



Evening sky in September 2017

There are a number of constellations depicting creatures with wings in the evening sky this month. Low in the north is Cygnus, the Swan and its brightest star, Deneb. Higher up is Aquila, the Eagle with the bright star, Altair. Pegasus, the Flying Horse, with four bright stars forming the Great Square, is above the north-eastern horizon. Above the south-eastern horizon is Phoenix, the Bird rising from the Ashes and slightly above flies Grus, the Crane. Musca, the Fly, is a small constellation close to the bright star marking the bottom of Crux, the Southern Cross. The Cross is above the south-western horizon and appears tipped on its side. Above it are the Pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri, in Centaurus, a large constellation almost enfolding the Cross. Scorpius (Scorpion) and Sagittarius (Archer), are moving lower each evening in the west, signalling the end of winter.

Planet Saturn is in the constellation Ophiuchus (Serpent Bearer), slightly to the north of Antares, the red supergiant star in Scorpius.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 8 September and again from 21 September. Vernal (spring) equinox is on 22 September when the Sun crosses the equator, and day and night are of equal length.