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**The Double Double** $\epsilon^{1,2}$  Lyrae

SAO 67309, 67315

HIP 91919, 91926

LX200 Star 334, 335

NexStar Star 4374, 4376

QUADRUPLE STAR IN LYRA

18<sup>h</sup>44.3<sup>m</sup> +39°40'

Magnitudes 5.0, 6.1, 5.2, 5.5

Separations: AB 2.7", AC 210", CD 2.5"

Position angles: AB 348°, AC 174°, CD 159°

*Prominent object.* Epsilon Lyrae consists of two stars 210" apart, each of which is a close double; all four form a single system in space. These stars are a good test of telescope optics. In steady air, a well-collimated 9-cm (3.5-inch) or larger telescope will show each pair clearly distinct, with a distinct gap between the adjacent Airy disks.

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**61 Cygni**

SAO 70919

HIP 104214

LX200 Star 346

NexStar Star 4980

DOUBLE STAR IN CYGNUS

21<sup>h</sup>06.9<sup>m</sup> +38°45'

Magnitudes 5.4, 6.1

Separation 31"

Position angle 150°

This handsome double star was this first star whose distance was measured by parallax (by Bessel in 1838). At one time it was known as **Piazzi's Flying Star** because of its large proper motion (which has also created cross-indexing problems in some computerized star catalogues). Both components are yellowish, with a color index of about 1.

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**Sinnott 10**

TRIPLE STAR IN CYGNUS

21<sup>h</sup>35.1<sup>m</sup> +38°07'

Magnitudes 10.4, 10.6, 10.8

Separations 19", 19"

Position angles 313°, 9°

The most perfect equilateral triple star in the heavens, according to Roger W. Sinnott, who discovered it by doing a computer search of the Hipparcos and Tycho catalogues; not previously noted as a multiple star. Find it by right ascension and declination, or by going to 72 Cygni (SAO 71480, NexStar Star 5071, mag. 5) and slewing half a degree to the south.

The triple star looks like a nebulous patch at 50×; higher power reveals its true nature.