

68

21 Sandra Bay,  
Fort Garry  
Winnipeg I9

Dear Mr. Low.

April 28th 1963

Report on Comet Alcock. I963b

Three observations have been made.

After a Council meeting on April 19-20, a few of us thought we could see something in binoculars. My suspicions were better aroused in the satellite scope, but it was not until I got the 6" on to it, that I was able to confirm its presence. With the 1 1/2", there was the coma which was rather too nebulous to draw but which seemed to have a shuttlecock shape if any shape existed. There was a noteworthy nucleus, which came and went rather like a faint star world in M 13. The nucleus was at the pointed end of the shuttlecock shape. Seeing was good. Its position was as predicted in your letter.

On April 22-23, Mr B F Shinn and I observed the comet again in his I2". I found it easily at RA 17h50m D plus 56. 15' , within the head of draco. There was no tail, and no apparent nucleus, just a shapeless misty light. Seeing was reasonably good, although some aurora was evident on the horizon. I dont think this interfered at all.

The comet was located amid a square bounded by 4 stars (not marked on the Skalnate Plese map) at 11 pm. By 12.30 pm CST, the object had moved to one corner. Its magnitude must have been around plus eight at least. In order to compare notes with my previous observation with the 6", I checked it with this instrument at 12.45 to 1 am CST.

I had a very hard time locating it, in fact, had I not been using the I2" earlier in the evening, I would never have located it at all. However, it was visible, but only very faintly so.

In stead of brightening, as was forcast, the comet was fading fast. There was no cloud, and seeing was good.

On April 26-27, Mr Shinn and I both hunted again with the I2". We made several sweeps, but could not locate it at all. The sky was clear, and seeing was excellent. ( as a test of this, both M 13 and M 92 were resolved better than I have ever seen. )

It will be interesting to note what others have seen.

Best regards, sincerely.

John Scatell.

Thanks for your card.  
Time is a limiting factor with me for routine hunting. I will pass on your report.