

Meteors?

by Miles Mathis

September 10, 2026

I live out in the country, so the sky is fairly dark at night. Sacramento is to the west, so there is quite a bit of incident light from there, but it is still dark enough even in that direction for what I am about to tell you.

Take your binoculars, lie on your back, and look at any patch of the sky in any direction. What do you see? The books and internet won't tell you, but what you see is about a dozen moving objects per minute, moving randomly. They are about the apparent size and brightness of a dim star, not blinking, and moving at a constant speed, far too fast to be an airplane. They do not burn out like meteors and have no tail. They move all the way across your field of view. So what are they?

I find it very curious you can't get any information on this. I had always assumed they are meteors, but if you search on it the misdirection is palpable. They strongly warn you away from using binoculars to look at meteors, all but forbidding it. Why not tell you what I just did: you can see a dozen meteors a minute in any patch of sky with binoculars? Maybe because they are not meteors?

Online and in books, everything is about naked eye or telescope astronomy and sky watching, and they seem to really not want you scanning the sky with binoculars, for fear you will ask the question I just asked.

Until recently I never thought to question this, but now of course I question everything, especially things we are shooed away from so blatantly.

I welcome anyone who can tell me what I am seeing. Maybe I just have a big hole in my education. We all do. I look forward to closely studying the answers that come in.