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Flow Visualization
October, 11, 2007

Clouds 1

This image was taken the morning of September 23, 2007 in Boulder. I was noticing a storm change in light and temperature as a large number of clouds began to cross the sky. I was interested in capturing the contrast between the types of clouds rolling in and the clear, blue sky just prior to their arrival.

While photographing, I was looking upward, toward the west. There was a clear, blue sky to the Northwest and a large number of clouds extending to the east. It seems that there was an increase in humidity and a rapid increase in cloud cover, accompanied by a drop in temperature. This image was created using available light.

The settings used in this image are 1/500 at f/11 using a Canon Rebel Xti. The film speed was set at 400 with the lens set at 100mm on a 28-135 image stabilized lens. The field of view is approximately 80-100ft. The 10 megapixel image was adjusted in photoshop by slightly increasing contrast, slightly cropping the top and sides of the image and vignetting the corners to add contrast with the center.

From this image, the clouds seem to be Nimbostratus. I am still not completely sure of this, but from descriptions they seem to fit the definition most closely. This would indicate an increase in humidity and explain the drop in temperature. I think to develop this photographic assignment further, I would like to photograph at sunrise or sunset from a higher altitude to get a more dramatic perspective in the images.