

The Pelican Nebula

This is the Pelican Nebula captured on my setup at PixelSkies in Southern Spain in July, 2022. The pelican can be better visualized if you turn the image 90 degrees counterclockwise. In this framing, I think it looks more like an Antelope, so maybe they should call it the Antelope Nebula. This is a Narrow Band image - using SII, Ha and OIII filters. Consequently, it is not "true color." Images shot with Red, Green and Blue filters provide something approximating true color but this image has been processed into the Hubble Palette. There are many ways to combine these filters to get other colors, so that can be fun but I am satisfied with this palette. I like the teal and magenta and am pleased with the detail in the yellow region at the bottom right. The Pelican Nebula is in a large region of Hydrogen gas and lies right next to the North American Nebula in Cygnus - about 1800 light years away. The individual exposure times were as follows:

SII 68 x 600 seconds

Ha 79 x 600 seconds

OIII 73 x 600 seconds

Total 36.7 hours

The Pixinsight processing workflow:

Preprocessed in WBPP

Dynamic Crop

Dynamic Background Extraction

Noise x terminator

Linear Fit

Chanel Combination

STF transfer to nonlinear

Star x terminator to separate stars from nebula

Curves on Nebula

LHE on Nebula

Dark Structure Enhancement on Nebula

Unsharp Mask on Nebula

Correct Magenta Stars on Stars

Combine starless and stars in pixel math

SCNR (40%) on combined image

HT on combined image.

Link to this image on my AstroBin page: <https://astrob.in/24k74j/0/>

Tom Engwall

Pelican Nebula Finding Chart:

