Messier 39 Cluster

Quick Facts:

Distance: 800 Light-years.

Size: 7 Light-years diameter.

Constellation: Cygnus.

It's just seen with the unaided eye under good conditions as a spot on the Milky Way in northern Cygnus. Its approximately 30 stars are all about 200-300 million years old. Find it: Sweep 9 degrees NW of Deneb (roughly along the north-south axis of the Northern Cross) to find this cluster. GOTO: M (Messier).

Image: Heidi Schweiker/NOAO/AURA/NSF. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.