

The Astronomer

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MONTHLY

Comet Wilson (19861)

Please reply to: Editor.

Palomar Observatory have revised the discovery magnitude to 10.5. Alan Young and M. Harlow, TA Observers, have successfully photographed the comet. Numerous visual observers have reported failure to detect the comet although it is believed to be star-like and prolonged observation may confirm identification by movement.

Ephemeris by Hurst from elements by Marsden:

| | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| Aug 12 | 22 ^h 10 ^m 35 | +24° 30' 17" | Earth 2.756 | Sun 3.580 | Elong 138.9 | m1 11.2 |
| 17 | 22 00.71 | +23 47.94 | 2.673 | 3.528 | 142.4 | 11.1 |
| 22 | 21 50.56 | +22 55.08 | 2.599 | 3.475 | 144.9 | 10.9 |
| 27 | 21 40.04 | +21 51.32 | 2.536 | 3.423 | 146.3 | 10.8 |

The comet could reach magnitude 3 during 1987 April when it will be visible from the southern hemisphere but could later become a binocular object for northern observers.

Probable Nova in Cygnus

H. Kosai, Tokyo Observatory, reports discovery by M. Wakuda of a probable nova, located near CI Cyg at: RA 19^h 52^m 7 DEC +35° 33' (1950). Mags (Tri-X+green filter): June 26, (13; July 28.6, 13; Aug. 4.72, 9.4. Hurahata reports no evidence of object on 500 films taken since 1979 and estimates V=8.7 on Aug. 8.87UT. Please send photos of area obtained recently. Follow-up data/chart will appear in section 7 or 9 depending on nature of object.

Apologies to those whose EWC82 was delayed which was apparently due to P.O. strike.

Guy M Hurst.