



Evening sky in August 2018

Put your birding skills to the test this month as you trace out the several winged constellations that are currently gracing our evening skies. This celestial aviary includes Corvus (the crow) low on the western horizon and Grus (the crane) hovering just above the constellation Phoenix towards the south-east. Aquila (the eagle) soars upwards through the Milky Way Galaxy, pursued closely by Cygnus (the swan) near to the northern horizon.

Following the Milky Way, past Aquila, you will find the winter constellations Scorpius and Sagittarius directly overhead this month.

Continue along the Galactic path, past the Southern Cross with its two bright pointer stars Alpha and Beta Centauri, and you may spot the Great Carina nebula (NGC 3372). This large bright emission nebula is a rich star-forming region, well-worth exploring with your binoculars.

Venus continues to shine brightly in the early evening sky, and is joined by Jupiter, Saturn and Mars as the planets visible during the evening sky this month. Mars remains exceptionally bright after reaching its closest approach to Earth on 31 July.

The moon will be in the evening sky until the 2 August, and then from the 12 August till month end, with full moon on the 26 August