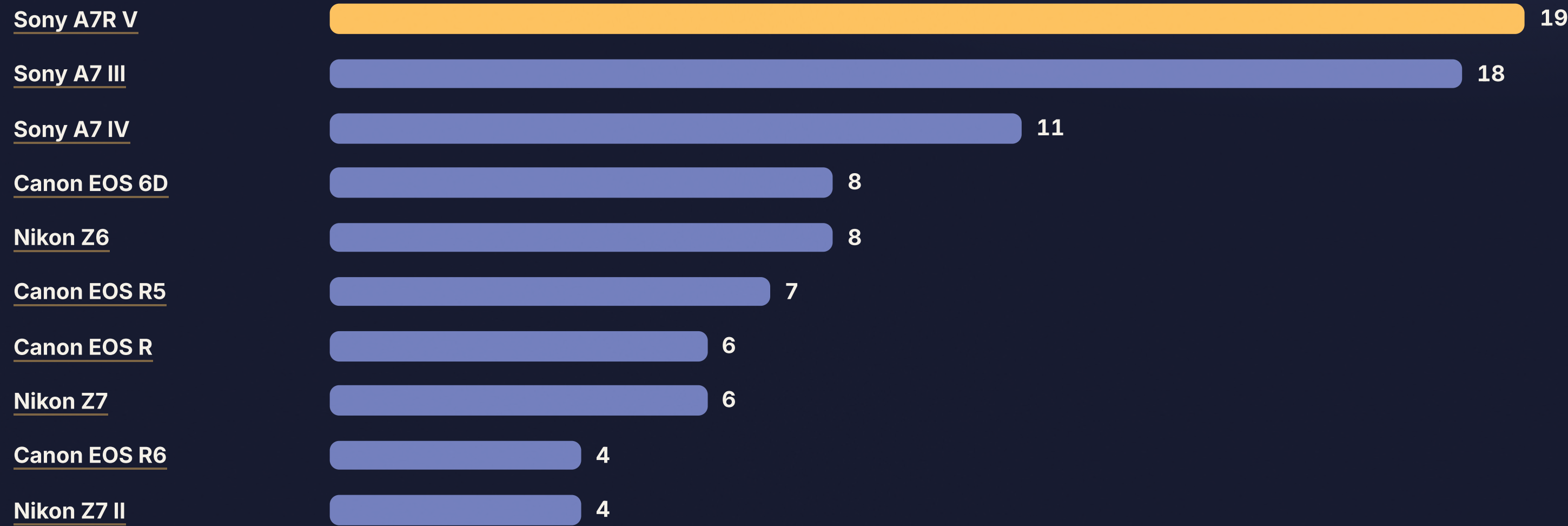
A Message From the Ancients © Max Inwood (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Winner, People and Space · Taken with a [Canon EOS 6D](#), 50 mm lens, [iOptron SkyGuider Pro](#) tracker

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape cameras, last three years

Most-used cameras for landscape astrophotography, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=146 landscape images 2024-2026)



I Hear the Stars © João Yordanov Serralheiro (Portugal)

Highly Commended, Skyscapes · Taken with a [Sony A7 III](#) and a 35 mm lens

João teaches the Star Trails Fast Track course at Skies & Scopes

LANDSCAPE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

99% Sony, Canon or Nikon

Canon

144 landscape images

Nikon

150 landscape images

Sony

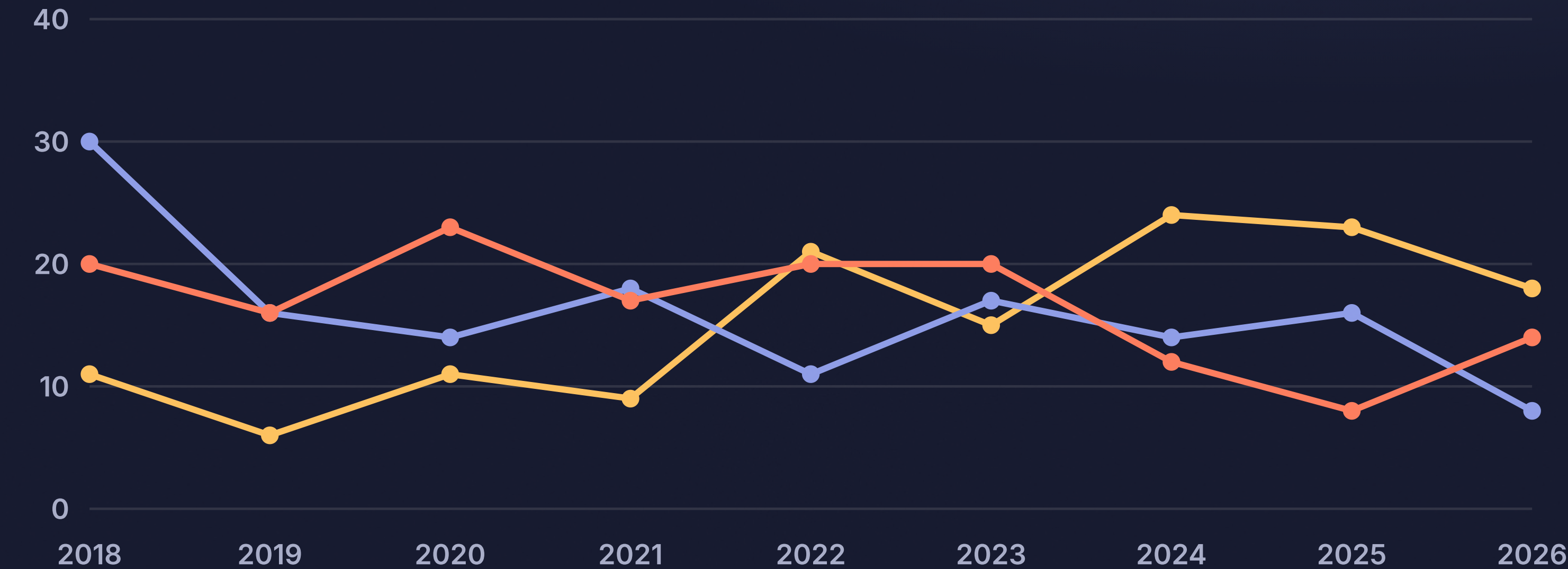
138 landscape images, and top since
2022

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Canon vs Nikon vs Sony

Landscape and nightscape images by camera brand, each year

Sony Canon Nikon



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=452 landscape images)



Setsu-getsu-ka © Takanobu Kurosaki (Japan)

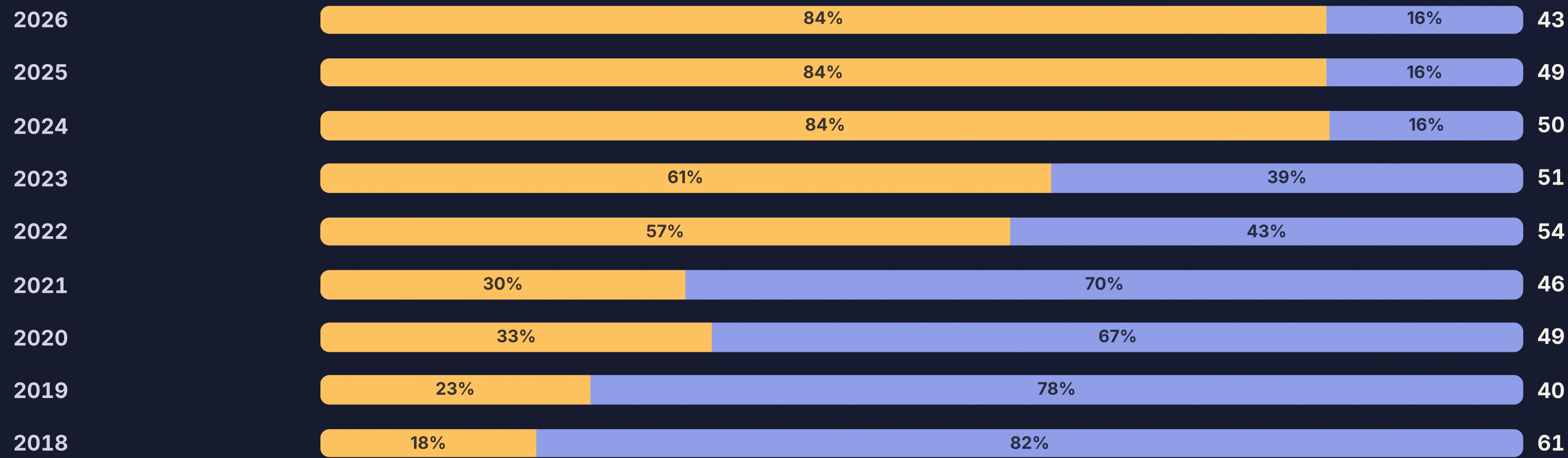
Shortlisted, Skyscapes · Taken with a [Sony A7R V](#) and a Sony FE 24-105 mm f/4 G lens

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Mirrorless vs DSLR

Number of landscape and nightscape images by camera type, each year

Mirrorless DSLR



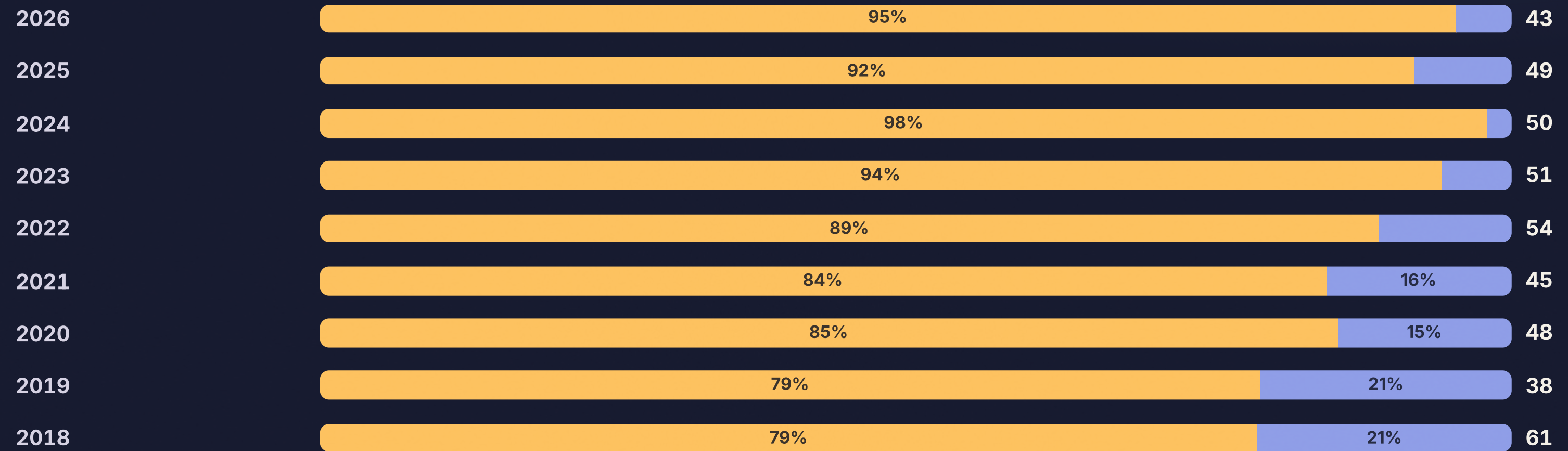
Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=452 landscape images)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Full-frame vs APS-C

Sensor size of the cameras behind landscape images, each year

● Full-frame ● APS-C



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=439 landscape images with a known sensor size)

Why full-frame matters: crop factor

- APS-C sensors crop into the frame the lens draws — roughly a 1.5× multiplier
- A 14 mm lens on APS-C frames like a 21 mm — a lot less sky
- A smaller sensor also gathers less light, which is what costs you at night
- Only 2 of the 43 landscape images with a known sensor in 2026 were APS-C

Astro-modification

- The infrared cut filter is removed, so the camera records hydrogen-alpha red
- APOTY does not record it, so it cannot be counted in this data
- In Milky Way Photographer of the Year, more than three quarters of shortlisted images used astro-modified bodies
- It is a conversion you have done to a body you already own



Cosmic Canyon © Tom Rae (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Runner-up, Skyscapes · Taken with an astro-modified [Nikon Z7 II](#), 40 mm and 20 mm lenses, [iOptron SkyGuider Pro](#) mount

The right nightscape camera

- Sony, Canon or Nikon — almost nothing else appears
- Full-frame, not APS-C
- Probably mirrorless — 36 of 44 landscape images in 2026
- Possibly astro-modified
- 20–30 megapixels is the sweet spot, with the 61 MP Sony A7R V the exception

Cameras that fit the bill

- [Sony A7 III](#), [Sony A7 IV](#) or [Sony A7 V](#) — the A7 III alone is on 37 landscape images
- [Sony A7R V](#) — top landscape camera of the last three years
- [Nikon Z6 III](#) and [Nikon Z7 II](#), and the older Z6 and Z7
- [Canon EOS R5](#) and the other Canon mirrorless bodies
- [Canon EOS 6D](#) — the budget pick, and the most-shortlisted camera of all on 47 landscape images

LANDSCAPE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Cameras that fit the bill



Sony A7 IV

The mid-range full-frame Sony, on this year's shortlist



Sony A7R V

Top landscape camera of the last three years



Nikon Z6 III

The current Z6, behind this year's Our Moon winner



Canon EOS 6D

The 2012 DSLR that still tops all nine years — the budget pick

LANDSCAPE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

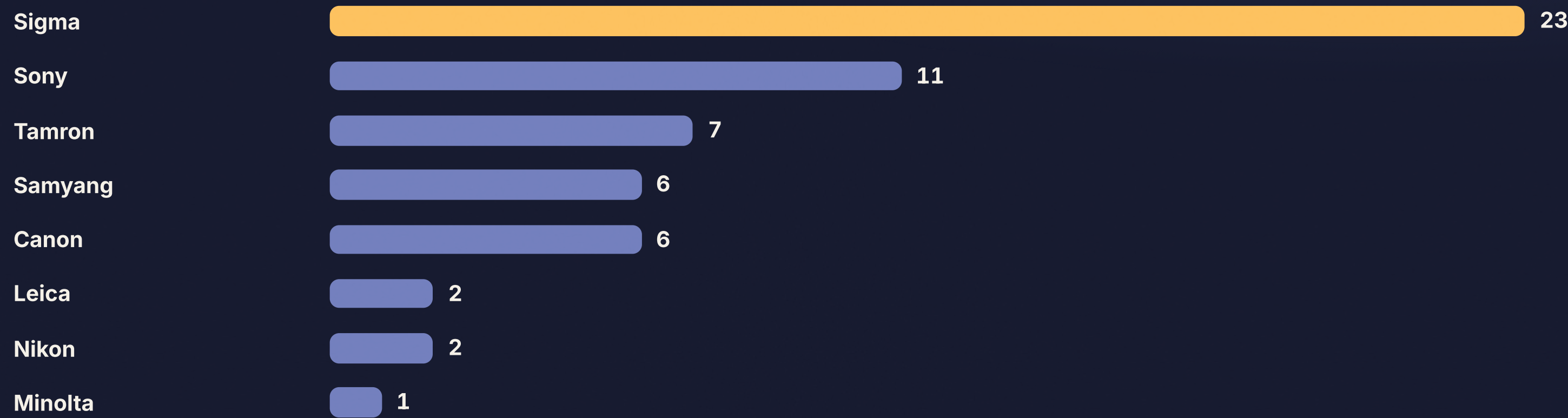
Lenses

Wide, fast, and the models that keep coming up

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape lens brands

Lens brand where the entrant named one

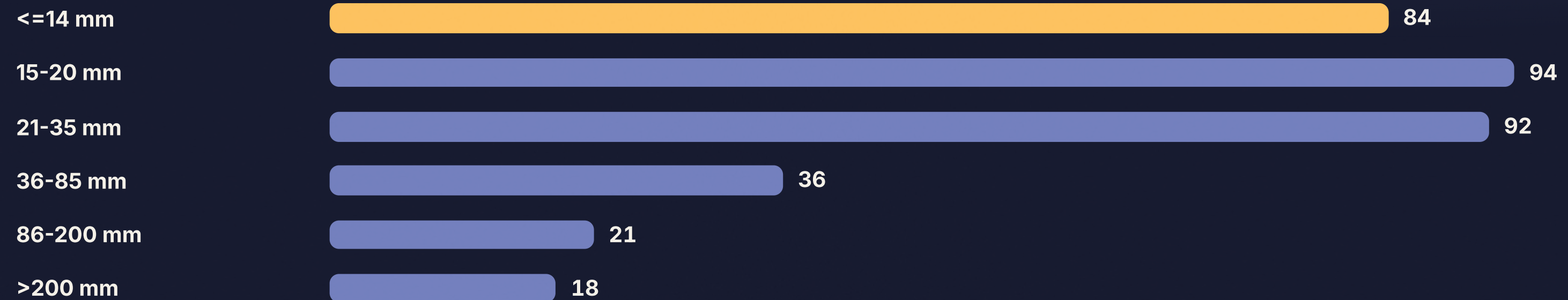


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 8 of n=64 landscape images naming a lens brand)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape focal lengths

Focal length used, landscape and nightscape images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=345 landscape images with a recorded focal length)



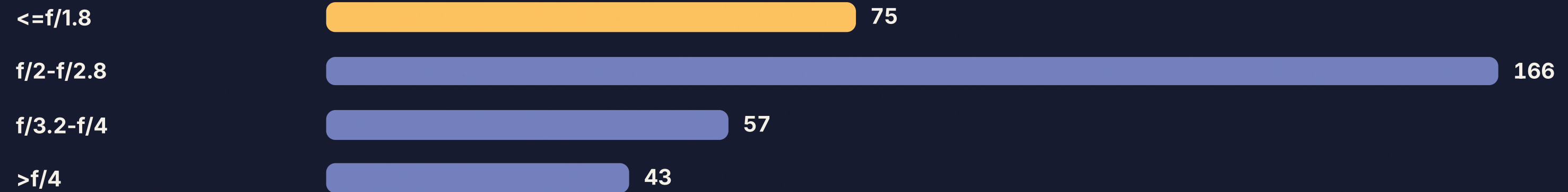
The Crown © Radoslav Sviretsov (Bulgaria)

Winner, Aurorae · Taken with a [Canon EOS R](#) and a 15 mm lens

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Landscape apertures

Aperture used, landscape and nightscape images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=341 landscape images with a recorded aperture)

What you want in a nightscape lens

- Wide angle — 15–20 mm is the most common band, on 94 images
- Fast aperture — f/2 to f/2.8 covers 166 of the 341 images that recorded one
- A mount that fits your camera
- f/2.8 usually costs much less than f/1.8 and still lands in the winning band

Popular lenses

- Sony FE 14 mm f/1.8 GM
- Sony FE 24 mm f/1.4 GM
- Sigma 14 mm f/1.8 Art
- Sigma 24 mm f/1.4 Art
- Nikkor Z 14–24 mm f/2.8 S
- Samyang 14 mm f/2.8 (also sold as Rokinon)

Popular lenses



Sony FE 14 mm f/1.8 GM

Wide, fast and native — the Sony pick



Sony FE 24 mm f/1.4 GM

Behind this year's Highly Commended aurora image



Sigma 14 mm f/1.8 Art

Sigma is the most-named lens brand of all



Nikkor Z 14–24 mm f/2.8

S

The Nikon mirrorless zoom that covers the whole band



On the Edge of Glory © MaryBeth Kiczenski (USA)

Highly Commended, Aurorae · Taken with a [Sony A7 IV](#) and a [Sony FE 24 mm f/1.4 GM](#) lens

LANDSCAPE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Star trackers

Optional — but this is what they buy you

What a star tracker does

- It turns your camera with the Earth's rotation, so the stars stay still
- That lets you run much longer exposures
- Longer exposures collect far more light
- More light means a lower ISO — and a lot less noise



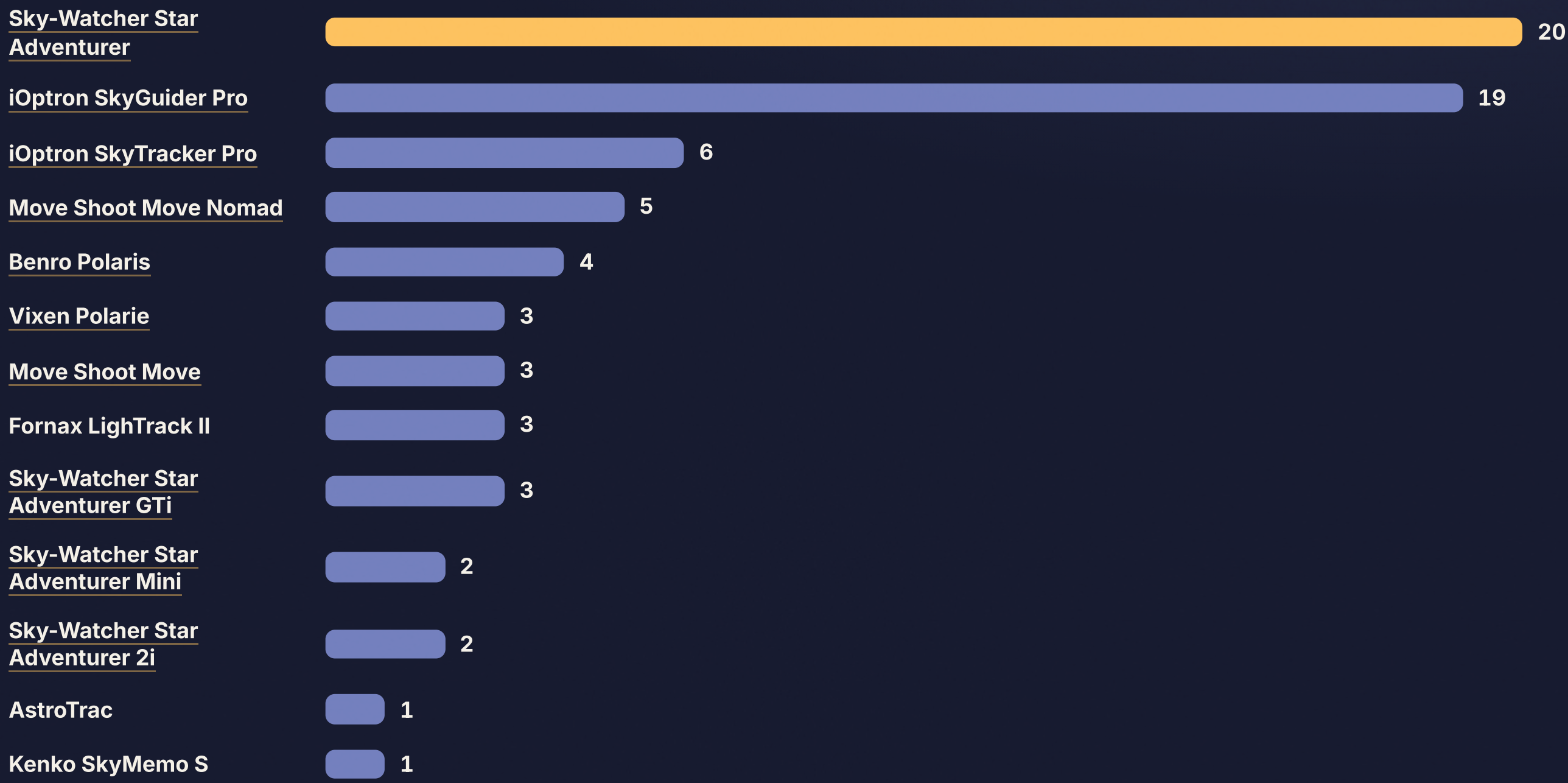
Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer

A camera-sized equatorial head that sits between tripod and camera

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Star trackers

Star trackers named by shortlisted photographers



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=72 images naming a tracker)



A Deep Look Into the Milky Way's Core © Jakob Sahner (Germany)

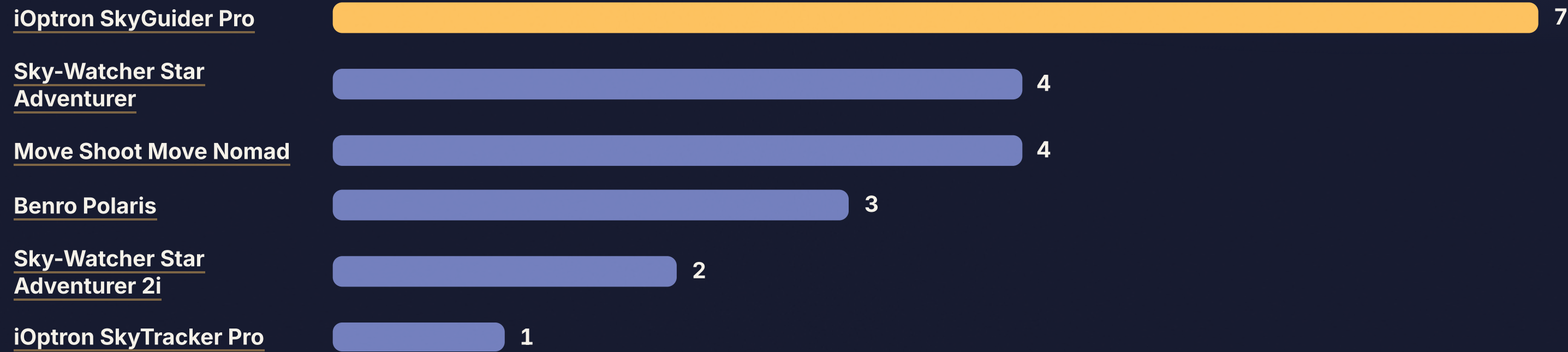
Shortlisted, Stars and Nebulae

Taken with a [Sony A7 III](#) and a [Nikon Z6](#), [Samyang 135 mm f/2 lens](#), [Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer GTi](#) tracker

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Star trackers, last three years

Star trackers on shortlisted landscape images, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=21 landscape images 2024-2026 naming a tracker)



Fairyland © Uroš Fink (Slovenia)

Shortlisted, People and Space · Taken with an astro-modified [Nikon Z6 II](#), 20 mm lens, [Move Shoot Move Nomad](#) tracker

The star trackers



Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer

The most successful tracker of the nine years, on 20 images



iOptron SkyGuider Pro

A close second overall, and top of the last three years



Move Shoot Move Nomad

From nowhere to level with the Star Adventurer since 2024



Capture the Night © Dan Zafra (Spain)

Runner-up, People and Space · Taken with a [Sony A7 III](#), 24 mm lens, [Benro Polaris](#) star tracker

What the landscape data says

- Cameras: full-frame, mirrorless, mid-to-high megapixel, Sony, Canon or Nikon
- Lenses: wide and fast — Sigma, Sony and Samyang are the names that recur
- Trackers (optional): Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer, iOptron SkyGuider Pro, Move Shoot Move Nomad

Example set-ups

Budget

around \$750



Canon EOS 6D

used, around \$400



Samyang 14 mm f/2.8

around \$350

Mid

around \$3,400



Sony A7 III

around \$1,700



Sony FE 24 mm f/1.4 GM

around \$1,400



Move Shoot Move Nomad

around \$300

Premium

around \$5,500



Sony A7R V

around \$3,300



Sony FE 14 mm f/1.8 GM

around \$1,600



Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer

around \$600

Approximate US list prices, September 2026. Prices vary by country, retailer, sales and whether you buy used — treat these as a guide to the gap between tiers, not a quote.

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep Sky and Planetary Astrophotography

Cameras, telescopes and mounts

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

Cameras

Dedicated astro cameras: deep sky first, then planets, Sun and Moon

Regular camera vs dedicated astro camera



Sony A7 III

A regular full-frame mirrorless body — still 4% of deep-sky images

VS



ZWO ASI2600MM Pro

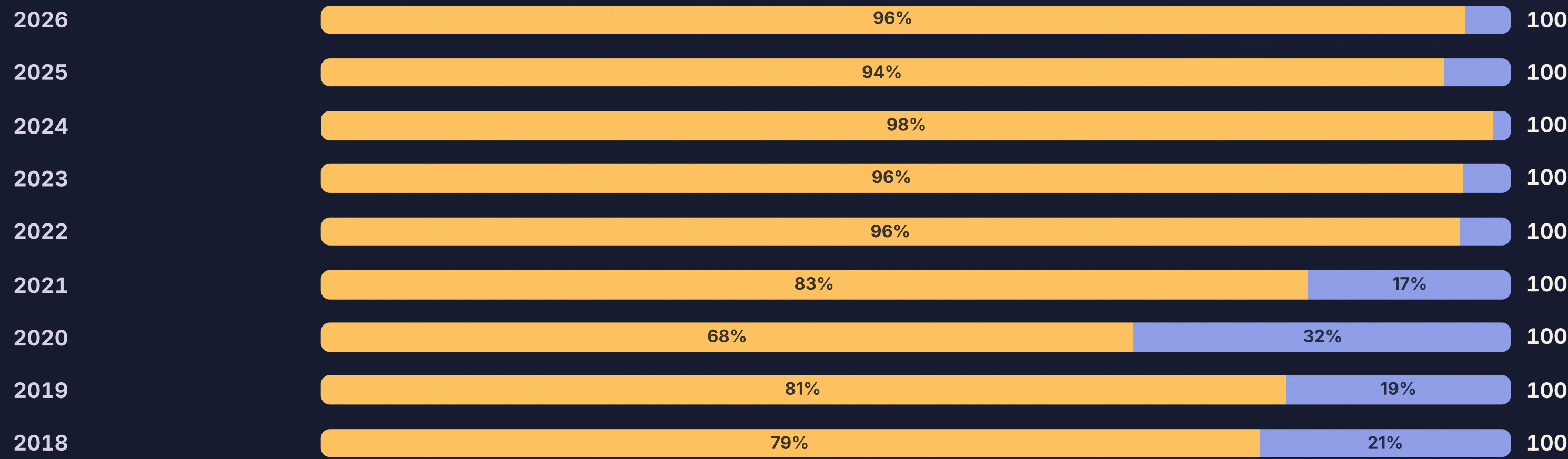
A cooled mono astro camera — the most-used deep-sky camera of all

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Dedicated astro cameras vs DSLR/mirrorless

Share of deep-sky images each year

● CCD/CMOS ● DSLR/Mirrorless



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=442 deep-sky images)



The Andromeda Galaxy © Cayetana Saiz

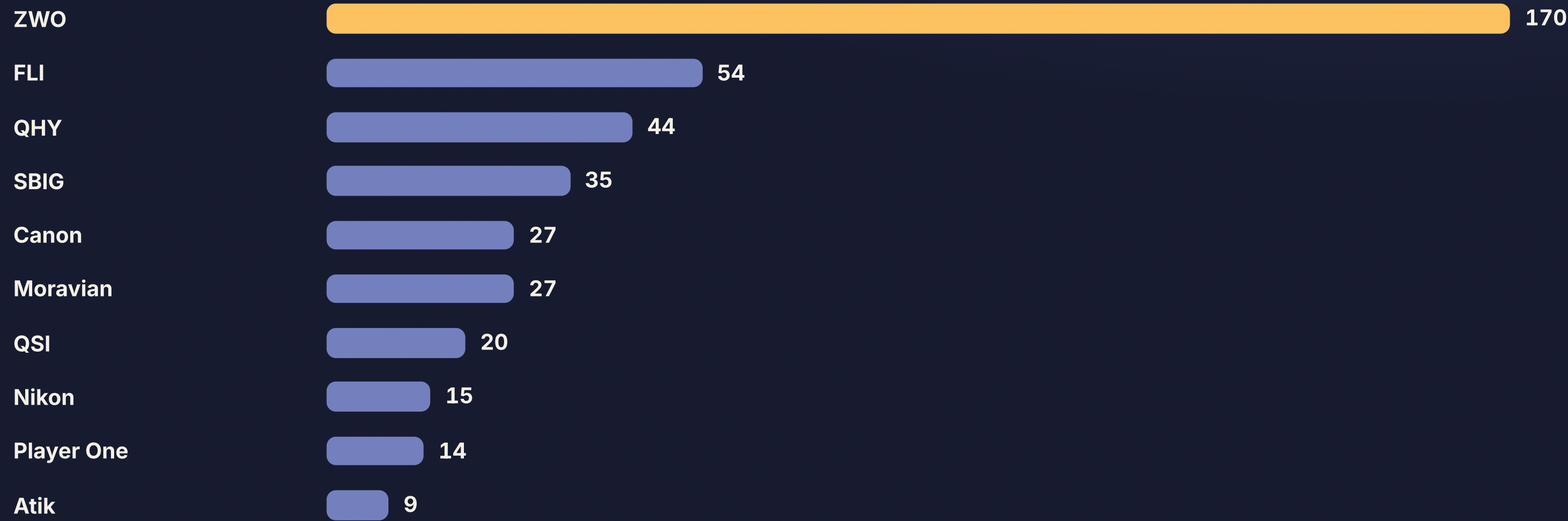
- Taken with a regular DSLR camera and a telephoto lens — no telescope

Cayetana teaches Deep Sky Mastery at Skies & Scopes

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky camera brands

Images per camera brand, deep-sky category

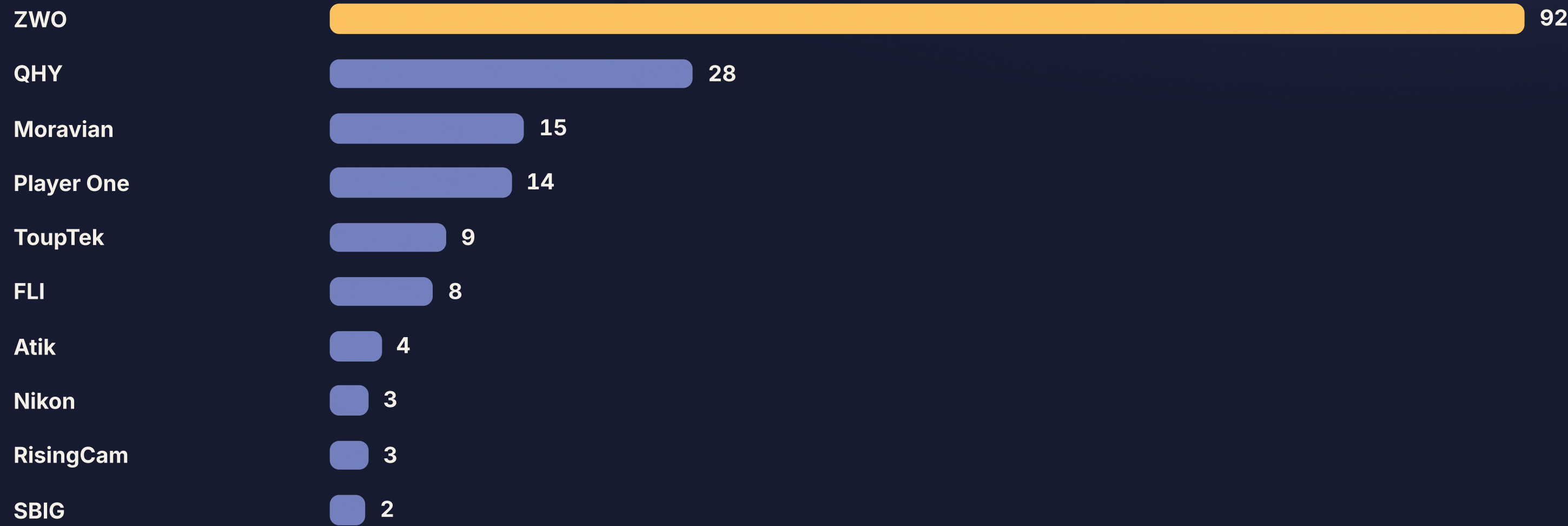


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=442 deep-sky images)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky camera brands, last three years

Camera makers behind deep-sky images, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=188 deep-sky images 2024-2026)



Abell 85 © Cédric Humbert (France)

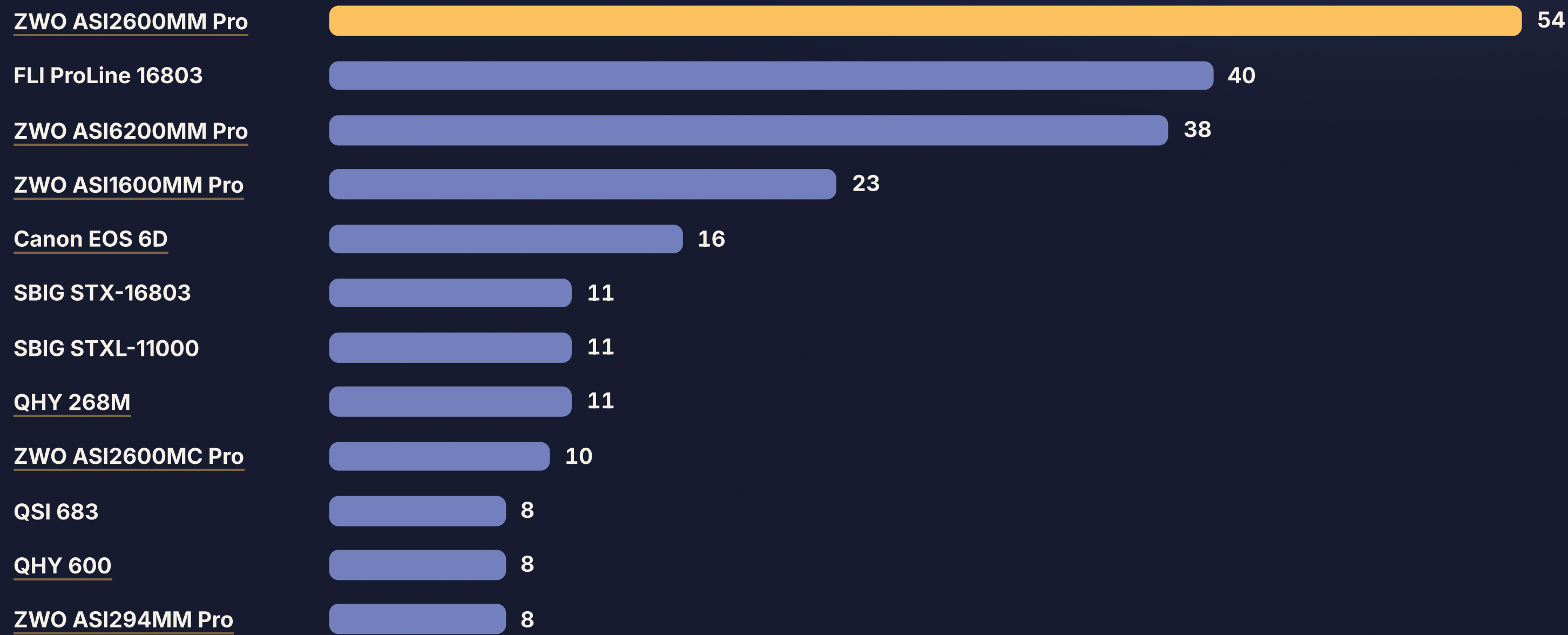
Highly Commended, Stars and Nebulae

Taken with a Player One Poseidon-M Pro camera on a Takahashi FSQ-106, ZWO AM5N mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky camera models

Most-used cameras in the deep-sky categories

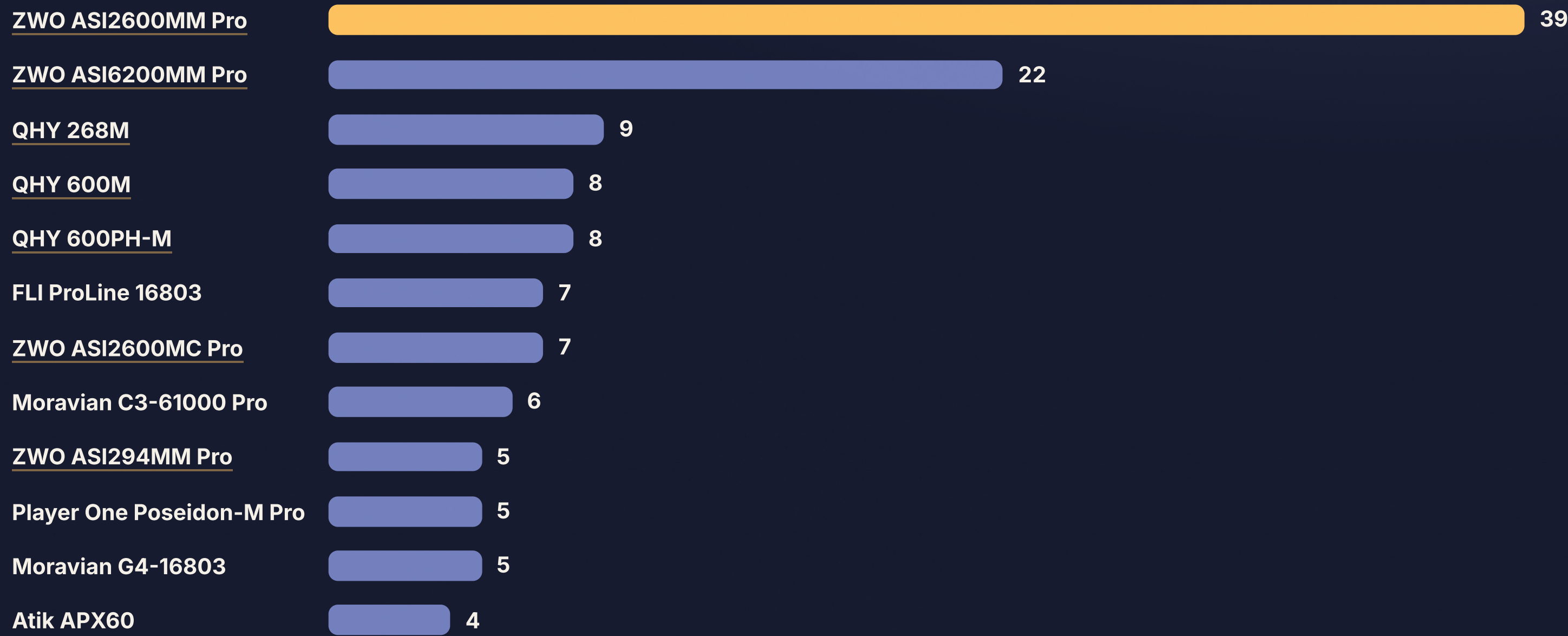


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=442 deep-sky images)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky camera models, last three years

Most-used deep-sky cameras, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=188 deep-sky images 2024-2026)

ASI2600MM Pro vs ASI6200MM Pro

- Both are cooled monochrome CMOS cameras from ZWO
- ZWO ASI2600MM Pro — 26 megapixels, APS-C, around \$2,000
- ZWO ASI6200MM Pro — 62 megapixels, full-frame, around \$4,000
- 54 deep-sky images for the 2600, 38 for the 6200



ZWO ASI2600MM Pro

26 megapixels, APS-C, around \$2,000 — on 54 deep-sky images



ZWO ASI6200MM Pro

62 megapixels, full-frame, around \$4,000 — on 38



M1: Echoes of an Ancient Explosion © Haocheng Zhu (China)

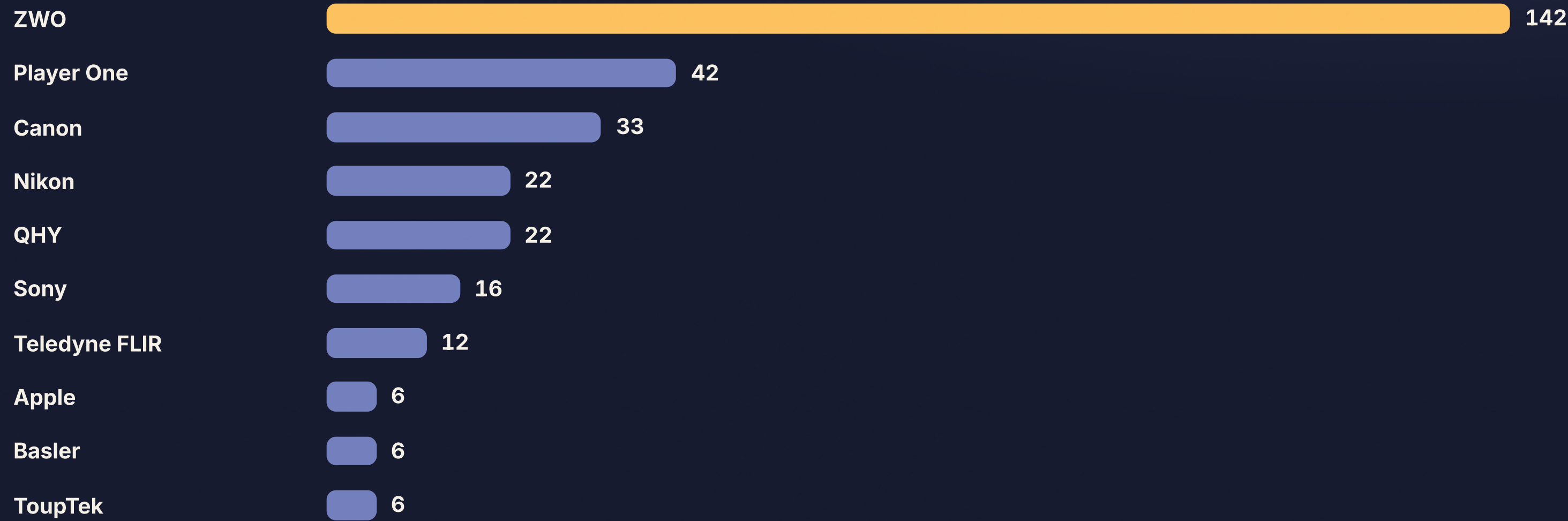
Winner, The Sir Patrick Moore Prize for Best Newcomer

· Taken with a [ZWO ASI6200MM](#) camera on a William Optics 14-inch Ritchey-Chrétien, [10Micron GM2000 HPS II](#) mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary camera brands

Planetary, lunar and solar images by camera brand

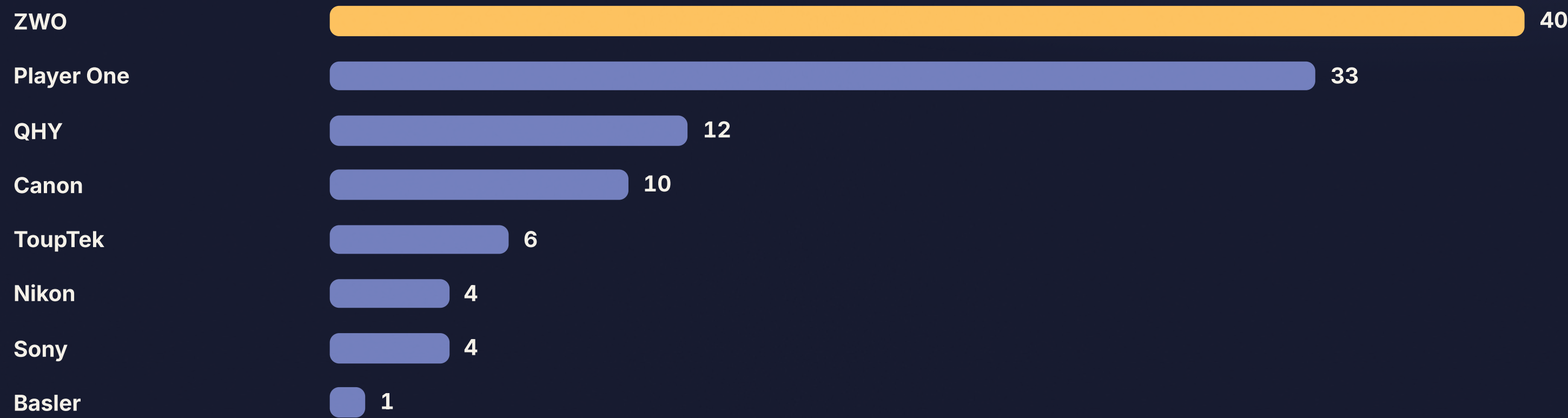


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=328 planetary/lunar/solar images)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary camera brands, last three years

Camera makers behind planetary, lunar and solar images, 2024-2026



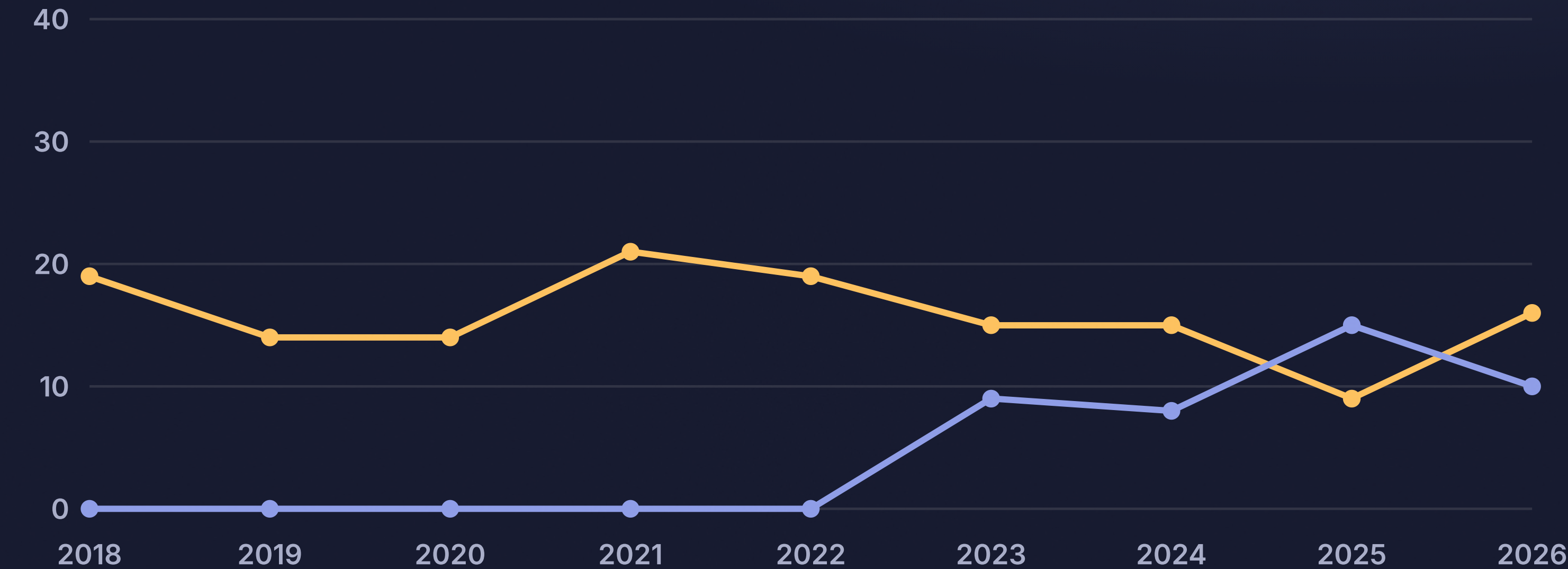
Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 8 of n=113 planetary/lunar/solar images 2024-2026)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

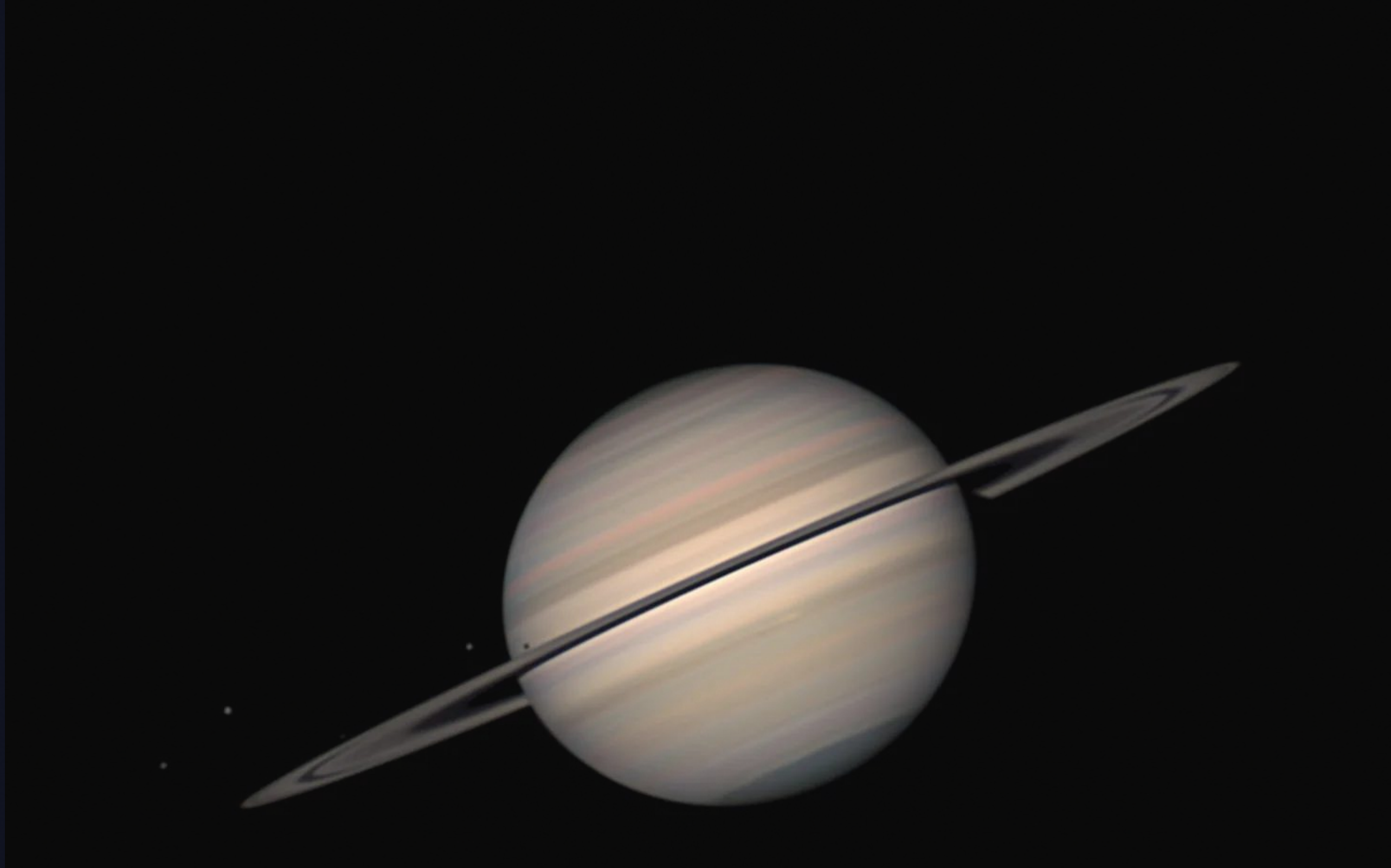
ZWO vs Player One

Planetary, lunar and solar images by camera brand, each year

ZWO Player One



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=328 planetary/lunar/solar images)



Saturnian Equinox © Tom Williams (UK)

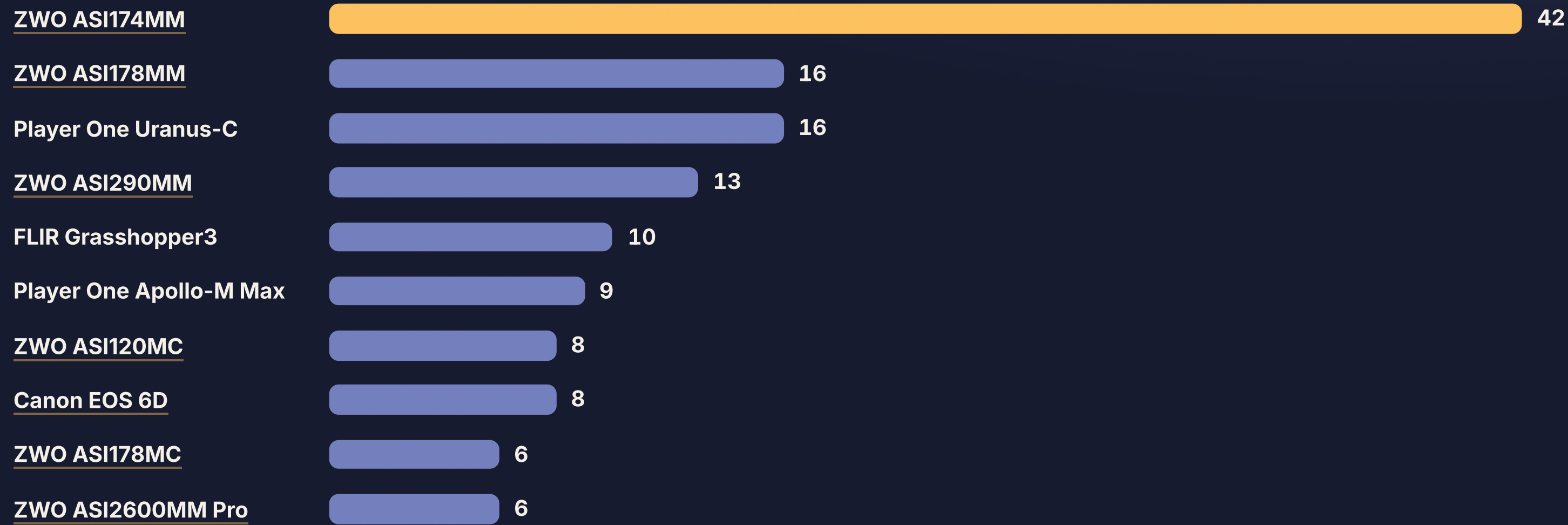
Winner, Planets, Comets and Asteroids

Taken with Player One Uranus-M and Uranus-C cameras on a custom 24-inch Dobsonian

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary camera models

Most-used cameras for planetary, lunar and solar imaging



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=328 planetary/lunar/solar images)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary camera models, last three years

Most-used planetary cameras, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=113 planetary/lunar/solar images 2024-2026)

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

The planetary cameras



ZWO ASI174MM

Top planetary camera of the whole period, on 42 images



Player One Uranus-C

Top planetary camera of the last three years, on 14

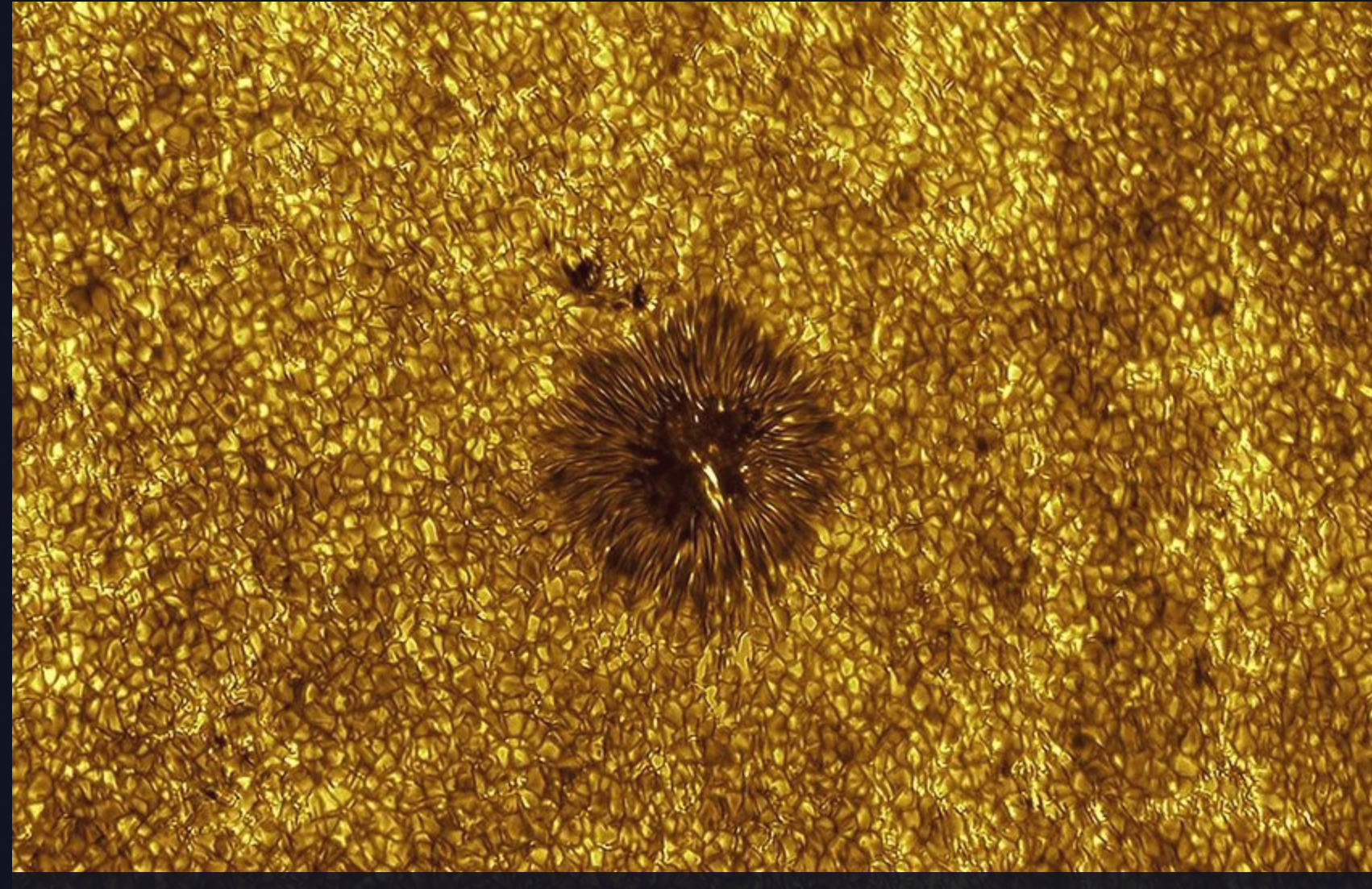
ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Solar cameras

Most-used cameras behind solar images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=99 solar images naming a camera)



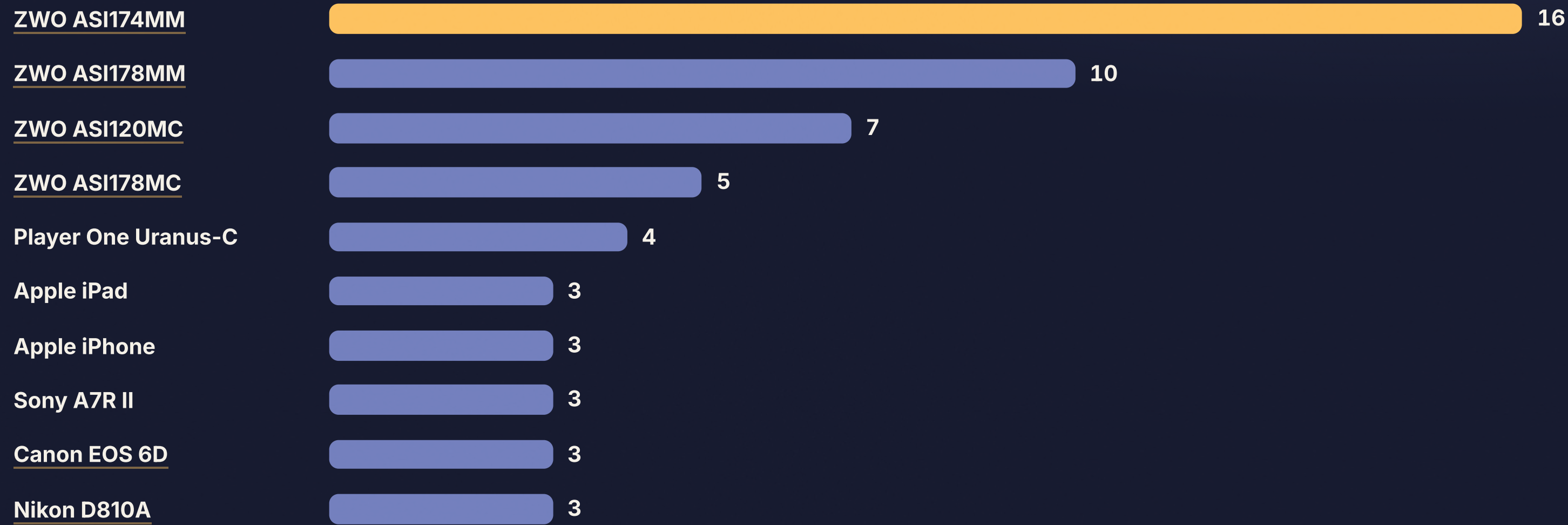
Active Region 4122 © Miguel Claro (Portugal)

Winner, Our Sun · Taken with a Player One Apollo 428M Max Pro camera on a Solye 300 Dual-Band telescope, Sky-Watcher EQ6 Pro mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Lunar cameras

Most-used cameras behind lunar images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=129 lunar images naming a camera)



Mineral Moon © Nikolaos Strimpoulis (Greece), aged 15

Winner, ZWO Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year

· Taken with a Player One Ares-C Pro cooled camera on a Sky-Watcher Skyliner 150 Classic 6-inch Dobsonian

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

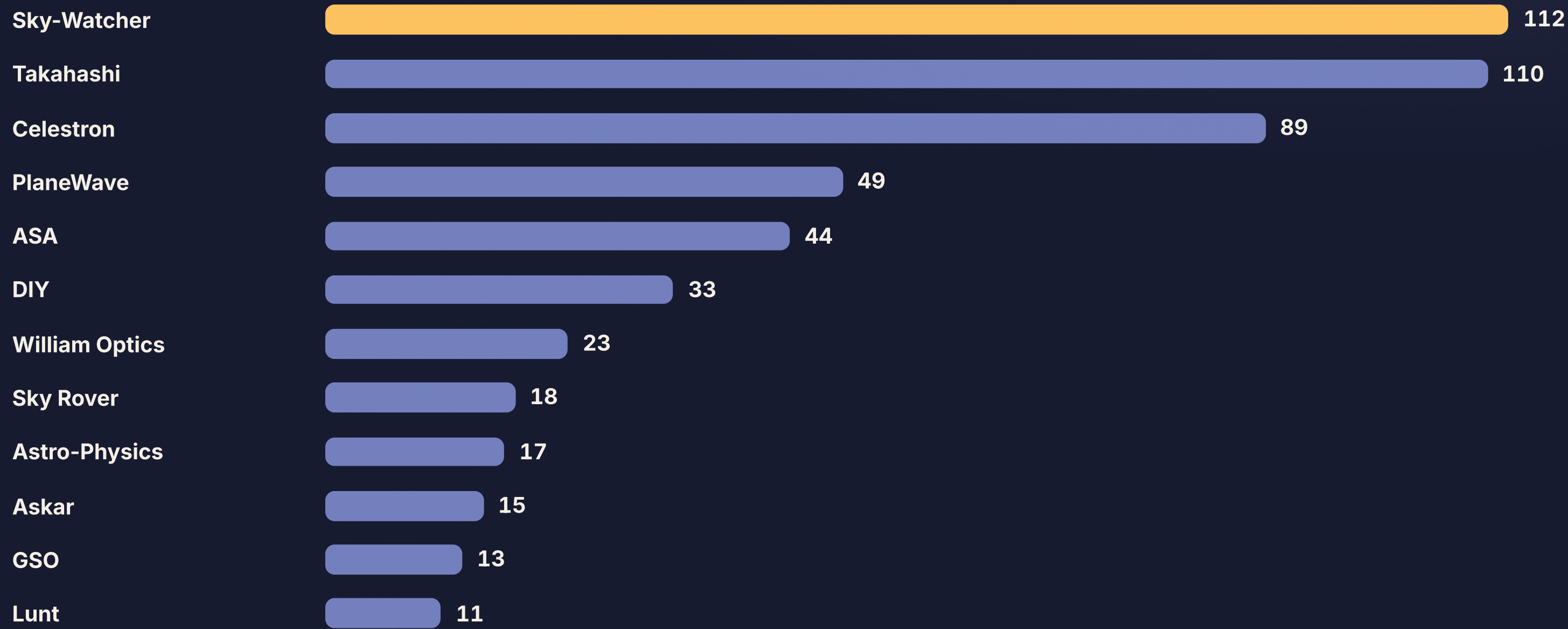
Telescopes

Refractors for deep sky, aperture for planets

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Telescope brands

Telescopes by brand, all categories

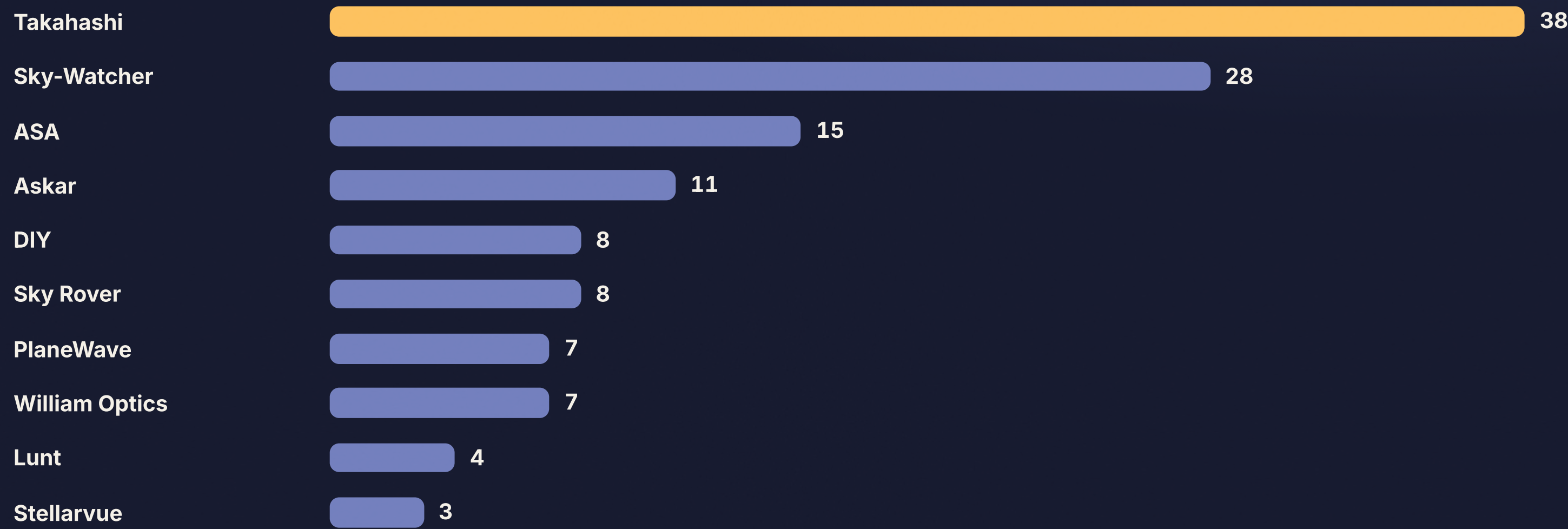


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=666 images naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky telescope brands, last three years

Telescope makers behind deep-sky images, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=164 deep-sky images 2024-2026 naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)



Wildflowers Across a Neighbouring Galaxy © Shaoyu Zhang (China)

Highly Commended, Galaxies

Taken with a Takahashi FSQ-106EDX III, Moravian G4-16803 camera, 10Micron GM2000 HPS mount

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

The newer arrivals

- Askar is on 11 deep-sky images in the last three years, Sky Rover on 8
- Neither appeared at all in the early shortlists
- Takahashi has become hard to buy — long waits, discontinued models
- These are the alternatives people are actually ordering instead



Cosmic Neighbours: Beauty and the Beast © Yijing Zhu and Xinghan Yang (China)

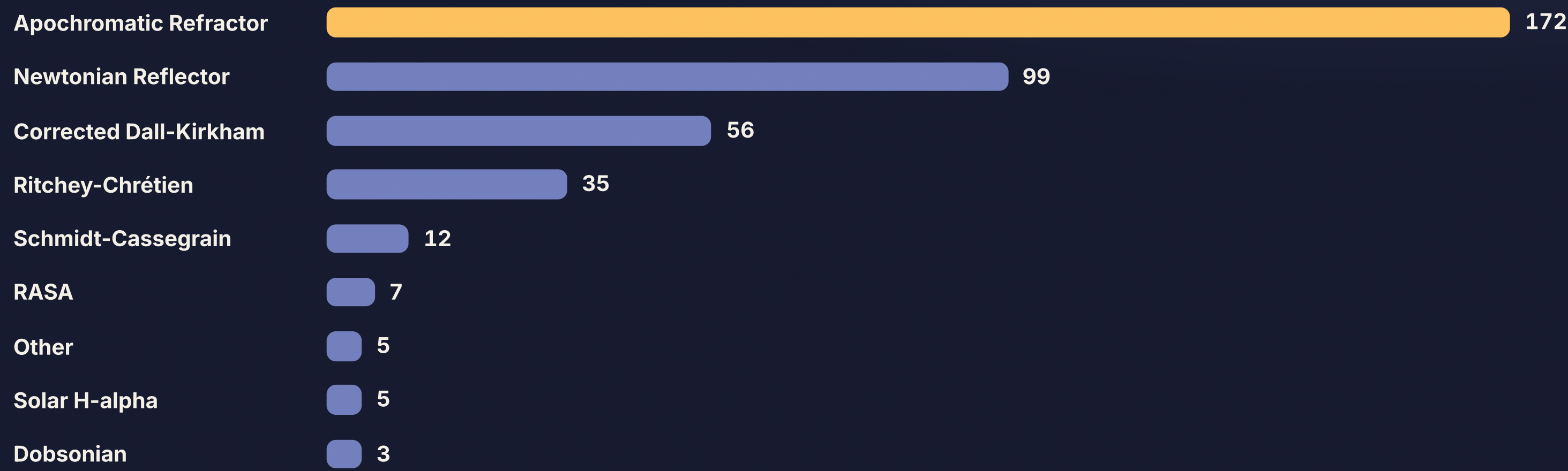
Shortlisted, Galaxies

Taken with a Sky Rover 155 APO Pro refractor, QHY600M camera, [iOptron CEM70](#) mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky telescope types

Optical design of the telescopes behind deep-sky images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=394 deep-sky images with an identified telescope type)

What a CDK or an RC actually is

- Corrected Dall-Kirkham on 56 deep-sky images, Ritchey-Chrétien on 35
- In practice that means PlaneWave and ASA astrographs
- Observatory-class kit, or remote-telescope time bought by the hour
- Apochromatic refractors are still the biggest group on 172 images



M104: Pure Elegance © Patrick Winkler (Austria)

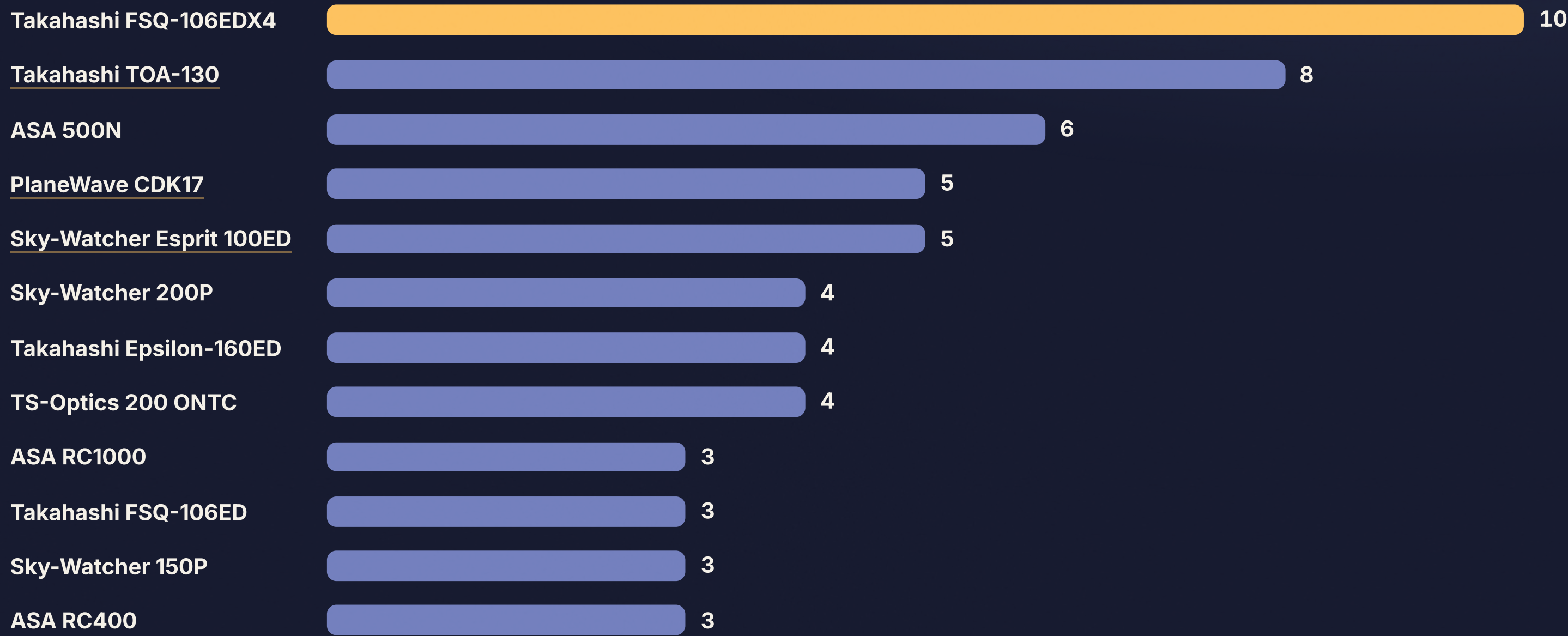
Runner-up, Galaxies

Taken with a [ZWO ASI6200MM Pro](#) camera on an ASA RC 400, ASA DDM100 mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky telescope models, last three years

Telescopes behind deep-sky images, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=165 deep-sky images 2024-2026 naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)



The Heart Nebula © Benjamin and Joshua Lawler (UK), aged 10 and 12

Highly Commended, ZWO Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year

· Taken with a [ZWO ASI294MM](#) cooled camera on a [William Optics RedCat 51](#), [iOptron CEM40](#) mount

What you can actually buy

- The Takahashi FSQ-106EDX4 tops the last three years — and is discontinued
- The Askar SQA106 is the alternative people are moving to
- ASA and PlaneWave are observatory or remote-telescope gear, not home kit
- Sky-Watcher and Askar are the two you can just order

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

The deep-sky telescopes you can order



Askar SQA106

The alternative people are moving to as the Takahashi FSQ-106 disappears



Askar 140APO

Fast apo refractor — behind this year's overall winner



Sky-Watcher Esprit 100ED

The deep-sky workhorse refractor of the shortlists



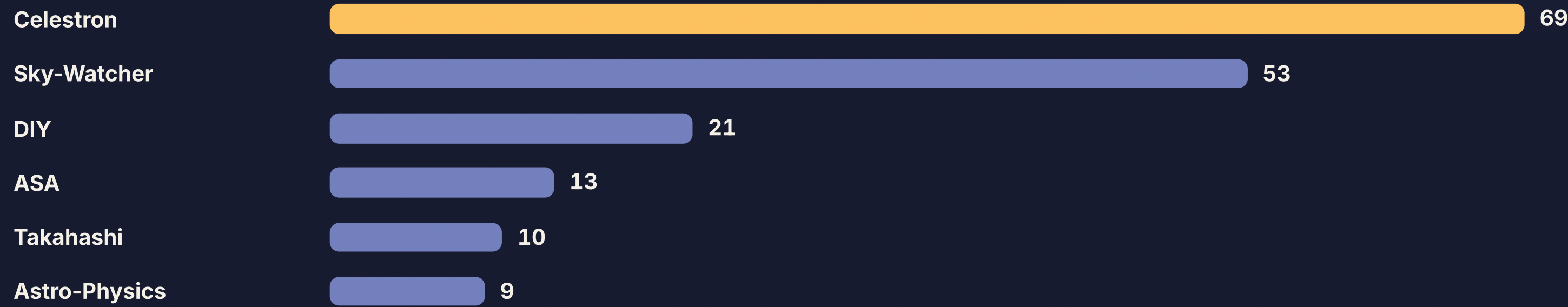
The Quiet Predator © Ali Alobaidly (Kuwait)

Overall Winner and Winner, Stars and Nebulae · Taken with a [ZWO ASI2600MM Pro](#) camera on an [Askar 140APO](#) refractor, [Sky-Watcher EQ8-R](#) mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary telescope brands

Telescope makers behind planetary, lunar and solar images

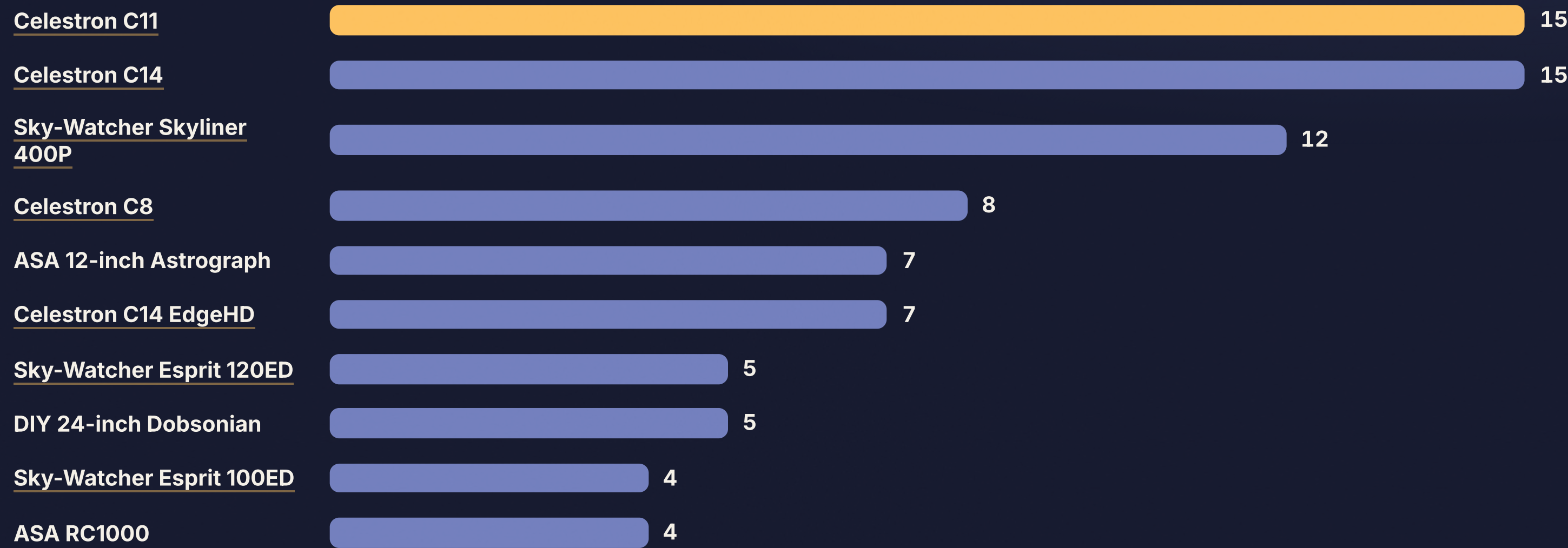


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 6 of n=239 planetary/lunar/solar images naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary telescope models

Telescopes behind planetary, lunar and solar images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=242 planetary/lunar/solar images naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

The planetary telescopes



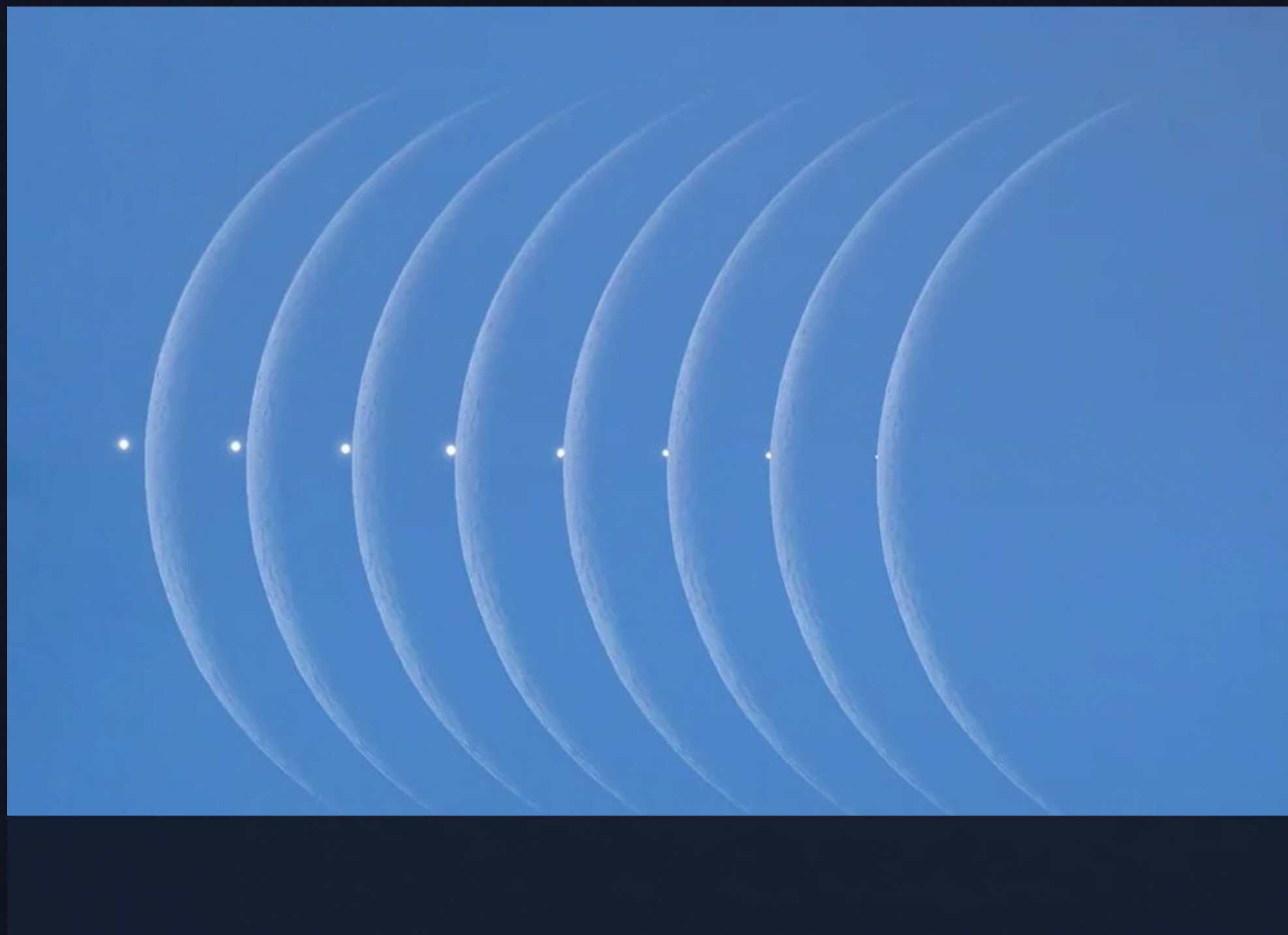
Celestron C11

Top planetary telescope, tied with the C14 on 15 images



Celestron C14

Fourteen inches of aperture in a tube you can still lift



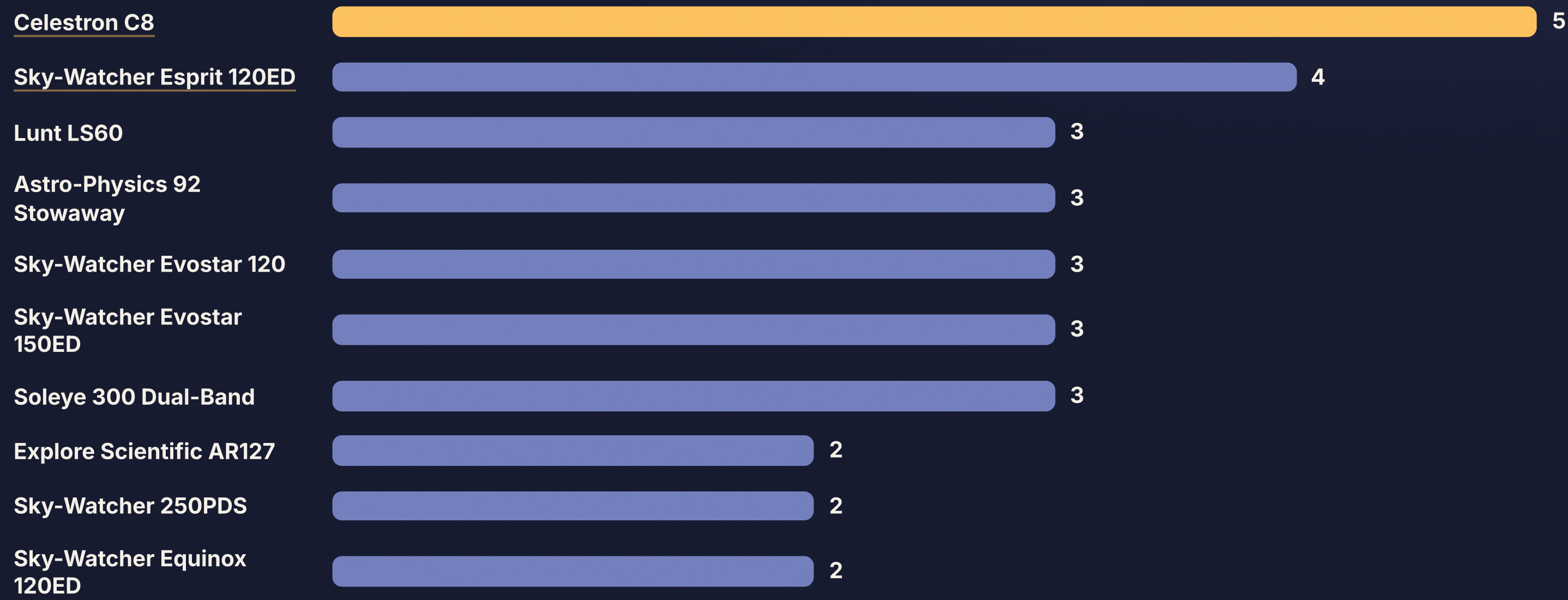
Venusian Pearl on the Moon © Petr Horalek (Czechia)

Winner, Our Moon · Taken with a [Nikon Z6 III](#) on a [Sky-Watcher 10-inch FlexTube Dobsonian](#)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Solar telescopes

Most-used telescopes behind solar images

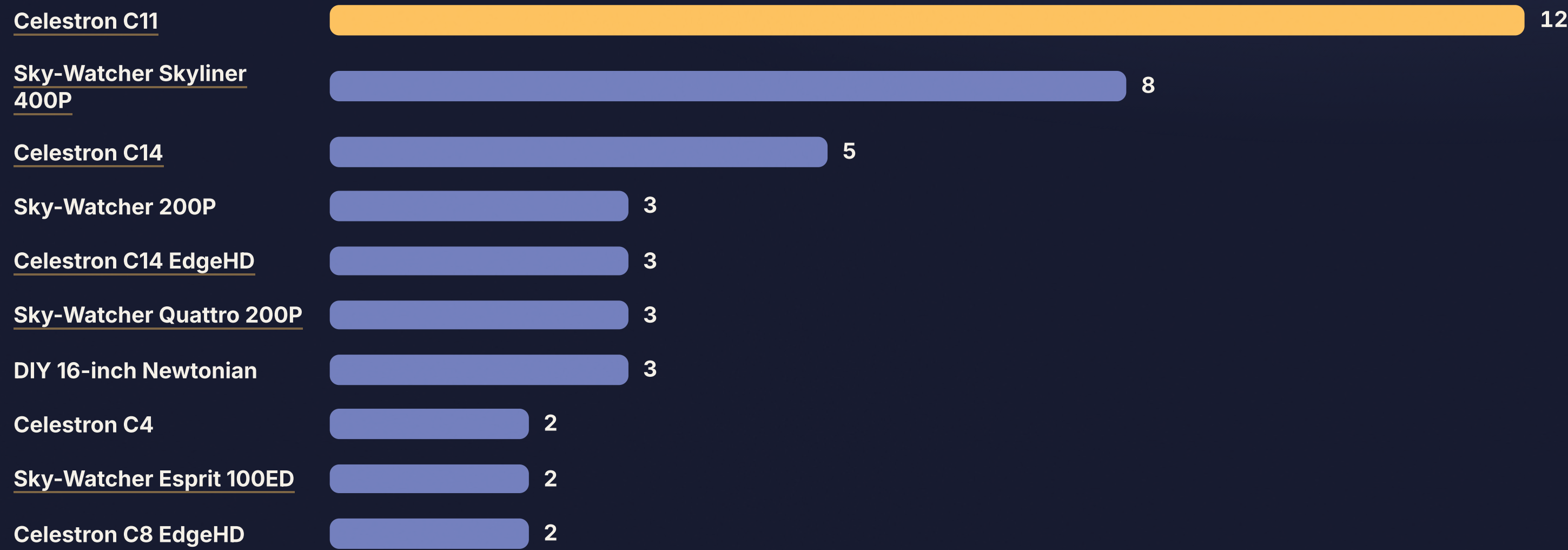


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=71 solar images naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Lunar telescopes

Most-used telescopes behind lunar images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=96 lunar images naming a telescope; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

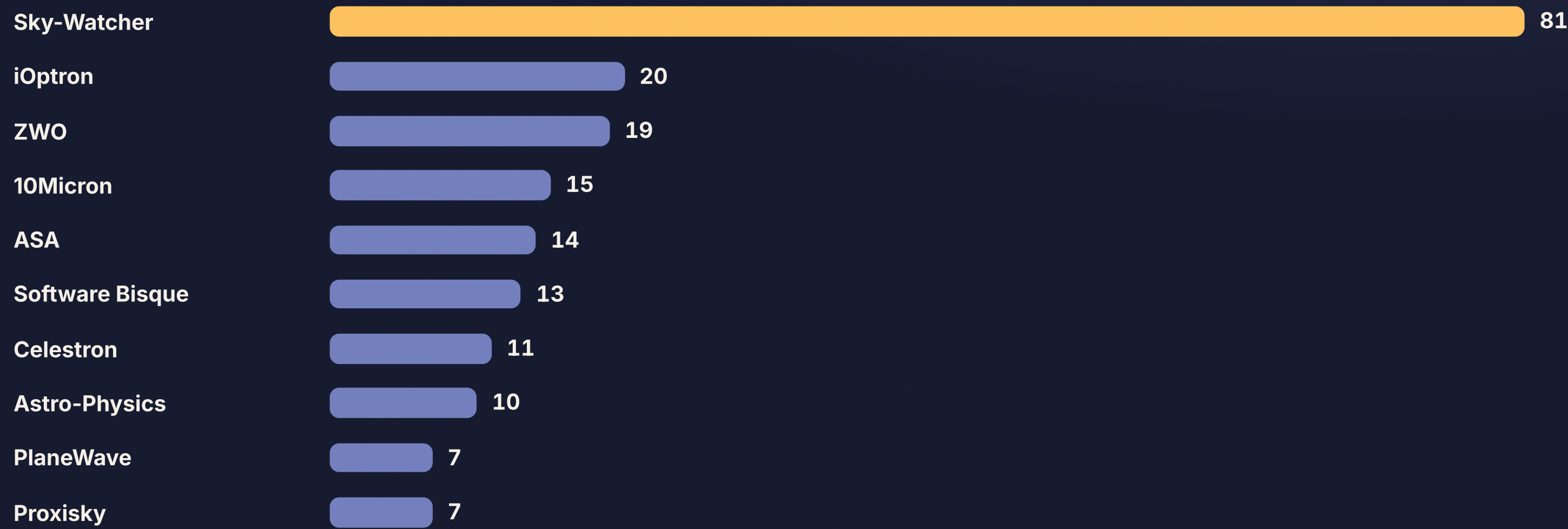
Mounts

The part nobody photographs and everybody underestimates

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Mount brands, last three years

Mount brands across all categories, 2024-2026

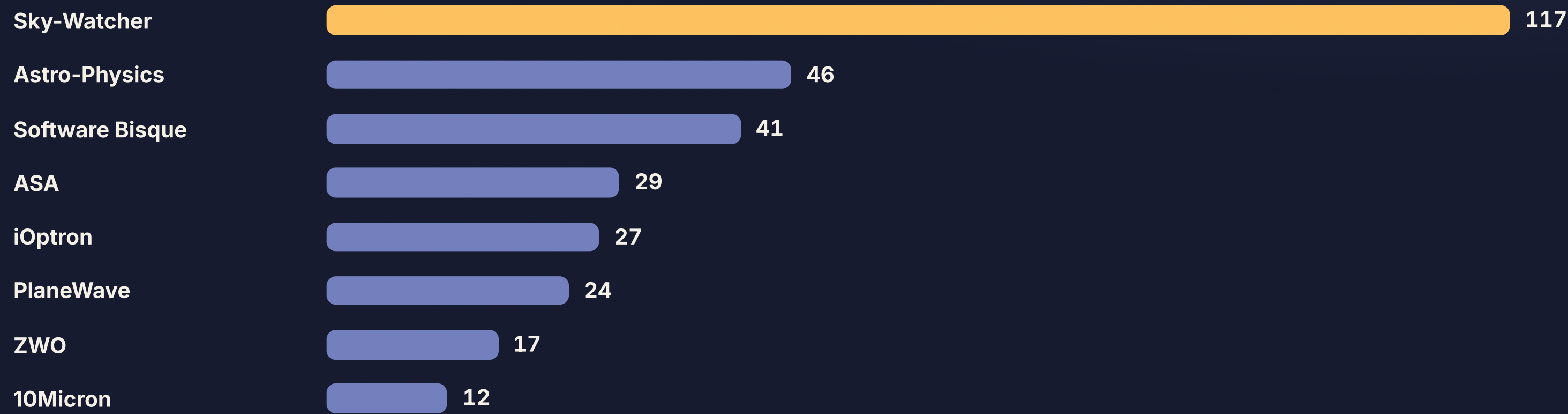


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 10 of n=224 images 2024-2026 naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Mount brands

Equatorial mounts by brand, deep-sky images



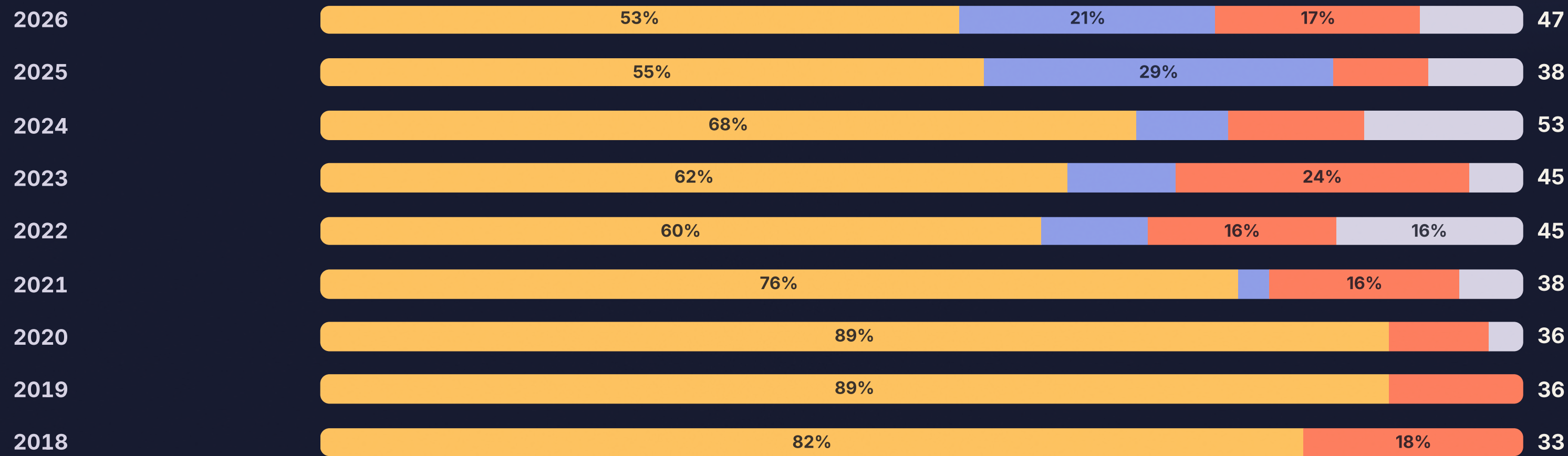
Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 8 of n=375 deep-sky images naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Mount types by year

German equatorial, harmonic and direct-drive mounts, deep-sky images

German Equatorial Harmonic Direct Drive Center-Balanced Equatorial



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (n=375 deep-sky images naming a mount; the four Alt-Az and one Dobsonian row are not plotted)

Harmonic and direct drive are catching up

- Harmonic mounts went from zero before 2021 to 21% of named deep-sky mounts in 2026
- Cheaper, smaller and lighter for a similar payload
- No counterweight bar to haul around
- German equatorials still lead — but by less every year



ZWO AM5

The harmonic mount climbing fastest — no counterweights, now sold as the AM5N



Celestial Enchantress © 与晨 林 (China), aged 14

Highly Commended, ZWO Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year

· Taken with a ZWO ASI2600MC Pro camera on a Sky-Watcher 150P Newtonian, ZWO AM5 mount

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Mount models

Most-used mounts, deep-sky images

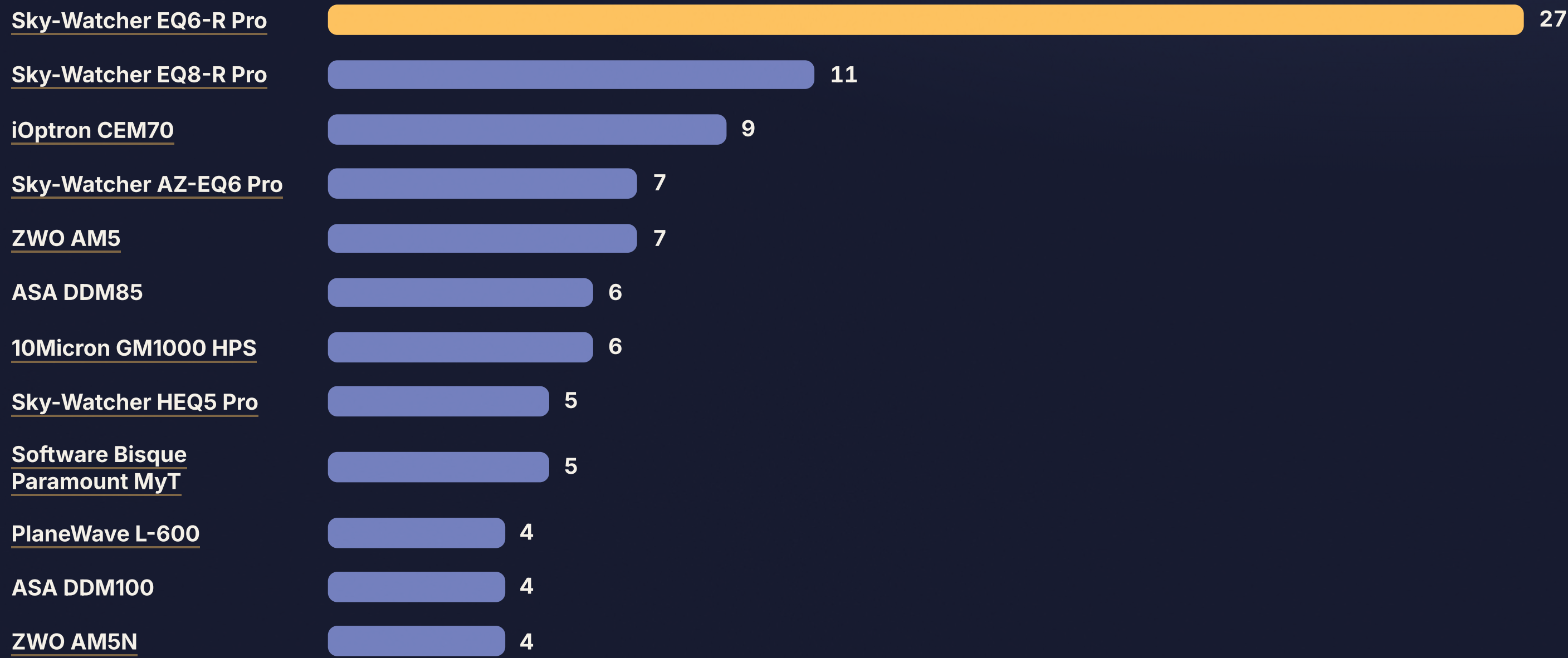


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=375 deep-sky images naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Deep-sky mount models, last three years

Mounts behind deep-sky images, 2024-2026



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=141 deep-sky images 2024-2026 naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

DEEP SKY AND PLANETARY

The mounts



Sky-Watcher EQ6-R Pro

The EQ6 line tops all nine years and the last three — 70 deep-sky images



iOptron CEM70

iOptron's centre-balanced answer, strong in recent years



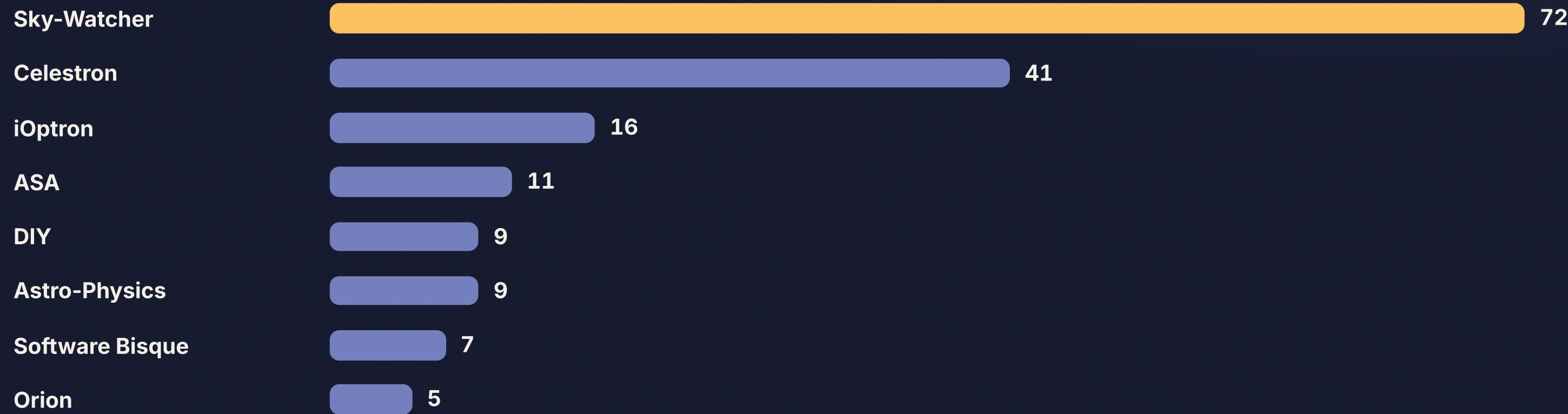
ZWO AM5

The harmonic mount climbing fastest — no counterweights, now sold as the AM5N

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary mount brands

Mount brands used for planetary, lunar and solar images

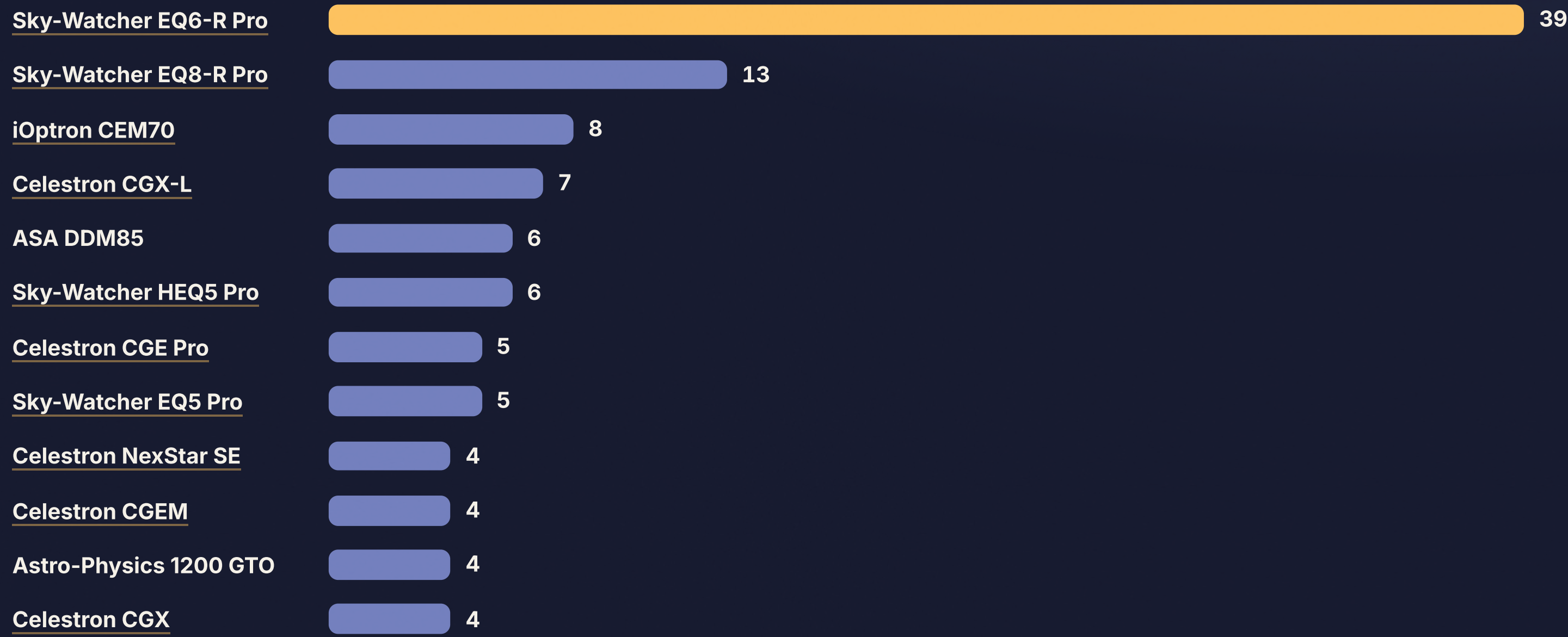


Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 8 of n=210 planetary/lunar/solar images naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Planetary mount models

Mounts used for planetary, lunar and solar images



Source: Skies & Scopes, Astronomy Photographer of the Year shortlists 2018-2026 (top 12 of n=204 planetary/lunar/solar images naming a mount; placeholder entries such as "DIY telescope" and "DIY mount" are excluded from the ranking)

What the deep sky data says

- Camera: a ZWO cooled mono — ZWO ASI2600MM Pro, or the ZWO ASI6200MM Pro if you are spending
- Telescope: an apochromatic refractor from Sky-Watcher, Takahashi or Askar
- Mount: a Sky-Watcher EQ6-R Pro, or a harmonic mount like the ZWO AM5

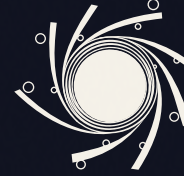
What the planetary data says

- Telescope: a Celestron C11 or Celestron C14, or a big Dobsonian for raw aperture
- Camera: a ZWO ASI174MM, or a Player One Uranus-C for colour
- Mount: a Sky-Watcher EQ6-class equatorial — 39 planetary images for the Sky-Watcher EQ6-R Pro line alone

WHERE TO GO NEXT

Get the data, and the rest of it

- Get the full data set emailed to you — link below
- Read the whole analysis on skiesandscopes.com
- See the winners in person at the Royal Observatory Greenwich exhibition



ALL 1,222 IMAGES, EVERY CHART, THE FULL WRITE-UP

skiesandscopes.com/astronomy-photographer-of-the-year/