Catalog of Comets

**C/1933 D1 (Peltier)**

*Discovered:* 1933 February 16.1 (Δ = 0.60 AU, r = 1.01 AU, Elong. = 75°)

*Last seen:* 1933 April 14.21 (Δ = 1.52 AU, r = 1.49 AU, Elong. = 68°)

*Closest to the Earth:* 1933 February 23 (0.5575 AU)

*Calculated path:* CEP (Disc), CAS (Feb. 17), PER (Feb. 23), TAU (Mar. 8), ORI (Mar. 18)

L. C. Peltier (Delphos, Ohio, USA) was involved in a routine comet-sweeping session on 1933 February 16.1, when he came across an object of magnitude 8.6 at α = 22h 48m, δ = +62°. He immediately wired G. van Biesbroeck (Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin, USA) for confirmation, but cloudy skies were prevalent. Peltier sent a telegram to Harvard College Observatory (Massachusetts, USA) the next morning announcing his discovery. Confirmation came on February 17.05, when van Biesbroeck detected the comet in hazy skies. He described it as 9th magnitude, with a round centrally condensed coma 5′ across. H. M. Jeffers (Lick Observatory, California, USA) independently confirmed the comet with the 30-cm refractor on February 17.23. He estimated the magnitude as 9, and said the centrally condensed coma was 2′ across, but contained no stellar nucleus. Additional confirmation came on February 17.81, when R. Carrasco (Madrid Observatory, Spain) estimated the photographic magnitude as 8. The comet attained its most northerly declination of +62° on February 17. The comet was discovered a few days after it had passed perihelion, but was approaching Earth.

On February 18, the magnitude was given as 8.6 by Peltier, 8.7 by van Biesbroeck, 9 by P. Chofardet (Besançon, France), and 9.0 by M. Mündler (Königstuhl Observatory, Heidelberg, Germany). Van Biesbroeck added that the coma was 6′ in diameter and extended mostly to PA 10°. Chofardet said the centrally condensed coma was 1.5′ across. On the 19th, the magnitude was given as 8.1 by Peltier, 9 by C. D. Boyd and L. E. Cunningham (Harvard College Observatory, Massachusetts, USA) and Jeffers, 9.4 by van Biesbroeck, 10 by H. E. Burton (US Naval Observatory, Washington, DC, USA), and 10.0 by F. C. A. Schwassmann (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany) and F. Kaiser (Wiesbaden, Germany). Jeffers said the centrally condensed coma was 2′ across, but contained no stellar nucleus. Burton described the comet as diffuse. Kaiser noted a coma about 30′ across.

On the 20th, the magnitude was given as 10.5 by R. R. E. Schorr (Hamburg
Observatory) and 11 by Mündler. Schorr noted the coma was 3′ across, while Mündler estimated the nuclear magnitude as about 13. On the 21st, the magnitude was given as 8.8 by Peltier and 10.5 by van Biesbroeck. Van Biesbroeck said the coma was 30′ across. On the 22nd, the magnitude was given as 8.8 by Peltier and 9.4 by van Biesbroeck. Van Biesbroeck added that the coma was 4′ across and contained a well-condensed starlike nucleus of magnitude 13. On February 23, the magnitude was given as 10 by B. Meyer-mann (Göttingen, Germany) and 10.5 by H. Krumpholz (Vienna University Observatory, Austria). Jeffers observed with the 30-cm refractor and noted that the brightness was only slightly less than on the 19th. Krumpholz said the coma was 2′ across, with a distinct condensation. Jeffers added that the centrally condensed coma was 2′ across, but contained no stellar nucleus.

The comet was moving away from both the sun and Earth for the remainder of its apparition. On February 24, the magnitude was given as 8.4 by van Biesbroeck, 8.7 by Peltier, 9–10 by Chofardet, and 11.0 by E. J. Delporte (Uccle, Belgium). Burton said the comet was diffuse and barely visible in a 13-cm finder. Chofardet said the coma was 1.5′ across, with a central condensation. Van Biesbroeck noted that the coma had expanded to 6′, while a stellar nucleus shone at magnitude 13. On the 25th, the magnitude was given as 10 by Chofardet and 10.5 by Kaiser. Chofardet said the nucleus was poorly defined. Kaiser said the coma was 3′ across, with a central condensation. On the 27th, M. Beyer (Hamburg, Germany) determined the magnitude as 8.73. He said the coma was about 2′ across. On February 28, the magnitude was given as 8.80 by Beyer, 9.2 by van Biesbroeck, 9.5 by Peltier and Schwassmann, brighter than 10 by E. Warmbier (Poznan, Poland), and 11 by Krumpholz. Jeffers observed with the 30-cm refractor and noted that the brightness was only slightly fainter than on the 19th. Beyer said the nuclear magnitude was 11.8 and the coma diameter was 2.2′. Krumpholz said the coma diameter was 1.5′. Warmbier noted a coma 3′ across. He saw no nucleus, but did see a faint central condensation. Jeffers added that the centrally condensed coma was 2′ across, but contained no stellar nucleus.

Moonlight interfered with observations during the first half of March. On March 1, the magnitude was given as 8.98 by Beyer, 9.5 by Peltier, and 10 by van Biesbroeck. Beyer noted the coma was about 2′ across and exhibited a nuclear magnitude of 12.3. Van Biesbroeck simply described the comet as a well-condensed coma. The comet attained a maximum solar elongation of 82° on March 7. On the 13th, the magnitude was given as 9.97 by Beyer, 11 by Krumpholz, and 12 by Schwassmann. Beyer said the nuclear magnitude was 12.7 and the coma was about 2′ across. Krumpholz said the coma was 2′ across, with little condensation. On March 15, the magnitude was given as 10.5 by van Biesbroeck and 12 by Chofardet. Biesbroeck said the round coma was 2′ across and contained a nearly stellar nucleus of magnitude 13. Chofardet said the nucleus was uncertain.

The comet seemed to fade more quickly during the last half of March. On March 17, the magnitude was given as 10.2 by Peltier and 10.5 by van
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Biesbroeck. On the 20th, Beyer determined the total magnitude as 10.54 and the nuclear magnitude as 13.0. On the 21st, Beyer gave the magnitude as 10.35 and Chofardet gave it as 12. Beyer said the nuclear magnitude was 13.0 and the coma diameter was about 3′. On the 22nd, the magnitude was given as 10.48 by Beyer, while photographic magnitudes of 13 and 14.5 were provided by Jeffers and Schorr, respectively. Beyer said the coma diameter was 2.5′. Jeffers said the comet was “round and somewhat condensed in the middle.” On the 24th, the magnitude was given as 10.78 by Beyer, 12 by van Biesbroeck, and 13.0 by Kaiser. Krumpholz was no longer able to see the comet in the 30-cm refractor. Beyer said the coma diameter was 1.8′. Van Biesbroeck said the coma was 1′ across and contained a sharp nucleus. Kaiser noted the “halo” was about 30′′ across. On the 25th, Beyer gave the magnitude as 11.06 and noted a coma 1.6′ across. On the 26th, Beyer gave the magnitude as 11.00. He said the nuclear magnitude was brighter than 13.2, while the coma was 1.7′ across. On the 27th, Beyer gave the visual magnitude as 11.48, while Schorr provided a photographic magnitude of 14. Beyer said the coma was 1.4′ across. On March 28, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 13.5. He said the round coma was 50′′ across and contained a well-defined nucleus.

The last two detections of the comet came on April 14.18 and April 14.21, when Jeffers obtained 30-minute exposures with the 91-cm Crossley reflector at Lick Observatory. He gave the position on the latter date as α = 5h 59m 59.6′, δ = −1° 28′. Jeffers estimated the magnitude as 16.

The first orbits were published on February 20. C. M. Anderson Jr. and A. B. Wyse used precise positions obtained on February 17 and 18, and found a perihelion date of 1933 February 7.63. At the same time F. L. Whipple and L. E. Cunningham used three precise positions obtained between February 17 and 19, and revealed a perihelion date of February 9.19. C. Bergen used the same positions as the Harvard astronomers and found a perihelion date of February 9.22. M. Davidson and A. C. D. Crommelin independently took positions from February 17, 18, and 19, and determined perihelion dates of February 6.98 and February 6.96, respectively. Among all of these, the orbit by Davidson and Crommelin was closest. J. Lindgren calculated three orbits that gave perihelion dates ranging from February 6.49 to February 6.77.

The only astronomers to use positions spanning the entire period of visibility were Anderson and Wyse. They took seven positions, reduced them to three Normal places, and determined the perihelion date as February 6.70. This orbit is given below.

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<th>T</th>
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**Absolute magnitude:** $H_0 = 9.9, n = 3.39$ (Beyer, 1933); $H_{10} = 10.2$ (V1964)

**Full moon:** Feb. 10, Mar. 12, Apr. 10, May 9
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7P/Pons–Winnecke

Prerecovery: 1933 February 18.33 (Δ = 1.12 AU, r = 1.58 AU, Elong. = 97°)

Recovered: 1933 March 24.12 (Δ = 0.76 AU, r = 1.32 AU, Elong. = 97°)

Last seen: 1933 September 22.92 (Δ = 1.01 AU, r = 1.90 AU, Elong. = 140°)

Closest to the Earth: 1933 May 14 (0.5416 AU)

Calculated path: SER (Pre), HER (Feb. 25), OPH (Mar. 9), AQL (Apr. 6), DEL (Apr. 27), AQR (May 2), CET (Jun. 12), SCL (Jul. 26), FOR (Aug. 5), SCL (Aug. 16)

Using an orbit computed for the 1927 apparition, A. C. D. Crommelin applied perturbations by Jupiter and integrated the comet’s motion forward. He predicted the comet would next arrive at perihelion on 1933 May 18.21. He noted an approach to within 0.5 AU of Jupiter. V. Guth also started with the 1927 orbit and predicted the comet would arrive at perihelion on May 19.00. Using Guth’s ephemeris, R. R. E. Schorr (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany) photographed the comet’s predicted position on March 2, but found nothing near it.

A. A. Wachmann (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany) recovered this comet on 1933 March 24.12. He gave the position as α = 17h 44.0m, δ = +9° 27′, and estimated the magnitude as 14. The recovery was confirmed on March 25.09, when F. C. A. Schwassmann and D. Werner-Starke (Hamburg Observatory) photographed the comet at magnitude 14.5. Shortly after the announcement, G. van Biesbroeck (Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin, USA) rechecked his photographic plates exposed in his search for this comet and identified an image far from the center of a plate exposed on 1933 February 18.33.
March 24.45. The magnitude was 14.5. In addition, he found images near the corner of plates exposed on February 18.33 and February 18.35. The magnitude was then 15. The comet was found a little less than 2 months from perihelion and its closest approach to Earth.

Van Biesbroeck photographed the comet using the 61-cm reflector on March 28. He gave the magnitude as 14.5 and noted a round coma about 15″ across. On April 26, the magnitude was given as 13.0 by G. Adamopoulos (National Observatory, Athens, Greece) and 14.5 by R. R. E. Schorr (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany). Schorr also gave the magnitude as 14.5 on the 27th and 14 on the 28th. On April 29, van Biesbroeck estimated the photographic magnitude as 13 using the reflector. He said the coma was described as well condensed and round.

The comet passed closest to both the sun and Earth during May. On May 4, van Biesbroeck obtained a photographic magnitude of 12 using the reflector. He said the coma was round with a central condensation. On May 22, the comet reached a minimum elongation of 85°. On the 23rd, van Biesbroeck estimated the photographic magnitude as 11. He said the coma was diffuse and 2′ across, while the nucleus was well defined and exhibited a jet extending 1′ in PA 40°. On May 27, E. L. Johnson (Union Observatory, Johannesburg, South Africa) photographed the comet using the 25-cm Franklin–Adams Star Camera and estimated the magnitude as 10.0.

The comet was moving away from both the sun and Earth as June began. On June 2, van Biesbroeck gave the visual magnitude as 11 using the 102-cm refractor. The coma was very diffuse and contained a nucleus measuring more than 10′ in diameter. On the 21st, van Biesbroeck found the comet diffuse with a photographic magnitude of 10. On the 23rd, Johnson gave the photographic magnitude as 9.5. He wrote that the comet was “large, round, diffuse with no stellar nucleus.” On June 27, van Biesbroeck estimated the photographic magnitude as 11.5, and said the coma was diffuse with hardly any condensation.

The comet steadily faded during the remainder of its apparition. On July 3, van Biesbroeck photographed it using the 61-cm reflector and gave the magnitude as 12. He also noted that the coma was faintly visible to a diameter of 2′, while the nucleus was “very poorly defined” and about 20′ across. On the 3rd and 17th, Johnson gave the photographic magnitude as 10.0. On July 22, van Biesbroeck gave the photographic magnitude as 13. He said the coma was very poorly defined and about 20′ across. Johnson gave the photographic magnitude as 11.0 on August 2 and 13.0 on August 21. On August 25, Adamopoulos estimated the magnitude as 13.0. He said the comet was 30′ across and exhibited ill-defined edges. On September 16, Johnson gave the photographic magnitude as 13.5.

The comet was last detected on September 22.92, when Johnson estimated the magnitude as 13.5. He gave the position as $\alpha = 0^h 59.8^m$, $\delta = -37^\circ 15'$. Both Crommelin and Guth used the early positions to correct their predicted orbits. Crommelin gave the perihelion date as May 18.68 and the
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period as 6.09 years. Guth gave the perihelion date as May 18.27. During October and November, Crommelin deduced orbits based exclusively on positions obtained during this apparition. These gave perihelion dates between May 18.78 and May 18.81, and periods between 6.10 and 6.16 years.

Multiple apparition orbits have been calculated by B. G. Marsden (1968), L. Y. Anan’eva and E. A. Reznikov (1974), and Reznikov (1978). These included perturbations by all nine planets. They gave the perihelion date as May 18.78–18.79 and the period as 6.09 years. Marsden’s orbit is given below.

The nongravitational terms were given as $A_1 = +0.01$ and $A_2 = +0.0024$ by B. G. Marsden, Z. Sekanina, and D. K. Yeomans (1973).

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ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE: $H_{10} = 10.4$ (V1964)


21P/Giacobini–Zinner

Recovered: 1933 April 23.08 ($\Delta = 1.64$ AU, $r = 1.51$ AU, Elong. = 65°)

Last seen: 1933 October 18.44 ($\Delta = 1.59$ AU, $r = 1.63$ AU, Elong. = 74°)

Closest to the Earth: 1933 June 30 (1.2365 AU)

1933 III = 1933c

Calculated path: PEG (Rec), AND (May 31), PSC (Jun. 8), TRI (Jun. 19), ARI (Jun. 28), TAU (Jul. 9), ORI (Aug. 6), TAU (Aug. 9), ORI (Aug. 11), MON (Aug. 20), CMi (Sep. 4), MON (Sep. 13), HYA (Oct. 3), PUP (Oct. 14), HYA (Oct. 15)

The comet’s recovery during this apparition began with a prediction by F. R. Cripps (1932). He applied perturbations by Jupiter to a previously
published orbit and predicted the comet would next reach perihelion on 1933 July 16.33. R. R. E. Schorr (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany) recovered the comet on 1933 April 23.08. He gave the position as $\alpha = 21^h 34.1^m$, $\delta = +15^\circ 18'$, and estimated the magnitude as 15.5. Schorr confirmed the recovery on April 26.06, when he again estimated the magnitude as 15.5. Calculations showed the comet was 1 day earlier than predicted by Cripps. The comet was 2 months from its closest approach to Earth and nearly 3 months from perihelion.

On April 29, G. van Biesbroeck (Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin, USA) obtained a 5-minute exposure with the 61-cm reflector and simply described the comet as “quite vague.” On May 21, Schorr gave the magnitude as 15. On the 23rd, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 13.5. He described the coma as round and noted a faint tail extending 3' in PA 255°. On the 25th, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 13.5 and saw a slender tail extending 4' in PA 260°. On May 28, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 13.

On June 1, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 13.5. He noted a small, ill-defined nucleus and a narrow tail extending over 5' in PA 262°. The comet attained its most northerly declination of +28° on June 17. On the 21st, van Biesbroeck gave the magnitude as 12.5. He said the coma was 25'' in diameter and contained a fairly well-condensed nucleus. A faint tail extended over 5' in PA 265°. On the 27th, van Biesbroeck gave the magnitude as 12 and observed a well-defined nucleus. On June 28 and 30, H. M. Jeffers (Lick Observatory, California, USA) visually observed the comet using the 91-cm refractor and gave the magnitude as 12.5. He said the coma was 0.3' across and well condensed, but with no stellar nucleus. Jeffers added that the coma extended about 2° toward the west.

On July 3, van Biesbroeck gave the magnitude as 11.5. He added that there was a sharp nucleus and the very faint tail extended toward PA 265°. On the 22nd, Jeffers observed with the 91-cm refractor and said the comet was slightly brighter than in June. He noted the coma was 0.3' across and well condensed, but with no stellar nucleus. Jeffers added that the coma extended about 2° toward the west. The comet attained a minimum elongation of 51° on July 24. On July 25 and 26, P. Finsler (Zürich, Switzerland) visually estimated the magnitude as 12. On September 18, van Biesbroeck estimated the magnitude as 16.5. The coma was “quite diffuse,” and the tail extended 1’ in PA 270°. On the 21st, Jeffers photographed the comet using the 91-cm Crossley reflector and gave the magnitude as 15.5. He said the well-condensed coma was about 0.3' across, with a small extension toward the west. On September 21 and 23, van Biesbroeck gave the magnitude as 17. He said the coma was round and 15'' across, while the tail was hardly visible.

The comet was last detected on October 18.44, when van Biesbroeck photographed it with the 61-cm reflector at Yerkes Observatory. The comet appeared as a tiny round coma of about magnitude 18. Van Biesbroeck initially said that identity with this comet was “somewhat doubtful,”
but orbital calculations proved this was definitely an observation of P/Giacobini–Zinner. The position was determined as $\alpha = 8^h \, 29.2^m, \, \delta = -12^\circ \, 36'$. Using positions from April and July, A. C. D. Crommelin calculated an “approximate” elliptical orbit which gave the perihelion date as July 15.15 and the period as 6.60 years. Calculations using multiple apparitions and planetary perturbations were published by Y. V. Evdokimov (1956, 1958, 1972) and Yeomans (1972, 1986). These revealed a perihelion date of July 15.15 and a period of 6.60 years. Yeomans’ orbit is given below. Yeomans (1972) gave the nongravitational terms as $A_1 = +0.06584$ and $A_2 = +0.010911$. In the 1986 book *ESA Proceedings of the 20th ESLAB Symposium on the Exploration of Halley’s Comet*, Yeomans gave the nongravitational terms as $A_1 = +0.4090$ and $A_2 = +0.0324$.

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<td>196.9463</td>
<td>30.6777</td>
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<td>0.715984</td>
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**Absolute magnitude:** $H_{10} = 12.1$ (V1964)

**Full Moon:** Apr. 10, May 9, Jun. 8, Jul. 7, Aug. 5, Sep. 4, Oct. 3, Nov. 2


**14P/Wolf**

*Recovered:* 1933 July 25.27 ($\Delta = 2.00$ AU, $r = 2.85$ AU, Elong. = 140°)

*Last seen:* 1934 December 11.36 ($\Delta = 2.21$ AU, $r = 3.09$ AU, Elong. = 148°)

**Closest to the Earth:** 1933 August 17 (1.9497 AU)

**Calculated path:** SGE (Rec), AQL (Sep. 1), DEL (Oct. 31), EQUI (Nov. 24), AQR (Nov. 29), PSC (Jan. 28), ARI (Apr. 20), TAU (Jun. 21), ORI (Aug. 11), ERI (Dec. 7)

Using an orbit computed by G. Merton and A. C. D. Crommelin for the 1925 apparition, W. P. Henderson and J. D. McNeile applied perturbations by Jupiter and Saturn and predicted the comet would next arrive at perihelion on 1934 February 28.63. They wrote that the comet would be too close to the sun for observations after January 1934. M. Kamienski’s extensive...
investigations in the orbital motion of this comet predicted a perihelion date of February 27.86.

Using an ephemeris calculated by Kamienski, H. M. Jeffers (Lick Observatory, California, USA) recovered this comet with the 91-cm Crossley reflector on 1933 July 25.27, at $\alpha = 20^h 07.9^m$, $\delta = +20^\circ 40'$'. He described the comet as not quite stellar with a magnitude of about 18.5. Additional exposures on July 25.36 and July 25.43, confirmed the recovery. Jeffers obtained another photographic observation on July 29.35, and again noted a magnitude of about 18.5. The indicated correction to Kamienski’s prediction was –0.1 day.

On August 25, Jeffers successfully photographed the comet with the 91-cm Crossley reflector, and N. U. Mayall determined the magnitude as 18.4 ± 0.2, based upon a comparison with the polar sequence. Jeffers obtained additional photographs of the comet on September 16, November 10, and November 11, before it moved into the glare of the sun. The comet attained a southerly declination of +2° on December 23, before turning northward.

The comet passed slightly over 2° from the sun on 1934 April 9 and attained a northerly declination of +13° on June 21, before once again beginning its trek southward. Following its conjunction with the sun, the comet was recovered on September 7 and confirmed on September 10, when Jeffers obtained exposures ranging from 65 to 70 minutes using the 91-cm Crossley reflector. Jeffers obtained another photograph on September 14, from which Mayall was able to determine the magnitude as 19.1, using the polar sequence. A 60-minute exposure by Jeffers on October 15 also showed the comet.

The last two detections of the comet were on December 11.30 and December 11.36, when Jeffers obtained 80-minute exposures with the 91-cm Crossley reflector. He gave the comet’s position as $\alpha = 5^h 05.0^m$, $\delta = -8^\circ 49'$'. Jeffers noted that conditions were unusually favorable and described the comet as round and about 3'' across.

Kamienski and M. Bielicki (1934) calculated a revised orbit for this comet based on Jeffers’ observations and found the perihelion date to be February 27.77. They added that the fact that the comet was 2 magnitudes fainter than expected suggested it was undergoing “dissipation” and would possibly not be observed at many more returns.

Multiple apparition orbits have been calculated by Kamienski (1959), D. K. Yeomans (1975, 1978), and E. I. Kazimirchak-Polonskaya (1977, 1978, 1982) and these revealed a perihelion date of February 27.76 and a period of 8.33 years. Yeomans (1975) and Kazimirchak-Polonskaya (1977) said non-gravitational effects were apparently no longer active. Yeomans’ orbit is given below.

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ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE: $H_{10} = 12.4$ (V1964)


SOURCES:
H. M. Jeffers, *HAC*, No. 272 (1933 Jul. 26);
H. M. Jeffers, *HAC*, No. 273 (1933 Aug. 7);
M. Kamienski, *AN*, 249 (1933 Sep. 11), p. 419;
H. M. Jeffers, *LOB*, 17 (1934), p. 6;
H. M. Jeffers and M. Kamienski, *The Observatory*, 57 (1934 Jan.), p. 38;
M. Kamienski and M. Bielicki, *BZAN*, 16 (1934 Jan. 5), p. 1;
M. Kamienski, *The Observatory*, 57 (1934 Apr.), pp. 139–40;
H. M. Jeffers and N. U. Mayall, *HAC*, No. 310 (1934 Sep. 24);
H. M. Jeffers, *BZAN*, 16 (1934 Oct. 11), p. 61;
H. M. Jeffers, *PA*, 42 (1934 Nov.), p. 508;
H. M. Jeffers, *The Observatory*, 57 (1934 Nov.), p. 351;
V1964, p. 73;

36P/1933 U1 (Whipple)

Discovered: 1933 October 15.27 ($\Delta = 1.64$ AU, $r = 2.54$ AU, Long. = 149°)

Last seen: 1935 March 28.30 ($\Delta = 3.47$ AU, $r = 4.04$ AU, Long. = 119°)

Closest to the Earth: 1933 November 3 (1.5913 AU)

1933 IV = 1933f

Calculated path: TAU (Disc), CET (Oct. 26), TAU (1934 Feb. 11), ORI (Apr. 14), TAU (May 22), ORI (May 29), GEM (Jun. 19), CMi (Aug. 12), CNC (Aug. 20), HYA (Nov. 3), CNC (1935 Feb. 10)

F.L. Whipple (Harvard College Observatory’s Oak Ridge Station, Massachusetts, USA) discovered this comet on the edge of a photograph exposed with the 41-cm Metcalf telescope on 1933 October 15.27, at a position of $\alpha = 3^h 25^m 3^s$, $\delta = +10^\circ 02'$. The magnitude was estimated as 13, while a tail was 3’ long. He confirmed the comet on October 21.12 and October 21.40. Whipple estimated the magnitude as 13 and noted a tail 3’ long on all of these photographs. At the time of the discovery, the comet was over 2 months past perihelion, but was nearing its closest approach to Earth.

On October 22, G. van Biesbroeck (Yerkes Observatory, Wisconsin, USA) described the comet as a small, round coma of magnitude 14, with a faint tail extending over 3’ in PA 280°. F.C.A. Schwassmann and A.A. Wachmann (Hamburg Observatory, Bergedorf, Germany) estimated the magnitude as 13.0. On the 24th, E.J. Delporte (Uccle, Belgium) noted a nucleus of magnitude 15.0. On the 25th, P.C. Keenan (Yerkes Observatory) gave the magnitude as 14.2. On October 31, Whipple and L.E. Cunningham gave the magnitude as 13.5.