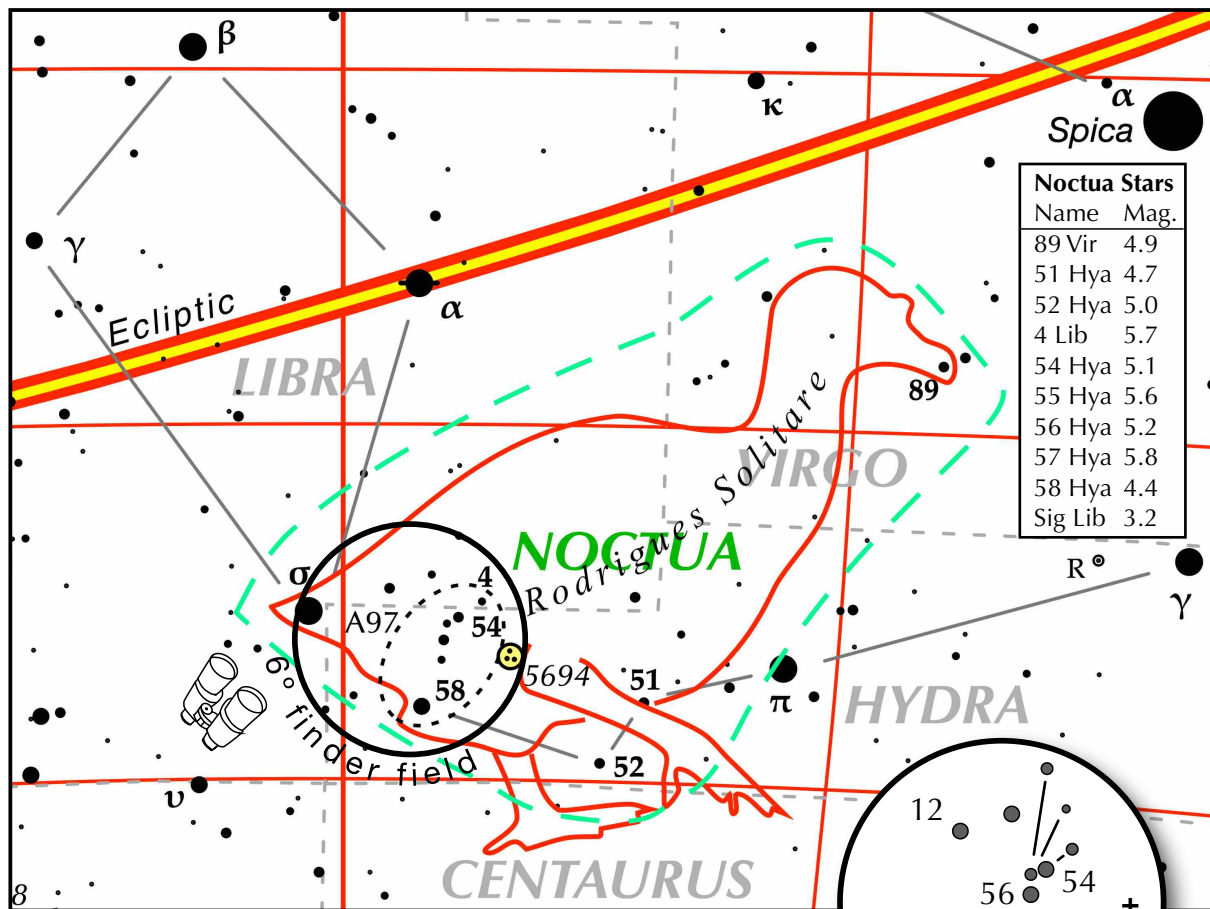


# Noctua, take a closer look

*A constellation that is no longer.*



**Noctua**, a group of stars that has gone by several depictions, first as a thrush in 1776 by the French astronomer Le Monnier, then as the extinct and flightless Rodrigues solitaire. In 1822 the constituent stars were seen by Alexander Jamieson as an owl. It was "decommissioned" by the IAU in 1922. Today, relegated to an asterism, it is merely a footnote in astronomy history.



## Deep Sky Features in Noctua

**NGC 5694 (aka Caldwell 66), a globular cluster in far eastern Hydra (in southern Noctua):**

1. Find Sigma Librae, a third magnitude star.
  2. Place Sigma at the far eastern edge of the finder field.
  3. NGC 5694 lies at the far western edge of the field.
- It appears very small and is too dim to be revealed in a finderscope or binoculars.  
Distance: 114,000 light-years.

## Asterism in Noctua

**A97** is a group of 11 stars ranging in magnitude from 5 through 8. They roughly form a miniature scorpion. It is about 5° in length.