

411 Brixton Avenue
St. Lambert, P.Q.
March 14, 1964

Mr. R.V. Ramsay, Chairman, S.C.O.A., R.A.S.C.
3 Medici Court
Scarborough, Ontario

Subject: Report from the Comet and Nova Section.

Dear Mr. Ramsay,

Within the last day or so, you should have received a copy of "Bulletin #5" of the Comet and Nova Section along with copies of the revised forms used by this section.

I regret that I must report that activity in this section has fallen off slightly within the past few months, although I am happy to report that more searches were made last year than in 1962. The recent fall-off in activity may be due to the cold weather of the season. I hope that the latest bulletin will increase interest and that activity will grow within the next few months. A lot of paper-work is involved, but I find that activity seems to improve after each bulletin is issued. I send one copy of each bulletin to each Centre, a copy to each "member at large" indicating interest in the section, one to the national officers, and one to each member of this S.C.O.A. At the present time there are about 35 names on my mailing list.

During January, 120 searches were made, compared with 165 for December.

Last year, I received a number of reports on observations of comets and Nova Herculis. However, I understand by "word-of-mouth" that many more observations were made than I received. I can understand members and Centres wishing to keep records of such observations for their own records, and making copies can become laborious work. I do not know what can be done about this, except for me to encourage Centres to report a few observations, or to summarize observations for me. Have you any ideas?

Bulletin #5 shows that four Centres took part in this section during 1963, and I am pleased to report that a member at the Victoria Centre makes five Centres for 1964. However, the Victoria Centre member was an active observer at Montreal until late last year (Mrs. Bridgen). I hope that she can create interest out west.

Have the other Observing Sections of the S.C.O.A. been active at all during the past year? I have received very little information, if any, from the National Coordinators of the other sections (i.e. --- Bulletins, etc.), and I would be interested in knowing how they are doing. Perhaps I could get some ideas from them on how to improve the C & N Section. The only "Bulletins" I received from other sections last year were #2 of the Aurora Section (March), and #5 of the Planetary section (February). Do you know if any of the other sections are active? I suppose all sections have one problem in common --- getting members and Centres to make copies of observations. However, I suppose a summary of observations from each Centre would be useful for a national programme.

That is all I have to say for now. Perhaps I will see you when I am in Toronto next week. I hope to attend the Toronto Centre meeting on March 20. I also plan to attend the General Assembly in Ottawa in May, so perhaps I will see you there if I miss you in Toronto?

Best regards, and good observing,



Jim Low

National Coordinator

Comet and Nova Section

Standing Committee on Observational
Activities

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada