Fun Facts:

**M11: WILD DUCK CLUSTER**

Computer Code: M11

* **Other Names:**
  + Salt and Pepper Cluster
  + NGC 6705
* **Basics:**
  + Description: Open cluster in Scutum (the Shield)
    - Open clusters likely formed from the same cloud of gas & dust
  + Visual Magnitude: +5.80 (not really visible with naked eye)
    - Can be viewed with binoculars or small telescope
  + Apparent Size: 14 arcminutes
    - 1/2 – 1/3 size of full moon (which is about 30 arcminutes across)
  + Distance: 6,100 light years away
    - Light we’re seeing now left M11 around 4,000 BC.
    - Here’s what was going on with the Earth around 4,000 BC:
      * Humans were first domesticating horses
      * Ploughs were invented
      * Copper Age (after Stone Age, before Bronze Age)
  + Diameter: 57.0 light years
* **History:**
  + First discovered by German astronomer Gottfried Kirch in 1681
  + First resolved into stars by William Derham around 1733
  + Charles Messier included it into his catalog in 1764
  + It’s common name comes from Admiral Smyth, who noted in the 1800s that its fan-shaped appearance resembles a “flight of wild ducks”
* **Other Notes:**
  + Contains an estimated 2900 stars
  + It is one of the richest & most compact open clusters
  + Stars are in clumps & knots, with some meandering dark lanes
  + It is of intermediate age, about 250 million years old
  + Luminosity of about 48,000 suns
  + Receding at 22 km/sec