

Our Night Sky for July 6th, 2026

Last week I briefly mentioned a challenge object to try and locate in our eastern sky. Anything we find in the eastern sky is just starting to move overhead for the summer and some of the fall. Right now, at the height of summer objects in our eastern skies will slowly move further overhead and by sunup will be higher in the sky. As the summer progresses and sundown is earlier each night these same objects will be higher in the sky earlier each night and easier to follow all the way into fall. Astronomy a hundred years ago was very different. The accepted science was that the stars we had in our sky, some were strange looking and not well understood but the skies that our solar system existed in, were the universe.

In the fall of 1923, a name you may recognise, Edwin Hubble made a discovery that changed the universe. The telescopes that were used can be matched with amateur equipment today, but in 1923 Hubble was operating the largest telescope at the time the 100 inch Hooker telescope at Mt Wilson in California. It is still in use today, a few years ago a friend called from the observing deck of the Hooker telescope just to share the feeling of this historic location.

Edwin Hubble had discovered that those blurry hard to resolve objects, until then referred to as nebula were in fact much further away than understood. Much too far away to be part of our local milky way, he referred to it as an island universe. They identified the Andromeda galaxy as being 2.5 million light years distant from Our Night Sky.