

Our Night Sky for October 20th, 2025

Why so many comets lately? It seems in the last year or two we have been hearing reports of and sometimes even catching a look at several comets each year. The fact is we have always had many comets drifting through our skies, but we have not always been able to see them or maybe only briefly just before they fall apart as they pass close to our sun.

Comets have been in our skies since the beginnings of our solar system. It is understood that comets have delivered a large amount of the materials that make our planet, including water. The outer reaches of our solar system are an almost unlimited warehouse of the raw materials to build a planet and a solar system. The Voyager space craft has been traveling for forty years and has still not completely left the outer region of our solar system behind.

Imagine this broad variety of material from mountain sized to small lumps of snow and a variety of gases. The exact mixture is not specific because there is actually every kind of raw material you would hope to search for and mine here on earth. As our solar system sweeps through the milky way galaxy it will absorb clouds of various gases and heavier elements left behind by ancient solar novae. Occasionally lumps, some the size of a mountain fall into the inner solar system. For the next few days there are three comets in our western sky that might be a lovely sight in Our Night Sky.