

INFORMATION:  
0604 811030

# The Astronomer

Founded 1964

## PERIODIC COMET WILD 2 (1978b)

Visual estimates by Bortle confirm the revised brightness predictions on TA EWC 20. The comet has been successfully photographed by Clough, McNaught, Manning and Arbour. Using positional data measured from TA photographs plus IAU information, Birtwhistle calculates the following extension to the ephemeris on TA EWC 20:

1978 ET	R.A. (1950)	DEC	Earth	Sun	Mag
Mar. 13	5 <sup>h</sup> 40 <sup>m</sup> .2	+22°10'	1.412	1.779	11.3
18	5 47.5	+22 25			
23	5 55.6	+22 38	1.458	1.728	11.2
28	6 04.6	+22 50			
Apr. 2	6 14.2	+22 58	1.502	1.681	11.1
7	6 24.6	+23 04			
12	6 35.6	+23 07	1.543	1.637	11.1

## COMET BRADFIELD (1978c)

William A Bradfield, Dernancourt, near Adelaide, has reported discovery of a new comet as follows:

1978 UT	R.A. (1950)	DEC	m <sub>1</sub>
Feb. 4.755	18 <sup>h</sup> 21 <sup>m</sup> .2	-49°56'	8
4.781	18 21.4	-49 55	(IAUC 3170)

The comet was described as diffuse with condensation.

Although predicted magnitudes show it to be bright, announcement in these circulars was deferred due to extreme southern declination at discovery and because extensive TA computations to 1978 June, indicate that the comet will remain in very close proximity to the Sun. Although observation will be excessively difficult, an ephemeris is provided below from the latest elements by Candy (Perth):

1978 UT	R.A. (1950)	DEC	Earth	Sun	m <sub>1</sub>
Mar. 3	21 <sup>h</sup> 03 <sup>m</sup> .6	-20°42'	1.161	0.573	4.4
8	21 32.6	-12 22			
13	22 03.1	-2 3 48	1.191	0.452	3.4
18	22 36.0	+ 4 19			
23	23 11.1	+11 21	1.299	0.457	3.7
28	23 47.1	+16 55			
Apr. 2	0 22.1	+21 03	1.457	0.583	5.0

## 1978 CA (Object Schuster)

Richard West, ESO, reports that an object discovered by H Schuster on a photo of 1978 Feb 8, and believed to be an Apollo asteroid, is brightening rapidly (mag 17 at discovery). Ephemeris by Marsden follows:

1978 UT	R.A. (1950)	DEC	Earth	Sun	Mag
Mar. 3	10 <sup>h</sup> 06 <sup>m</sup> .8	+ 9°51'	0.136	1.125	12.7
5	10 03.2	+16 37	0.132	1.118	12.7
7	9 59.2	+23 43	0.129	1.111	12.8
9	9 54.9	+30 56	0.129	1.104	12.9
11	9 50.2	+37 59	0.131	1.097	13.1
13	9 45.1	+44 38	0.135	1.090	13.3
15	9 39.6	+50 44	0.141	1.083	13.5

Marsden comments that the brightness predicted is rather uncertain. Photos or visual drawings of the field with asteroid plot plus light estimate of labelled stars should be despatched to the Editor as soon as possible.