

Visual Observer's Guide – March 2025

v0.1

<u>Meeting Date</u>	March 09, 2025	
<u>Night Begins</u>	9:06 PM. EST	<i>Note: Astronomical Twilight Ends</i>
<u>Solar Noon / Midnight</u>	1:42 EDT	<i>Note: on Meeting Date</i>
<u>Moon Quarters</u>	First 03/06, Full 03/14, Last 03/22, New 03/29	
<u>Darkest Evenings</u>	02/18 – 03/04 03/20 – 04/02	<i>Note: 2 days before Last thru 2 days before First</i>
<u>Viewing Resources</u>	Evening Sky Maps Astronomy Forecasts Peter Birren's Deep-Sky Fieldbooks	http://skymaps.com/ https://clearoutside.com/forecast/42.82/-83.14 http://oaklandastronomy.net/ambient_RH.html http://www.birrendesign.com/astro.html

Featured Constellations: Canis Major & Canis Minor

A selection from Peter Birren's excellent deep-sky fieldbook, "*Objects in the Heavens*", pages 62-65

CONSTELLATION ITEM IDENTIFIER	COMMON NAME TYPE	SEASON, ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION		
	DETAILS	☆☆ SEPARATION / SIZE	RA	DEC	MAG
Canis Major <i>the Big Dog</i>		Winter Feb 15			CMA
<i>"Sirius is the leader of the host of heaven; a glorious object."</i>					
☆☆ Sirius	α <i>The Dog Star, Sparkling One</i>	3.7"	06:46.0	-16°44'	-1.44
		Beautiful colors; faint ☆☆; part of Winter Triangle			
		#1 brightest as seen from Earth; 4th nearest at 8.6LY			
☆☆ HD50877	o1 Red!	2700°K		06:55.0	-24°13'
					3.83
☆☆ Adhara	ε <i>The Virgins</i> ; good contrast	7.5"	06:59.4	-29°00'	1.5/7
☆☆ HR2764	! <i>Winter Albireo</i> ; orange/blue	26"	07:17.6	-23°21'	4.8/6
☆ VY®	2nd largest ☆ @ ~1400x Sol	1"-9"	07:23.8	-25°48'	6.5-9.6
○○ M41 2287	OC ! <i>Little Beehive</i> ; 100☆; 2300LY	39'	06:46.9	-20°46'	4.5
○ NGC2204	OC Large; round; irregular; 8600LY	10'	06:16.4	-18°39'	8.6
○ NGC2243	OC 100☆; resembles globular	5'	06:30.3	-31°18'	9.4
○ NGC2345	OC Pretty large; in rich field	12'	07:09.2	-13°13'	7.7
○○ NGC2354	OC 60☆; rich; little compressed	12'	07:14.9	-25°43'	6.5
○ NGC2359/61	<i>EN Thor's Helmet; Duck Nebula</i> 8'x6'	07:19.5	-13°14'	10.5	
	Hazy rectangle; bubble on 1 side; use OIII or UHC filter; 11,960LY				
○○ NGC2360	OC 50☆; rich; circular	13'	07:18.6	-15°40'	7.2
○○ NGC2362	OC 40☆/☆☆ in a 6" scope; dense	5'	07:19.5	-24°59'	3.9
	<i>Tau-CMA Cluster; Mexican Jumping Star</i> ; compare NGC2264MON				
	Youngest known cluster, about 1 million years old; 4800LY				
○ NGC2367	OC Small; poor; little compressed	3.5'	07:20.9	-21°54'	7.9
○ NGC2374	OC 20 faint ☆; rings with line near	12'	07:24.8	-13°17'	8.0
○ NGC2383	OC 50☆; condensed; use high pwr	6'	07:25.5	-20°58'	8.5
○ NGC2384	OC Little compressed; ☆☆ involved	5'	07:26.0	-21°03'	7.4

○○	Cr 121	OC 20★; <i>Omicron CMA Cluster</i>	50'	06:57.1	-24°45'	2.6
○	Gum 3	E/RN Bright; S tip Seagull Neb MON 10'x10'	07:06.0	-12°22'	10.0	
○○	Cr 132	OC 25★ in rich field; 1500LY	95'	07:16.1	-30°43'	3.7
○	Basel 11A	OC Bright stars in rich area; dipper	5'	07:18.0	-14°00'	8.2
○	Haf 6	OC In field with Haf8/2359	6'	07:21.0	-13°10'	9.2
○	Haf 8	OC 6-7★; faint glow	5'	07:24.3	-12°22'	9.1
○○	Cr 140	OC <i>Tuft in the Tail of the Dog</i>	50'	07:25.2	-31°53'	3.5
		~30★; 1.5x moon diam; 1000LY; wide ★★ at 99" sep.				
○	Ru 18	OC Interesting pattern; rich field	6'	07:25.5	-26°15'	9.4
○	Tr 6	OC In field with Tr7-PUP	6'	07:27.2	-24°14'	10.0
○	Ru 20	OC Few bright ★ in rich field	5'	07:27.5	-28°51'	9.5

CONSTELLATION	COMMON NAME			SEASON, ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION	
ITEM IDENTIFIER	TYPE	DETAILS	★★ SEPARATION / SIZE	RA	DEC	MAG

Canis Minor the Small Dog

Winter Mar 1

CMI

"Vicinity of Procyon very rich in small pairs and triplets."

★	Procyon	α Little Dog; 8th brightest ★	4.7"	07:40.3	05°11'	.4/11
		5th closest to Earth at 11.4LY; faint binary 2.4' north				
★★	Σ1095/HD58782	White/bluish	10.1"	07:28.5	08°43'	8.5-9
★★	Σ1103/HD59538	Yellowish/bluish-white	4.4"	07:31.7	05°13'	7-8.5