THE EAGLE NEBULA

Chandra's observations of the "Pillars of Creation" in the Eagle Nebula (M16) allowed astronomers to peer inside the dark columns of gas and dust. This penetrating view reveals how much star formation is happening inside these iconic structures. The Chandra data, overlaid on the Hubble optical image, show bright X-ray sources in this field, most of which are young stars. However, most of the X-ray sources are found outside the pillars, suggesting that the Eagle Nebula may be past its star-forming prime. One X-ray object found within the pillars (blue source near the tip of the pillar on the left) appears to be a very young star about 4 or 5 times more massive than the Sun.

MAY2008

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				01	02	03
04	○ 05	06	07	08	09	10
11	◗ 12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	● 20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	◖ 28	29	30	31