



**M101 or the Pinwheel Galaxy.** This galaxy has several extremely luminous star-forming (HII) regions in the outer spiral arms, some sporting their own NGC numbers. It dominates a small group of galaxies, with some of its neighbors such as NGC 5474 showing wear and tear attributed to the tidal effects of M101, which itself is further noteworthy for its extensive and lopsided distribution of neutral hydrogen gas, and for showing evidence of gas falling into its disk at high speeds. M101 is located at a distance of about 27 million light-years from Earth and it is nearly twice the size of our Milky Way. The image shown here was obtained using the Wide Field Camera on the Isaac Newton Telescope at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (La Palma, Spain) and combining the filters Sloan  $g'$ ,  $r'+H\text{-}\alpha$  and  $i'$ . Image credit: Rafael Barrena and Daniel López (IAC).

