

## THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA



252 COLLEGE STREET TORONTO 2B, ONTARIO

3 Medici Court,  
Scarborough, Ont.  
Feb. 7, /62.

Dear Jim;

I am currently preparing a summary of the results of the National Programme to this date, being mainly a compilation of the replies received by the National Co-ordinators to the bulletins sent out by them.

I understand that you have received a number of replies from quite a few Centres and therefore I would like to have a report from you as to the number of replies, names of contacts, and such other data as has turned up.

Could you provide me with this information as soon as is convenient so that I can complete my own bulletin and get it into circulation.

While I do not search for comets myself, but only observe those that come into prominence, and do not search for novae, it has occurred to me that some recruits for the nova programme might be found among those who spend some of their time wandering among the Deep Sky objects. As far as I have been able to find in a somewhat limited search, there has occurred only one nova in any of the well known objects. It also seems to me that novae have occurred in some of the faint Galaxies, some of which are within reach of amateur instruments.

What I propose is that ~~it~~ it might be worth while, from the standpoint of both Novae and Deep Sky, of pointing out that observers of Messier and other objects might possibly detect a nova in the course of their observations if they become familiar with the appearance of the various clusters etc. Providing of course that such things can occur in whatever objects they do observe.

My interest in this idea stems from the fact that I am currently filling the post of Messier Recorder in the Toronto Centre and I was searching around for some useful purpose for Messier observing, keeping in mind the fact that I have stressed the value of making sketches of these objects to the observer, our purpose up to now being the slow compilation of an amateur catalogue for beginners. If there is any chance that I can hold out the hope of someone discovering a nova, then I will have another talking point! In the course of making a sketch the observer becomes quite familiar with the object under observation and at some later date might well notice anything out of place had it occurred.

As you can tell, this letter is being typed in some haste so I must beg your indulgence with respect to both typing and errors; my intention being to get it off to you while the opportunity presented itself.

your's sincerely,

R. V. Ramsay.