

What's Happening with V838 Mon
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V838 Mon (Nova Mon 2002) went into outburst in January of 2002. It rose to a peak brightness of around $V=6$, and faded through the spring and summer, reaching a minimum magnitude of 16 by the end of the year. Since then, it has been slowly rising in brightness, and now is around $V=13$. The nova was extremely peculiar, being one of the reddest on record, with several theories as to its origin (the most likely is a binary merger of two stars). This paper will highlight the original outburst, give some recent information regarding distance, and discuss theories as to why this star is still brightening, two decades after the outburst.