

CHAPTER 3

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is arranged by season in Right Ascension order from spring (from RA = 8 h) to winter (up to RA = 7 h). Of course the seasons overlap, so there will always be plenty to observe.

Included are some of the brightest and best clusters for amateur-sized telescopes and binoculars. Anyone with a telescope of 3" (80 mm) or larger should be able to observe them all. Of course some will look a bit better in larger 'scopes than others, and some are best at low power. For imaging it is suggested to use a telescope of at least 5" aperture to get the best results. Many of the images shown in this book have been taken with a standard 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and amateur equipment.

Not every possible cluster is included. Some people will rue the omissions. However, each of those included has some special place in the author's observing heart, as I hope they will for you.