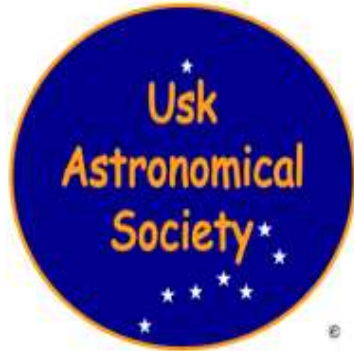
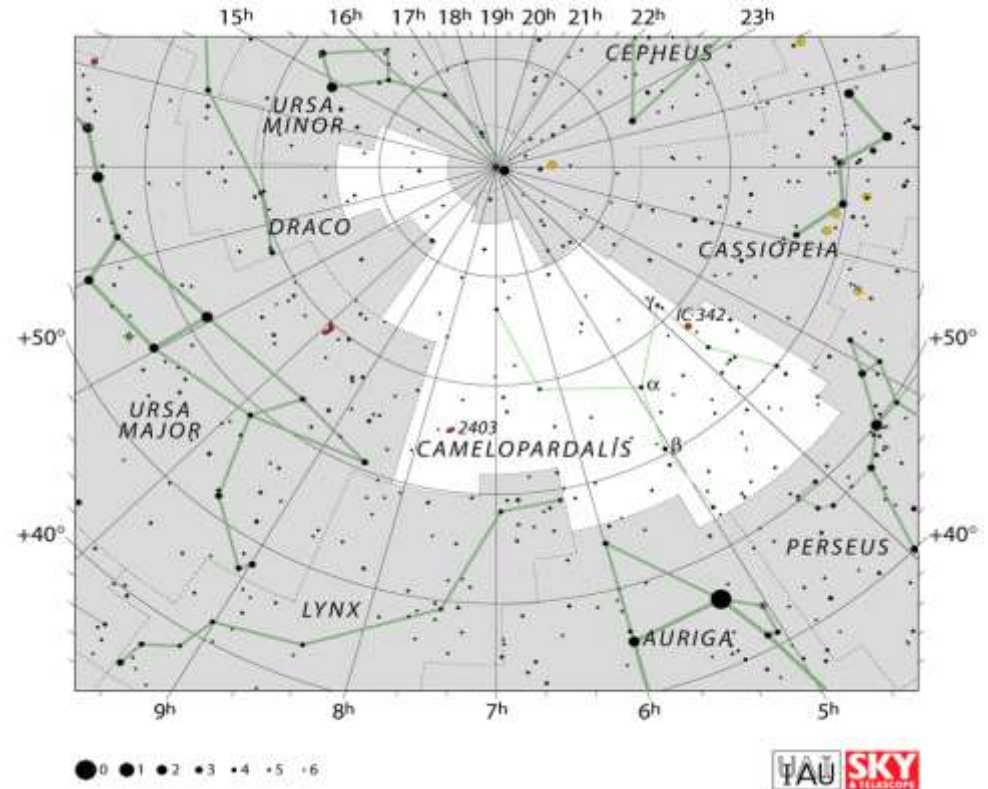
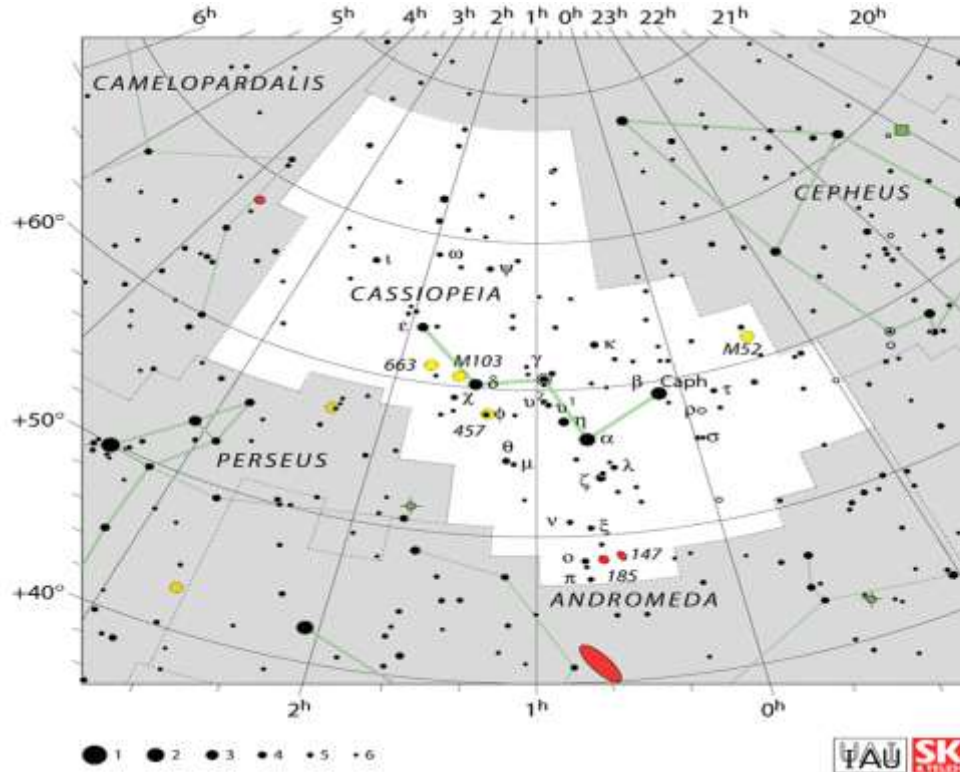


Binocular Observing October 2020 by Andrew Lohfink



The Night Sky
October 2020.

Cassiopeia & Camelopardalis



Camelopardalis and Binocular Asterisms.

- .Camelopardalis is an obscure and much over looked constellation near Cassiopeia.
- .It contains two of the most notable binocular asterisms – Kemble’s Cascade and Kemble’s Kite.
- .Lucien Kemble was a member of The Franciscan Order who viewed the night sky through 7 x35 binoculars and gave his name to a number of binocular asterisms.

Kemble's Cascade.

The key to finding this asterism is to extend a line from Beta Cassiopeiae through Epsilon Cassiopeiae the same distance into Camelopardalis. The cascade is formed by 20 stars tumbling down northwest into an open cluster of stars NGC 1502. If the cascading stars are the waterfall then the open cluster is the pool into which it cascades. Visible in binoculars of x7 and up, with higher magnifications and averted vision the pool stars can also be resolved. The cascade is a wonderful binocular target.



Kemble's Kite Asterism

Extend a line from Epsilon Cassiopeiae through Iota Cassiopeiae for about 8 degrees northeast to find Kemble's kite, a group of 10 stars which form a diamond shaped kite head with a flowing tail. The kite's northern tip is also an easily split double star with different colours.



Messier 103 – An Open Star Cluster.

M103 lies a few degrees northeast of Delta Cassiopeiae. It lies approximately 10,000 light years away and contains 172 stars and is about 25 million years old. Through low power binoculars a misty patch can be seen but higher magnifications reveal resolved stars with a colour mix and an almost triangular shape to the cluster.



NGC 457 – A famous Open Cluster

This is a famous cluster found in Cassiopeia by extending a line from Epsilon Cassiopeiae through Delta Cassiopeiae a few degrees. It has an easily recognisable shape with two bright stars forming eyes – it has been called the ET Cluster or the Owl Cluster. See what shape you can see. It lies 7,900 light year away and is approximately 21 million years old.



Messier 52 – An Open Cluster.

M52 also known as the Salt and Pepper Cluster is found in Cassiopeia by extending a line from Alpha Cassiopeiae through Beta Cassiopeiae about the same distance. In small binoculars a misty patch is seen but higher magnifications resolve more stars. The brightest star is not a member of the cluster but lies in the foreground and is a line of sight arrangement.



The Airplane Asterism In Cassiopeia

The Airplane is another well known binocular asterism. It can be found just northeast of M52 and its wings are tipped with different colour stars. Some observers say it looks like the asterism is dive bombing M52! It is best viewed in 10x50 or 15x70 binoculars. In the picture opposite the fuzzy patch in the lower right corner is M52 and the widely spaced orange and blue stars are the wing tips with the tail of the plane extending behind.

