

Yes, it moves! Barnard's Star

The Runaway Star



The stars are incredibly far away. So far that even though they are quickly moving through three-dimenional space, amateur astronomers cannot detect their proper motions unless many years pass. A few stars are exceptions. Barnard's Star is the fastest, and, with very careful observing and position plotting, its motion can be discerned after just one year.

Barnard's Star is situated between the pretty asterism *Taurus Poniatovii* in Ophiuchus and the large open cluster IC 4665 (one that Messier missed). The speedy star lies 1° northwest of the 4.8 magnitude 66 Ophiuchi. A detailed star map is needed for positive identification.



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