

Comet Swan Observation Oct. 21, 2006

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I went out to look at comet Swan 7:30 local time with my grab and go 6" F5 newt using 24mm/68deg and 13mm/80deg eyepieces.

To put a magnitude limit on that area, I was able to see Mu-1 Boo (m4.3) and Zeta-2 CrB (m4.6) naked eye without much problem. Dimmer than that, there wasn't much in the way of naked eye stars in the area. I was thus able with relative ease to aim the scope using the 6x30 finder at Mu-1 with both eyes open, and that put the comet easily within the 2.2 degree field of the 24mm eyepiece.

I wasn't able to see a tail in the 24mm. A little bit of flaring was visible with averted vision using the 13mm, but the brightest portion was visible in both eyepieces as a round fuzzy with a bright dot in the middle.

Definitely an easy comet for observers with a west/northwest LM of 5, and it's positioned high enough to clear the treetops some 200 feet distant at the time of this observation.

I'd be curious to know if others saw the tail, and what naked eye magnitude stars were visible in the area at the time.

Stephen Paul
42.5N 71.5W
(GMT -5:00)

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