

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

On so important a question, the evidence must be airtight. The more we want it to be true, the more careful we have to be. No witness's say-so is good enough. People make mistakes. People play practical jokes. People stretch the truth for money or attention or fame. People occasionally misunderstand what they're seeing. People sometimes even see things that aren't there.

Carl Sagan - The Demon Haunted World



Another dog and pony show

Cover: A chain of Starlink satellites crossing the sky in mid-February. This was shortly after launch before the satellites spread out into their proper orbits.

Left: The planet Venus and Mercury graced our evening skies in April. Venus is obvious but elusive Mercury is only visible near greatest elongation. It is sometimes missed by UFO investigators but it can produce UFO reports.

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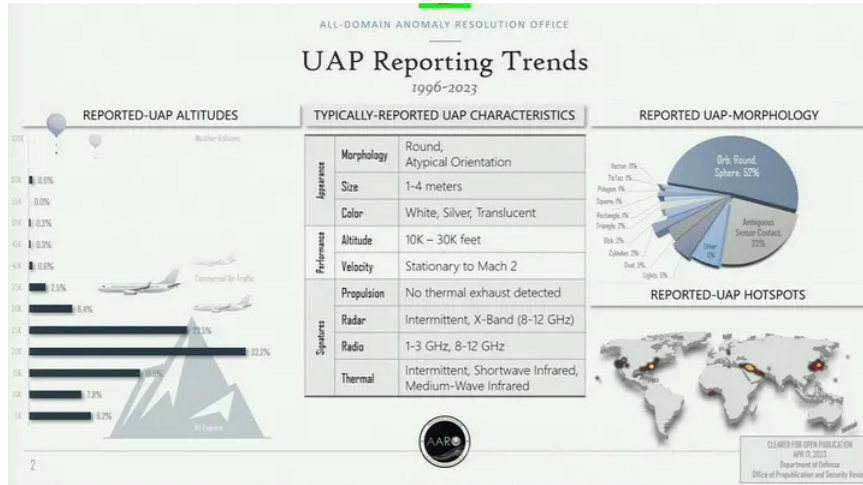
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Towards the end of April, the Senate held another one of those UFO/UAP hearings. The All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) gave their standard briefing on the matter. To be honest it is all pretty boring. The total number of cases has risen to 650 but it is not clear what their classifications are. According to the news release, only about half of the 650 are “interesting”. They also mention that a lot of the cases do not have enough data for resolution. AARO seems to be interested in stamp collecting UFO reports hoping that they find “a diamond in the rough”. There were two videos I saw. One looked like a balloon and another could have been an aircraft. AARO also provided a slide showing statistics from the reports they have on file.



In his initial statement, Dr. Kirkpatrick stated that there was “no definitive evidence of extraterrestrial technology or alien life”. The bottom line is that Blue Book 2.0 is beginning to look a lot like Blue Book 1.0. They are collecting reports and can’t explain all of them. Despite being unable to explain them, these unexplained reports are not considered evidence of aliens. They just cannot be explained for various reasons. It is another case of “lather, rinse, and repeat”. It is an endless loop with nothing being resolved.

I did not see any other significant news in UFOlogy. There are still the usual pontifications about old cases that never get resolved one way or the other. It has always been my opinion that there is not much that can be learned from them since no new information is usually presented. Like all unexplained cases, they do not provide anything conclusive that indicates that they were alien spaceships or something unknown to science. About the only thing that can be revealed in reviewing these old sightings is that a potential explanation might be discovered. Unfortunately, UFOlogists are not often interested in that approach since it is much easier to highlight the strangeness and keep them “unidentified”.

Many thanks for the interesting article by Oliver Smith about the Ariel School case. I have always had problems with young witnesses. Teens and pre-teens can let their imagination and exposure to popular media (television/movies) taint their descriptions of what they experience in real life. I think Oliver’s theory about what was seen is interesting and needs to be considered.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOG

June 4, 1955 - Parker, Arizona ¹

55.06.04	02:50	USA	Parker, Arizona	M	a USAF T-33 pilot	one object, yellow, white and red, stationary then disappeared abruptly		G	E	03 / 20
55.06.03	19:20 LT	USA	East of Utica, New York	A	a Lockheed A-1H	a ground light seen object flying at speed	CB	C	X	03 / 24

The source of this entry is the Blue Book files and files from project 1947.

Source information

The Blue Book file contains most of the relevant information. The Project 1947 files are not readily available and probably mirror what can be found in the Blue Book entry. The file contains a report from flight 1-C of 4602nd AISS and a teletype message covering the incident. 2nd Lt. William Connor gave the following specifics about the incident²:

- The pilot was flying a T-33 aircraft, which was 13 miles west of Parker, Arizona and flying westward at 20,000 feet. There appears to have been a cadet pilot flying along with him.
- The pilot reported the object as an "extremely large star".
- The object was stationary, visible in the west, and appeared "high" to the pilot. It was visible for three minutes.
- Time of observation was at 1950 PDT on 4 June. This computes to 0250Z on 5 June.
- The pilot stated that his magnetic compass and slave gyro displayed variations when he passed over the area where the object was last observed. The aircraft had problems with its compass for the rest of the flight.
- Aircraft flying in the area had reported similar magnetic variations on the two previous nights.
- A ground observer in the area also reported seeing the object. Details of their observation are limited but it is stated they used binoculars and saw color variations (red on bottom, yellow in the middle, and blue/green on top).
- The weather information mentioned that there was a broken cloud layer at 30,000 feet.
- A Constellation (TWA flight 21) flew in the area. They saw nothing but were in the vicinity of the UFO only minutes after the ground observer reported his object. They did report unusual cloud formations.

Analysis

Any UFO report that is made at night/twilight and describes a stationary light that eventually disappears should be looked at as having a possible astronomical solution. Bright stars and planets often generate UFO reports and pilots are not immune from this kind of mistake. Blue Book, based on the investigation by the 4602nd AISS, labeled this as being explained as the planet Jupiter.

Jupiter was in the location described and was visible in the twilight. Based on the information presented, one can conclude the magnetic problems had more to do with the location and aircraft than the actual UFO. The broken cloud layer probably played a role in the planet disappearing. The color variation reported by the ground observer could have been the result of poor optics or atmospheric refraction.



Conclusion

This case can be classified as probably Jupiter and removed from the Weinstein catalog.

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 30
2. "Case file - June 4, 1955 Parker, Arizona" Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6964927/parker-arizona-blank-page-1-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>

May 8, 1952 Atlantic Ocean off Jacksonville, Fla.

May 8, 1952--Atlantic Ocean off Jacksonville, Fla. Pan- American Airways pilot and copilot saw light, 10 times the size of a landing light, come head-on, streak past left wing. [V]

I could not find the entry for this sighting in Section V.

Source material

While NICAP does not give us any additional information, the sighting can be found in the Blue Book files. It was also mentioned in Blue Book Special Report number 7 (Appendix III). I could not find any reference to the event in the Newspaper archive. Ruppelt's book, which may be the source for the NICAP entry, devotes three pages to the sighting. This is his description of the event:

One such message came in about 4:30 A.M. on May 8, 1952. It was from a CAA radio station in Jacksonville, Florida, and had been forwarded over the Flight Service teletype net. I received the usual telephone call from the teletype room at Wright-Patterson, I think I got dressed, and went out and picked up the message. As I signed for it I remember the night man in the teletype room said, "This is a lulu, Captain."

It was a lulu. About one o'clock that morning a Pan-American airlines DC-4 was flying south toward Puerto Rico. A few hours after it had left New York City it was out over the Atlantic Ocean, about 600 miles off Jacksonville, Florida, flying at 8,000 feet. It was a pitch-black night; a high overcast even cut out the glow from the stars. The pilot and copilot were awake but really weren't concentrating on looking for other aircraft because they had just passed into the San Juan Oceanic Control Area and they had been advised by radio that there were no other airplanes in the area. The copilot was turning around to look at number four engine when he noticed a light up ahead. It looked like the taillight of another airplane. He watched it closely for a few seconds since no other airplanes were supposed to be in the area. He glanced out at number four engine for a few seconds, looked back, and he saw that the light was in about the same position as when he'd first seen it. Then he looked down at the prop controls, synchronized the engines, and looked up again. In the few seconds that he had glanced away from the light, it had moved to the right so that it was now directly ahead of the DC-4, and it had increased in size. The copilot reached over and slapped the pilot on the shoulder and pointed. Just at that instant the light began to get bigger and bigger until it was "ten times the size of a landing light of an airplane." It continued to close in and with a flash it streaked by the DC-4's left wing. Before the crew could react and say anything, two more smaller balls of fire flashed by. Both pilots later said that they sat in their seats for several seconds with sweat trickling down their backs.

It was one of these two pilots who later said, "Were you ever traveling along the highway about 70 miles an hour at night, have the car that you were meeting suddenly swerve over into your lane and then cut back so that you just miss it by inches? You know the sort of sick, empty feeling you get when it's all over? That's just the way we felt."

As soon as the crew recovered from the shock, the pilot picked up his mike, called Jacksonville Radio, and told them about the incident. Minutes later we had the report. The next afternoon Lieutenant Kerry Rothstien, who had replaced Lieutenant Metscher on the project, was on his way to New York to meet the pilots when they returned from Puerto Rico.

When Kerry talked to the two pilots, they couldn't add a great deal to their original story. Their final comment was the one we all had heard so many times, "I always thought these people who reported flying saucers were crazy, but now I don't know."

When Lieutenant Rothstien returned to Dayton he triple-checked with the CAA for aircraft in the area—but there were none. Could there have been airplanes in the area that CAA didn't know about? The answer was almost a flat "No." No one would fly 600 miles off the coast without filing a flight plan; if he got into trouble or went down, the Coast Guard or Air Rescue Service would have no idea where to look.

Kerry was given the same negative answer when he checked on surface shipping.

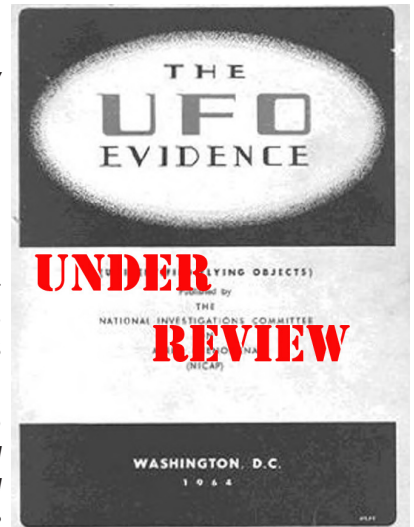
The last possibility was that the UFO's were meteors, but several points in the pilots' story ruled these out. First, there was a solid overcast at about 18,000 feet. No meteor cruises along straight and level below 18,000 feet. Second, on only rare occasions have meteors been seen traveling three in trail. The chances of seeing such a phenomenon are well over one in a billion.

Some people have guessed that some kind of an atmospheric phenomenon can form a "wall of air" ahead of an airplane that will act as a mirror and that lights seen at night by pilots are nothing more than the reflection of the airplane's own lights. This could be true in some cases, but to have a reflection you must have a light to reflect. There are no lights on an airplane that even approach being "ten times the size of a landing light."

What was it? I know a colonel who says it was the same thing that the two Eastern Airlines' pilots, Clarence Chiles and John Whitted, saw near Montgomery, Alabama, on July 24, 1948, and he thinks that Chiles and Whitted saw a spaceship.²

Brad Sparks also lists the case in his list of Blue Book Unknowns. His entry reads:

May 8, 1952. Atlantic, 600 miles E of Jacksonville, Florida (at 31°20' N, 70° W). 2:27 a.m. (EST?) Pilot Capt. Cent and copilot 1st officer Gallagher of Pan Am Flight 203 flying DC-4 airliner at 8,000 ft on 180° heading from NYC to San Juan, Puerto Rico, saw brilliant white

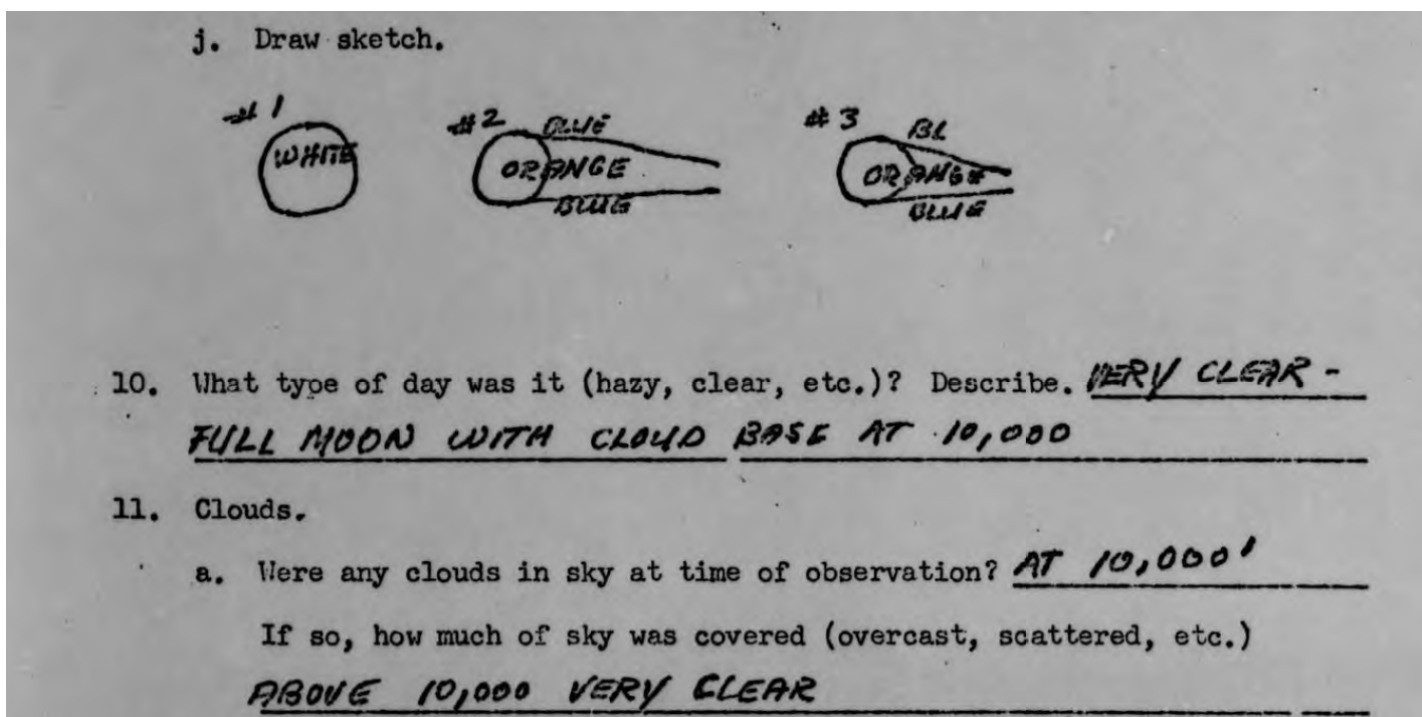


approaching from the left below the solid overcast at 10,000 ft. and streak by the left [?] wing at 1/8 to 1/4 mile, followed by 2 smaller orange balls of fire.³

After reading the Ruppelt and Sparks entry one would probably classify this as a true UFO. The Blue Book record card shows it originally classified as "unknown" but then reclassified as a meteor. There is even a handwritten note at the bottom that states "Obvious meteor"! One wonders how one can classify this meteor if there was a solid overcast as stated by Sparks and Ruppelt. A closer examination of the Blue Book file explains why.

While the file contains several initial teletype messages regarding the sighting, as well as a summary, the most important piece of information is the form filled out by the Co-pilot.⁴ He took the time to actually complete the form properly and it clears up a great many things that were open to speculation in the summary/teletypes, which were not very specific.

- The time was 0227 EDT (0627 Z). The teletype states it was 0534Z.
- The object went from south to north and was at the same level as the aircraft. It appeared suddenly and lasted a few seconds before going out of the line of sight of the crew.
- The object was actually three objects (See sketch). The first object was very bright (ten times the size of an aircraft landing light) and the two following it were smaller and appeared orange with blue edges.



- The apparent altitude was 15,000 feet and was 1/8 to 1/4 mile off the port wing. The implication of this altitude estimate was the plane was also flying at 15,000 feet since he stated that they were both at the same altitude/level.
- The weather was listed as "Very clear - Full moon with cloud base at 10,000".
- In his comments, the Co-pilot stated, "No similarity to meteor or any other familiar object or phenomenon. First object much whiter and brighter than landing light".

The Teletype message reveals the flight was en route from New York to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Blue Book investigated by asking the Navy if they had any missile, or other, activity in the area. They replied there was none.

There is no additionally information in the file or in Special report number 7.

Analysis

This solution reveals itself once we read the Co-Pilot's report. The aircraft was flying to the south and saw the object come from the south and pass off the port wing. The plane was at 15,000 feet, which was 5,000 feet ABOVE the overcast cloud cover. The UFO was composed of three "craft" with two fainter ones in trail behind the brighter object. The objects did not deviate course.

I agree with the handwritten note on the record card. This is an obvious meteor. It had all the characteristics with a straight level flight and short duration. The only reason Ruppelt classified this as unknown was probably because it reinforced his conclusions about Chiles-Whitted, which was also probably a meteor. I have no idea why he chose to say the aircraft was beneath the overcast, when the co-pilot stated they were flying in clear skies above the cloud layer. This was probably an extremely bright fireball that had fragmented into three pieces. This type of bright fragmenting meteor is unusual and can explain why the co-pilot felt it was

something with which he was not familiar. Many people who see such meteors often make that kind of remark since they are used to seeing only meteors that quickly fade out and are not excessively bright.

Conclusion

Over the years, I have begun to question the reliability of Ruppelt's accounts. Many of his entries appeared to be based on the files but sometimes omit key details or tend to exaggerate the exotic nature of these reports. I can only assume this was done in order to make mundane sightings appear more spectacular and unexplainable. By doing this, Ruppelt could sell his book to a wide audience wanted to hear all about UFO stories. The sad part about it is that subsequent UFO "researchers" accept Ruppelt as gospel instead of looking further. This event again demonstrates that Ruppelt's accounts should be verified before considering them factual. This was probably a meteor and should be removed from the Weinstein catalog, NICAP's UFO evidence, and Sparks' list of Blue Book unknowns.

Notes and references

1. Hall, Richard M. (Ed.) The UFO evidence. The National Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). New York: Barnes and Noble. 1997. P. 132
2. Ruppelt 133-135
3. Sparks. P. 131
4. "Case file - ". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9612806/atlantic-ocean-blank-page-1-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>

THE 701 CLUB: CASE #1198 ELLENTON, SOUTH CAROLINA MAY 10, 1952

Don Berliner's list describes the case as follows:

May 10, 1952; Ellenton, South Carolina. 10:45 p.m. Witnesses: 4 Dupont employees at the Savannah River nuclear plant. Up to four yellow, disc-shaped objects were seen on five occasions between 10:45 and shortly after 11:15.¹

Brad Sparks adds that one object pulled up to avoid hitting ground objects.²

The Blue Book file³

The Blue Book file consists of only a few pages and most of it is just a report based on an interview of the four eyewitnesses by the FBI.

- The four witnesses saw four disc-shaped objects approach the plant from the south at 2245.
- They saw two more come from the south at 2305
- At 2310, one object was seen to go from NE to SW.
- The last object came from the south and headed north at 2315.
- The objects were estimated to be 15-inches in diameter and were gold in color.
- All the objects traveled at high speed and high altitude. No noise was heard.
- The object from the northeast was traveling at low altitude and had to increase altitude to avoid some tanks.
- The objects were visible for only a few seconds and weaved from left to right.

Analysis

The record card speculates that these could have been ducks but they had no proof. The estimated size is awful small and, if accurate, tends to indicate birds, of some kind, as a possible answer.

It is not clear where the Dupont plant was exactly located but it seems it was in the general vicinity of the nuclear facility associated with the Savannah River Project. This why the FBI chose to investigate. The location of the Savannah River project is in an area that was mostly swamp and lakes adjacent to the Savannah river. This makes it a place for where water fowl tend to congregate.

The flight paths of the objects tend to indicate birds as a potential explanation. They tended to weave in flight and, when confronted with an object, they rose to fly above it. The gold color may had a lot to do with the lighting in the area. The belly of the birds would reflect light and take on the color of the light beneath them.

Migrating birds do fly at night and, for Georgia and South Carolina, there is a significant amount of migratory activity in early to mid-May. Four out of the five sightings had the objects traveling northward, which is the path migrating birds would take. The one sighting that was not heading south was described as flying low and having to avoid some tanks. This may have been a bird that



My brother, Brian Printy, took this picture of the Budapest parliament center at night during his vacation. The small lights above the building are birds.

had gotten disoriented by the lighting in the area. Artificial lighting plays havoc with migrating birds. This is why Georgia's Audubon's society has a "lights out campaign" running from March 15 to May 31 in the spring and August 15 to November 15 in the fall.⁴ The reduction in artificial lighting helps the migration patterns of the birds at night.

This video shows the migration of birds at night for May 7, 2009.⁵ There is a concentration in the Savannah river area around the time of night the sighting happened. Other data shows that the top 5 migration flight maps for the spring of 2021 were in early to mid-May.⁶ Georgia had a pretty dense pattern early during this time period. The concentration towards mid-May was not as great but it was still significant.

Conclusion

There is not enough information to tell exactly what was seen but there is a reasonable possibility that what was seen were birds of some kind being illuminated by ground lighting. They acted like birds and it was during the peak migration period for birds. I would change this classification from "Unidentified" to "possible birds". Therefore, it should be removed from the list of Blue Book unknowns.

Notes and references

1. Berliner, Don. "The Bluebook Unknowns". NICAP Available WWW: <http://www.nicap.org/bluebook/unknowns.htm>
2. Sparks, Brad. Comprehensive Catalog of 1,700 Project Blue Book UFO Unknowns: Database Catalog Not a Best Evidence List -NEW: List of Projects & Blue Book Chiefs Work in Progress Version 1.30. Jan. 26, 2020. P. 132
3. "Casefile-". Fold3 website. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9613233/ellenton-south-carolina-blank-page-1-project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
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The Ariel School UFO: A Dust Devil?

Oliver D. Smith

On September 16, 1994, around sixty children at Ariel School, Zimbabwe claimed to have seen a UFO and humanoid figures. Few of the eyewitnesses reported observing the UFO in the sky; instead, most described the UFO on the ground among trees in a grass area (approximately 200 meters) from the school playground (Wiser, 2022a). The humanoids were reported to have been adjacent to, or on top of the UFO; the Ariel School UFO incident has therefore been categorized as a close encounter of the third kind (Hesemann, 2000). Skeptics have argued that the children misidentified a prosaic phenomenon; the most novel suggestion so far are puppets (Reid, 2022).

Hitherto no meteorological phenomenon has been suggested. This is surprising considering the reports, including drawings, made by the children of the UFO and humanoids plausibly suggest a dust devil. Furthermore, there is physical evidence which supports the dust devil hypothesis.

Dust devils (or dust whirls) are whirlwinds created “when highly unstable, superheated, dry air near the ground... shoots upward” (Cooley, 1971, p. 2). These updrafts of air form vortices on flat, dry ground and are made visible by dust particles they pick up. In many cases, dust devils last a few minutes before dissipating. They range in height from one meter (a few feet) to over a thousand meters. The following table compares several of the eyewitness reports by children of the Ariel School UFO quoted or paraphrased by the MUFON field investigator Cynthia Hind in her book *UFOs Over Africa* (1996) to common features of dust devils. Most notable are the reports that describe the UFO as making a whirring sound, rotating (“going round and round”), hovering, disappearing into the air above ground (as if dissipating) and a strong gush of wind.

Fifi (aged 10) and her friends saw a “small white looking object land about 100 meters from where they were (later estimates said it was 200 meters away.) It then came closer and had a sort of golden color about it. It glowed.” (Hind, 1996, p. 222)	Dust devils are usually white or golden/yellow in color. If dust particles caught in the vortices become electrostatically charged, they can cause a luminous effect (i.e., glow). This phenomenon has also been observed in tornadoes (Vonnegut and Weyer, 1966).
Guy (aged 11) said “I saw this craft among the trees, and it had multicolors with black, green and silver stripes.” (Hind, 1996, p. 224)	Dust devils can pick up debris (tree branches, leaves etc) which might explain the multicolored “stripes”.
“...when we spoke to the other children, that all said that when this [UFO] landing happened, a very strong wind passed over them.” (Hind, 1996, p. 226)	Although ~200 meters away, it is possible the children felt a strong wind from the dust devil.
“...children said they heard a ‘whirr-whirr’ noise... Fifi... could hear this whirring...” (Hind, 1996, p. 226)	Dust devils make a whirring sound.
Candace and her three friends reported seeing “a silver object among the tree” as well as hearing a “flute, sort of like flute-noise...” (Hind, 1996, p. 226)	Some whirlwinds make acoustic noises linked to electromagnetic fields (Meaden, 1991, p. 37).
Munyaradzi said, “when he looked, he saw this ship which had a pattern on it; purple and green, and it was going round and round.” (Hind, 1996, p. 226)	The round and round motion describes a whirlwind.
Fungai (aged 11) “did not think the machines [UFOs] had landed; he was sure they hovered just above the ground.” (Hind, 1996, p. 230)	Dust devils form from the ground (not from clouds like tornadoes) and they can move as if they hover.

Omitted from this table are the eyewitness reports by Barry and Tertia (Hind, 1996, pp. 223-225) since these did not take place on September 16, 1994, but the day before (a small number of children at Ariel School reported seeing UFOs on September 15, 1994). The main difference between these reports is the earlier describe objects in the sky, while the UFO on the following day was seldom reported as being seen in the sky but on the ground (or hovering just above it). Unlike tornadoes whose vortices are invariably connected to clouds, the vortices of dust devils emerge upwards from the ground. None of the eyewitnesses described the UFO as flying away but disappearing; one child, Emma described the UFO disappearing into the air off the ground (Wiser, 2022a). This is consistent with a dust devil dissipating and the description of the UFO “glowing” in color can additionally be explained by a dust devil – in the sense dust caught in whirlwinds often becomes electrostatically charged producing a magnetic field (Perkins, 2003).

One might ask how a dust devil can explain the reports of humanoids (adjacent to, or on top of the UFO). These reports and drawings suggest a probable, albeit mundane explanation: a tree branch with hanging fruit caught in the dust devil. One eyewitness, Fiona (aged 9) realized the humanoids could have been merely “a branch or something like that” (Hind, 1995). She herself reported only observing something dark on a “strange object” i.e., the UFO. Another child drew what they described as “a branch or the thing, the part of the alien where it was sitting” (Wiser, 2022b). Some of the children’s drawings depict humanoids as branch-like objects

(see fig. 1, 2, 3), while at least one drawing appears to show a whirlwind (see fig. 4). The children were ~200 meters (over 650 feet) from the site of the UFO which accounts for misperceptions. One eyewitness, Guy (aged 11) described observing a humanoid with eyes lowdown on their face (Hind, 1996, p. 225). Multiple drawings show humanoids with long (or stick) hair and big eyes.



Figure 1. Drawings by multiple children (Wiser, 2022b) showing trees and two humanoids as branch-like objects.

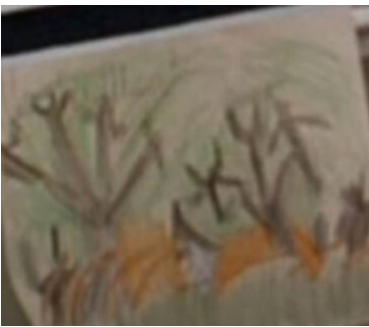


Figure 2. Drawing by one of the children (Wiser, 2022b) showing trees and two or three humanoids as branch-like objects.



Figure 3. Drawing by one of the children (Wiser, 2022b) showing trees and one humanoid as a branch-like object.



Figure 4. Drawing by one of the children (Wiser, 2022b) which appears to show a whirlwind.

What these children observed was arguably a branch with hanging fruit caught in the vortex of the dust devil. Hanging fruit further explains drawings by children of “large, dark, slanted eyes lowdown on the face” of a humanoid (Hind, 1996, p. 228). One drawing (see fig. 6) is clearly interpretable as a hanging fruit branch in a dust devil. There are trees native to Zimbabwe with hanging fruits; in the region of Ariel School (Ruwa) are notably *Strychnos spinose*. The site of the UFO was investigated by Cynthia Hind a few days after the incident. Hind described this grassy area beyond the school playground as consisting of “bush undergrowth with numerous indigenous trees and tall grasses” (Hind, 1996, p. 223). She pointed out this zone was forbidden to the children because it is dense and contains snakes and scorpions. Vegetation of the same area has changed since 1994 but it is reasonable to presume there were trees with hanging fruits.



Figure 5. Strychnos spinose in Zimbabwe (photo by Damien Farrell).

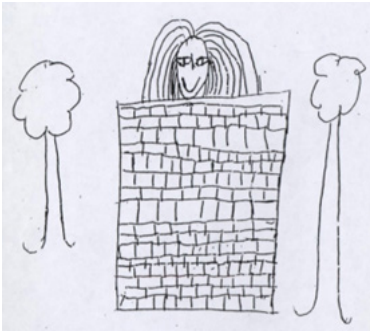


Figure 6. Drawing by one of the children (Wiser, 2022b) interpretable as tree branch and hanging fruit caught in the dust devil with surrounding trees.

Dust devils are a rare phenomenon in most parts of the world, but in deserts and dry-land areas with hot temperatures they are a fairly common occurrence. Dust devils have been observed in Zimbabwe (see fig. 7). While they do not form in dense vegetation areas, a map of the supposed UFO site at Ariel School, shows it lying right next to a path or dirt track (Hind, 1994) which is where the dust devil would have formed. On September 16, 1994, the ground of this area was hard, owing to severe drought (Wiser, 2022a). Hind's map of the UFO site interestingly shows two elliptical shapes. The photographer Gunter Hofer (who accompanied Hind to the site) took photos and described an "oval indentation in the long grass" and "two oval shapes" (Boswell and Sharp, 2022). Hofer in a 2021 interview, noted these oval impressions, flattened the grass. Both were spiraled and had a clockwise rotation (Hofer, 2022). In a separate interview with Daily Mail, he mentions the close proximity of these oval-shaped impressions to the dirt track:

"Zimbabwe was going through a drought for quite a few years. It's very dry and hard ground. So, a couple of days later, I took the opportunity to go and see the other parts of the ground to see if I could find anything else. But it was a lot of grass that end. And I found, over this side, two oval shapes: one small oval and one larger oval. Now the larger one crossed over a path. So, it kind of had a division through that path. And the small one was in there. And I remember seeing that there was a slight swirl to the oval – to both ovals."

These elliptical shapes (with swirl patterns) in the grass are physical evidence of a dust devil. Whirlwinds as rotating columns of air can leave impressions in the ground and can explain so-called crop circles (Randles and Fuller, 1993, pp. 113-114). That is, if they form on dry land, but move to vegetation (e.g., corn fields) before dissipating. Most crop circles are undoubtedly hoaxes (Nickell, 2002) but a small number are made by dust devils. In 1909, an eyewitness in France reported to the magazine L'Astronomie a whirlwind having created a circular shape on the ground (Randles and Fuller, 1993, p. 221). Most eyewitnesses of the UFO at Ariel School describe it as either stationary or moving slightly (hovering). Some dust devils are more or less stationary (Cooley, 1971, pp. 14-15). The oval impressions left on the ground in the grass area beyond the playground, suggest the dust devil moved only a small distance from the dirt track.



Figure 7. A dust devil on a dirt track in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (photo by The Chronicle, October 18, 2018).

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Project Blue Book case review: April-July 1967

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering April through July 1967. Like the previous evaluations, I tried to examine each case to see if the conclusion had merit. I added comments to help clarify the explanation or if I felt it was not correct or adequate. Those marked in red are cases where there were photographs involved.

April 1967

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Apr	Ventnor, NJ	V: Conflicting data P: Foreign material on negative	V: Agreed. Witnesses were 9 and 10 year olds giving conflicting information of sighting. P: Agreed. Photographs show specks on prints that look like dust on negative.
Apr	Levittown, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter requesting photos of UFOs and stated they had two such photographs. Witness never responded to request for photographs they possessed.
Apr-Aug	Denville, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. 11-year old reporting three different sightings during the time period. Submitted in February 1968. No dates and very limited on specific information.
1	Fairplay, CO	Aircraft	Agreed. Possible helicopter.
1	Tuscon, AZ	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 58
1	South Wellington, TX	Psychological	Agreed. Hynek wrote extensively to Blue Book about this.
1	New Orleans, LA	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	Agreed. Whatever was photographed was close to camera. 16-year old
2	Falls, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Young individual giving vague information about their sighting.
2	Shively, KY	Aircraft	Agreed. 14-year old.
2	Sacramento, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
3	Pittsburgh, PA	Aircraft	Agreed. Possibly an advertising aircraft. Witnesses were in moving vehicles when observing object as it passed in and out of view.
3	Springfield, OH	Venus	Agreed
3	Colorado Springs, CO	Venus	Agreed
3	Roseville, MI	Birds	Agreed
3	Omaha, NE	Aircraft	Agreed
3 & 11	Camden, OH	Venus	Agreed
3-11	Kalida, OH	Venus	Agreed. 15-year old
4	Pensacola, FL	Saturn	Mercury. Saturn too close to sun. Mercury just approaching greatest western elongation and visible in direction observed.
4	Youngstown, OH	Meteor	Agreed. 13-year old.
4	Hatboro, PA	Aircraft	Agreed. 13-year old
4	Hayesville, NC	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1. 15-year old.
4	Wheeling, WV	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Appears to be based on a phone call report. No additional information available. Note: Record card states it is Fairborn, Ohio, which is adjacent to Dayton. There is no record card for Dayton on this date.
4	Denver, CO	Sirius	Agreed
4	Las Vegas, NV	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.

4	Creswell, OR	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witness report is confusing. Stated object went south at high speed but was visible for 20 minutes. On azimuth plot, they have the object moving towards the east.
4	Queens Village, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No time listed and directions of flight not given. Report submitted in January 1968. 12-year old.
4	St. Joseph, MI	Insufficient data	Agreed. Submitted in January 1968. No details in letter that appears to have been written by teen/tween.
5	Plaza, CO	Venus	Venus had already set. Visible 5 minutes moving in NW sky. Satellite Echo 2.
5	Westminster, CO	Insufficient data	Aircraft
5	Old Bridge, NJ	V: Conflicting data P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. Witnesses (12 and 13-year olds) could not get date of event correct. P: Suspected hoax. Looks like a small circular object that was tossed in air and photographed.
5	Denver, CO	Venus	Agreed
6	Wilberforce, OH	Insufficient data	Possible ground light/spot light reflecting off low clouds.
6	Denver, CO	Venus	Agreed
6	Albuquerque, NM	Strobe light	NO CASE FILE
7	Opalocka, FL	Aircraft	Agreed. CG helicopter.
7	Toledo, OH	Aircraft	Venus. Object visible in NW for 20 minutes. Slowly descending with some perceived rapid motion. 15-year old.
7	Turnersfalls, MA	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
7	Spartanburg, SC	Aircraft	Agreed. 14-year old.
7	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported spaceship landing with 25 little men getting out and collecting samples. Sounded like individual was a teen or tween but no age given. Photographs were supposedly taken and a long object with blinking red light retrieved. (The file contains another sighting from this date completed by 18-year old which was possibly the Echo 2 satellite)
7	Eglin AFB, FL	Meteor	Agreed
7	Mill City, OR	Venus	Agreed
8	Riverside, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. 10-year old.
8	Westbury, NY	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon. 16-year old.
8	Malvern Hill, VA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
9	Mesa, AZ	V: Balloon P: Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
9-23	Pipstone, MN	1. Satellite 2. Satellite	Agreed. Witness described three sightings (one on 9 Apr and 2 on 23 Apr. 9 April was possibly Echo 1. 23 April sighting was Echo 2 and possibly Cosmos 58.
10	Austin, TX	1. Satellite 2. Satellite	1. Agreed. Echo 1 2. Agreed. Echo 2
10	Austin, TX	Meteor	Agreed
10-11	Houma, LA	V: Insufficient data R: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. Sightings given but lack specifics regarding objects. Second night listed as being seen "all night" in the east but it moved west and south Could have been Mars (which was near opposition and bright). R: Agreed. Radar target did not agree with target seen on first night. On second radar target in same general location as the first night.

11	Kalida, OH	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Venus or Jupiter (Note: Witness had sketched it going from East to West but put south to north on azimuth chart). 18-year old.
11	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possible satellite. Possibly Cosmos 142.
11	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft
11	Trotwood, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
11-12	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter setting in west. Witness saw object for two hours out their window on two nights before it disappeared behind building.
12	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made by telephone call. No additional information available.
12	Cherryville, NC	Aircraft	Possible moon set seen through hazy skies. Reported as formation of lights. Witness looking in direction of moon and Venus. 16-year old.
12	Phoenix, AZ	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
13	Monaca, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Shockatown, MD	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
13	Fort Erwin, CA	Satellite Decay	Possible rocket launch. Molczan does not have it on his list. Launch of Scout 1 rocket from Vandenberg around same time. Only witness form has event towards East going south. Rocket launch would be to west going south. It is possible witness got directions wrong.
14	Hicksville, NY	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloons
14	Byrdstown, TN	Birds	Agreed
14	Granville, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 13-year old
14	Greenup, KY	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
14	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported 10-minute sighting of red blinking light with no additional information. 18-year old
Mid-Apr	Hobert, IN	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported one month later and gave no date or specific time. Echo 1 making passes around 8PM (CST) each night during the time period. 14-year old.
15	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness apparently called report in but gave little details and never returned form mailed to them.
15	Tuscon, AZ	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 2 satellite. Witness stated event lasted 30 minutes. Echo 2 visible for 15 minutes but trajectory was very similar to track described. 12-year old.
16	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
16	Silver Springs, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 2 satellite. Witness gave course as NE to N (form appears to have been filled out in real time via phone communication). Echo 2 traveling towards NE at time of sighting.
16-21	Topeka, KS	Aircraft	Possible Echo 2 satellite. Witness listed seeing it in NW going north every night between 9:15-9:30 PM on the dates given. Echo 2 made passes around 9:30 on 16, 18, 20 and passes around 8:50 on 17, 19, and 21.
17	Rawlins, WY	Meteor	Agreed
17	Jefferson City, MO	Sirius	Agreed
17	Jefferson City, MO	1. Balloon 2. Sirius	Agreed. Prank fire balloon. Originally classified as Unidentified but hoaxers revealed themselves. Sirius sighting is related to other entry for Jefferson City above.

17	Fort Carson, CO	Balloon	Agreed
17	Near Salem, VA	V: Hoax P: Insufficient data	Agreed to both. Witness stated two witnesses saw event. Witnesses denied seeing event. 14- year old. Photograph submitted. Image is blurry and suffers from camera motion during photograph.
18	Tucson, AZ	Balloon	Moon setting. Witness described it as orange, with the upper 1/3rd missing and dark markings. Moon was just past first quarter and low in WNW at time of sighting. Visible 15 minutes. Zulu time incorrect. Time was 0130 MST = 0830 Z (not 0730Z)
18	Minneapolis, MN	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
19	El Cajon, CA	Aircraft	Possible flares. Saw yellow-orange lights in a string to the NW (direction of ocean). They disappeared behind clouds with little or no motion for two minutes.
19	Rochester, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Wilzer, AL	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
19	Burney, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Pageos-1
20	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness reported seeing three red lights visible for 3-5 minutes. No directions/course.
21	South Hill, VA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Toms River, NJ	Satellite	Sun had not set. Possible Aircraft. Witness gave conflicting data as direction listed as N-S but sketch indicates S-N. 14-year old
22	Hymera, IN	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
22	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
22	Westmont, IL	Balloon	Agreed. 17-year old.
23	Reading, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Triangle, VA	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft	Insufficient data. Confusing report by 15-year old. Event lasted 3-4 hours but two separate UFOs. Witness did not define which events took how much time and what directions were associated with which event. Teletype message also unclear on specifics about event.
24	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
24	Titusville, FL	V: Insufficient data P: Stars/Planets	V: Agreed. Witness description is sketchy and not clear. It could have been the star Deneb but there is not enough information. P: Agreed. Objects on film are just spots on dark background. Analysis determined to be stars.
25	Port Chester, NY	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness may have seen helicopter. Witness also reported sighting a month before. 16-year old
25	Hadley, MA	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
26	Tempe, AZ	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
26	Creston, IA	Aircraft	Agreed. 15-year old.
26	Columbia, MO	Parachute Jump	Sirius. Parachute jump explanation would be possible if seen in daytime. Second sighting on 29th was probably Procyon.
26	Hilo, HI	Balloon	Agreed
27	Green Mountain Falls, CO	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation. This may have been observation of Pageos-1.
27	Green Lake, WI	Venus	NO CASE FILE
27	Colorado Springs, CO	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2 satellite

28	Willimsett, MA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44 RB. 14-year old
29	Westway, Hartdale, NY	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2. 15-year old
29	Cheviot, OH	Meteor	Agreed
30	Newburgh, NY	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. The source of the photographs and sighting were 13 and 14-year olds. The information provided is limited with no directions/positional data.. P: Agreed. Disk shaped object in sky .It could have been a Frisbee or it could have been an alien spaceship.
30	Austin, TX	Venus	Agreed
30	Colorado Springs, CO	Meteor	Agreed
30	South Dartmouth, MA	V: Hoax P: Hoax	Agreed. This looks like a crude hoax using a model suspended from branches. Object is in front of tree limbs close to photographer. 14-year old.

May 1967

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Summer	Brentwood, Long Island, NY	Unreliable report	Agreed. No specific date and time given as approximate.
Summer	Philadelphia, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report made in June of 1968 with no date or time.
May	Brockaway, PA	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness does not give a specific date and time. Characteristics are of a satellite but cannot be verified.
May	McKeesport, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. File only contains letter written on 19 May and witness mentions a sighting "last week" with very few details that could be used for analysis. Appears to have been a youth.
May	Los Gatos, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness gave no date other than first week in May. Positional data also missing.
2	Dayton, OH	Sirius	NO CASE FILE
3	Walker Valley, NY	1. Aircraft 2. Venus	Agreed
3	Oberlin, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Initial report did not include positional data
3	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness called OOD but did not provide adequate information. Did not return report forms.
4	Williamston, MI	Chaff	Agreed. Physical specimen examined and identified.
4	Euclid, OH	Aircraft	Agreed.
4	Cincinnati, OH	Venus	Agreed
5	Pine Grove, CA	Deneb	Agreed
6	Kettering, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
6	St. Louis, MO	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not submit negatives. Taken with instamatic camera. Some shutter blur. Object not very clear but hat-shaped. Could have been object tossed and then photographed.
6	Mountainside, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness listed age as "boy" and claimed to have photograph but never submitted. Information provided indicated possible aircraft.
7	Paris, TX	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration and description limited. Indication that there was a radar contact but radar site reported no contact on their radar.
7	Little Rock, AR	Stars/Planets	Agreed. Possibly Jupiter, Castor, and Pollux. Zulu time incorrect. With DST, Zulu time is 0320Z not 0420Z.
8	Nauvoo, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old
8	North Glen, CO	Venus	Agreed

9	East Memphis, TN	Aircraft with advertising lights	Agreed
9	Jewfish Creek, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Indianapolis, IN	Insufficient data	Venus
9	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Agreed. There were three reports in a teletype message. Each did not supply adequate information for analysis.
9	Los Lunas, NM	Helicopter	Agreed
11	Fairborn, OH	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness made report to base OOD but, when contacted, witness could not remember making the report and remarked that she had made so many UFO reports that she could not remember them all.
12	Sullivan, IN	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness interviewed and claimed many things that seemed more exaggeration than factual.
12	Galion, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
13	Webster, ME	Insufficient data	V: Possible aircraft P: Agreed. Photograph just shows blobs of light and out of focus point sources. Main blob could be an internal reflection.
13	Ventnor, NJ	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. There were no photographs in the file. I suspect that the photographs mentioned are the photographs from the Webster Maine case.
14	Downers Grove, IL	Meteor	Agreed
14	Detroit, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Nauvoo, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. 13-year old
16	West Caldwell, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation. It is possible it was a sighting of Venus. 12-year old.
17	Xenia, OH	1. Jupiter 2. Aircraft	1. Agreed 2. Agreed
17	New Rochelle, NY	Aircraft w/Landing lights	Agreed. 17-year old.
17	Shade, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness did not give positional data to determine course. 15-year old.
17	Jackson, MS	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed
17	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
17	Rural Hall, NC	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
18	Jupiter, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Riverside, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
19	Kirksville, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
19	Lexington, KY	Static Electricity	Agreed. The image is an erratic line of light that could either be static electricity or processing defect. 13-year old saw image in photograph after development. Did not see it visually.
19	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Ontario, OR	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
22	Cabot, AR	Venus	Agreed
22	Commerce City, CO	Balloon	Agreed
23	Cornwellis Heights, PA	Venus	Agreed. 11-year old.
24	McMinnville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
24	Englewood, CO	Balloon	Possibly Venus seen through clouds.

25	Sioux City, IA	Aircraft	Possibly Mars. Witness stated object was green/white with red glow, to the south, and stationary. Witness driving her car when she saw object.
25	Las Vegas, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
26	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Witness wrote duration as 15-20 minutes but clarified in remarks that it was 15-20 seconds with rapid motion.
26	Dayton, OH	Moon	Agreed
27	Kirkville, MO	Moon	Agreed
27	Fairborn, Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
28	Emmett, ID	Hoax	Agreed. Boys, 13 and 15-years old, admitted to hoax after investigation.
28	Lynnbrook, NY	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness stated it was visible for 10-15 seconds in letter but later stated it was 10-15 minutes in his report. His letter seemed to indicate slow motion. Visible vapor trail indicates it probably was aircraft. 16-year old.
31	Paterson, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
31	Shreveport, LA	Aircraft	Agreed. 13-year old
31	Paterson, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed. 14-year old.

June 1967

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
June	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date/time. 14-year old.
June	Osceloa Mills, PA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific date.
1	San Juan, CA	V: Hoax P: Insufficient data	Agreed. 9 and 12-year old told story of landing and "little people" taking them aboard their spacecraft. Photographs were probably hoaxed objects and appeared to be small man-made objects. Witnesses did not release negatives for analysis.
2	McKeesport, PA	Conflicting data	Possible meteor. 14 and 15-year old.
3	Lincoln, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. 11 and 15-year old
4	Karthus, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
4	Security, CO	Balloon	Agreed
4	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus, Jupiter, and Pollux. 16-year old
4	Indian Hills, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus.
4	Bethany, DE	Hoax	Agreed. Two different forms filled out by the same person attempting to look like two different people.
5	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
5	Mesa, AZ	Birds	Agreed
5	Rego Park, NY	Balloon	Agreed
5	Roaring Springs, TX	Ball Lightning	Meteor
10	Enon, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 13-year old
11	Phoenix, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12	Buffalo, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not provide positional data or photograph they claimed to have. It is possible this was an aircraft glint. Actual date was 12 July. Record card states 12 June.
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
12	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed. 14-year old.
12	Dayton, OH	Mars	Agreed
12	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
14	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 58. 14-year old.

14	Landers, CA	V: Not observed P: Processing defect	Agreed. Witness did not see object when photograph taken. Image appears to be some sort of processing defect and not a real object.
15	Seattle, WA	Balloon	Agreed. 13-year old.
16	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1.
16-17	Chicago, IL	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Agreed. Not established as aircraft with advertising sign but has characteristics of aircraft.
17	Phoenix, AZ	Meteor	Agreed. 12-year old
17	Xenia, OH	Insufficient data	Possible Cosmos 44 and Echo 2. Cosmos 44 disappeared over the northern horizon. A few minutes later, Echo 2 appeared in the same general location.
17	Sassafras River, MD	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Colorado	V: Reflection P: Reflection	Agreed
19	Excelsior, MN	V: Venus/Jupiter P: Venus/Jupiter	Agreed. Images show two lights that are not pinpoint due to shutter blur caused by operator. Lights in same positions as Jupiter and Venus.
20	Denver, IA	Satellite	Agreed. Cosmos 44 RB.
20	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1, Cosmos 44, and Cosmos 44 rocket body were all along similar tracks within 30 minutes of the reporting time.
20	Madawaska Lake, ME	Aircraft	Agreed
21	Saratoga Springs, NY	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
21	Tulsa, OK	Insufficient data	Agreed for first sighting. Missing duration and indication of angular displacement before going into clouds. Seen at sunset and could have been aircraft glint. Second sighting could possibly be Echo 1 satellite (time only listed as about three hours later). 16-year old reporting in letter.
21	Las Vegas, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
22	Las Vegas, NV	Satellite (Echo 1)	NO CASE FILE
23	Manchester, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft. This is same as 23-30 (see below). While the details are limited, the witness is reporting seeing multiple UFOs every night on multiple nights. They act like aircraft.
23	Cloverdale, IN	Conflicting data	Agreed. One witness stated it went SE the other stated it went NW. Duration suggests that it was possibly astronomical and could have been Arcturus.
23	Nauvoo, IL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2. 13-year old.
23	Oakgrove, OR	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 157. 14-year old.
23	Saratoga, NY	V: Aircraft P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Photographs show multiple small arcs bunched close together. Probably pinpoints of light blurred by shutter action. Negative not submitted for analysis.
23-30	Manchester, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Fort Lupton, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus. Witness gave no direction but Venus visible in the west and witness remarked he has seen same UFO for the last two months.
24	Austin, TX	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Van Nuys, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No positional data. 17-year old.
25	Bristol, TN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Date listed as July 5 in letter and location was actually Glade Spring, VA (witness from Bristol, TN). 14-year old.
25	Dagget, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only form in the record appears to be from officer who took phone call report. Missing pertinent positional data.

26	Aurora, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing time and positional data. Form sent but not returned.
26	Sedona, AZ	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft	1. Agreed. Echo 1 2. Agreed.
27	Frenchtown, NJ	1. Insufficient data 2. Insufficient data 3. Satellite 4. Satellite 5. Aircraft	1. Echo 1 2. Echo 1 3. Echo 2 4. Centaur RB 5. Agreed
27	Cleveland, OH	1. Satellite 2. Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1 and Echo 2.
27	Wichita, KS	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not provide any details about the photographs. Looks like something close to camera (out of focus while background sharp). Possibly object tossed in the air. Various backgrounds visible.
27	Pittston, PA	Aircraft	Agreed. Two 12-year olds. One claimed having signs of ESP. The time was also listed by one of these individuals as 5 minutes and 3-1/2 seconds.
27	Portsmouth, NH	1. Satellite 2. Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1 and Echo 2.
28	Pearl City, HI	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
29	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Cosmos 103 RB
29	Scotch Plains, NJ	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
29	Salem, OR	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2. 13-year old
29	Lebanon, OR	Venus	Agreed
29	Kirksville, MO	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1 and Echo 2
30	Barstow, CA	Arcturus	Agreed
30	Mansfield, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2
30	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
30	Toledo, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1
30	Enid, OK	Venus	Agreed

July 1967

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
July	Studio City, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter saying they saw a UFO and needed a form. Form sent but not returned.
July	Mt. Auburn, IN	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Time given but only date is "Sunday" in July. 13-year old.
July	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date except for "middle of July". No direction of observation. Form sent but not returned.
Jul-Aug	Clyde, NY	Confusing data	Agreed. Witness described three different sightings in his form. The result was a confusing report that could not be analyzed. Report submitted in November making the report unreliable.
Jul-Sep	Weston, CT	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness listed many sightings during the time period (she kept a log). The resultant form (filled out in December 1967) was a confusing scribbling of notes and sketches. Witness claimed that the UFOs were working together and had a strategic plan of some kind.

1	Las Vegas, NV	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Echo 1, Cosmos 44, Cosmos 44RB, or Cosmos 58. All had NW to SE visible passes around the time of the event.
1	Dyke, VA	Aircraft	Echo 1.
1	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Echo 2 was main object. Secondary object Insufficient information because witness "lost track of it". 17-year old
2	Plainfield, IN	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Witness submitted report in January 1968. Actual sighting was in St. Paul Minnesota during professional baseball game. Many fans present but witness only one who saw the object even though it was visible for some time and moved at a speed of a propeller driven aircraft.
2	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
2	Xenia, OH	Venus	Agreed. 14-year old.
2	South Broken Bow, OK	1. Aircraft 2. Aircraft 3. Satellite 4. Aircraft	Information is confusing because times are not listed other than it appears to have happened over a 30 minute period. It appears that all were possible satellites. 1. Cosmos 145 2. Echo 2 3. Echo 1 4. Pegasus 2
2	Las Vegas, NV	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2. 17 to 18-year old.
3	Kansas City, KS	Balloon	Agreed
3	Shaker Heights, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter from young individual with very little information. Did not return report form.
3	White Plains, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Wyomissing, PA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 1. 13-year old
4	Bellbrook, OH	Satellite	NO CASE FILE
4	Denver, CO	Insufficient data	Agreed. Form not returned. Message missing details. Possible Echo 1 and Echo 2. Witness listed as student.
5	Concord, CA	Missile activity	Insufficient data. Witnesses reported seeing object on several nights but gave no specific times/directions. It is possible this was the Echo 1 satellite that made passes around the time indicated (after sunset was the only time given) during the time period (several nights before and on July 5).
5	Albany, OR	Fireball	Agreed
5	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 13-year old. Form filled out in January 1968.
6	Niles, OH	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report submitted in January 1968. Possibly Echo 1. 11-year old.
6-7	Brooklyn, NY	Ground Light	Possible meteors. Witness reported momentary flashes of light late at night.
7	San Luis Obispo, CA	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Only information in file, other than photograph, is a letter asking AF to analyze photograph. Image looks like a Frisbee photographed in the air.
7	Montebello, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
7	West Carrollton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
7	Appleton, WI	V: Hoax P: Small man-made object	Agreed. Disc is at the corner of the frame and out of focus. Probably held by hand close to lens. 14-year old.
9	Lubbock, TX	Satellite	Agreed. Echo 2.
9	Shreveport, LA	Arcturus	Agreed
10	Lebanon, MO	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Letter sent in February 1968. 13-year old.

10	Lizelia, MS	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Tupper Lake, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
10	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Letter sent in May of 1968.
11	Macon, GA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44RB. Witness was in moving car on road that goes N, NE, and NW. It is possible they saw the rocket body as it faded into shadow.
11	Florissant, MO	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
11	Wabash, IN	Aircraft	Agreed. 14-year old.
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Information completed in form is inadequate. No positional data. 13 and 14-year old.
12	Rochester, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter with no specifics other than event was short duration and sky was cloudy.
12	Albany, OR	Aircraft	NO CASE FILE
12	Waverly, IA	Venus	Agreed
12	Indianapolis, IN	Balloon	Possible moon set
13 or 16	Maumee, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness claimed to see glowing metal on road when driving. Witness obtained metal but, apparently, never sent it in for analysis.
14	Corpus Christi, TX	1. Meteor 2. Satellite	1. Agreed. 2. Agreed. Echo 2. 17-year old
14	Blytheville, AR	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Echo 1.
19-20	Homestead City, FL	Psychological	Insufficient data. Witnesses saw two objects while driving to and from Florida keys along US-1. Record card suggested it was a possible prank. One object followed car but then disappeared when a car was seen in the opposite direction. Same thing happened on return trip. Hynek felt there was no quantitative data to allow analysis. Pageos-1 was making passes over the area at the time of both incidents and may have played a role. 18-year old driving at night.
21	Rosamond, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness made telephone report but did not return form. Missing positional data.
21	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Possible contrail at sunset.
22	Kettering, OH	Satellite	Aircraft. Sighting was before sunset.
22	Tulsa, OK	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
22-23	Eaton, OH	Venus	Agreed
23	Popponesset Beach, MA	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloons.
23	Colorado Springs, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
25	Pease AFB, NH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness did not return form after calling and stating they had reported a UFO previously but had not had a response.
25	Madison, IN	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
25	Manchester, NH	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Insufficient data. Witness did not give precise location of hill object was visible near. Witness saw object while driving in the vicinity of the local airport. Stated it was in the direction of hill and faded away. Object appeared stationary. It is possible a tower or ground light behind, or on top of the hill, made it disappear as the car moved closer to it.
25	Gates Mills, OH	Insufficient data	NO CASE FILE
25	St. Louis, MO	Aircraft	Agreed. 16-year old.

25	Westmont, IL	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter was initially misfiled and not reviewed until 1968. 14-year old. Photograph taken while "testing" new camera. Although it was visible for 15 seconds, only one photograph was taken.
26	Pittsburgh, PA	Venus	Agreed
27	Newcomerstown, OH	Aircraft	Meteor. 10-year old.
27	Wayzata, MN	Arcturus	Agreed. 17-year old.
28	Durand, MI	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report submitted in February 1968.
28	Anaheim, CA	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Arcturus. 13-year old.
29	Brandon, VT	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
29	Springfield, MO	Aircraft	Agreed. 16-year old.
30	Euclid, OH	Venus	Agreed
30-31	Kernville, CA	Conflicting data	Possibly Altair. Conflicting data is because witness confused dates.
31	Indianapolis, IN	Conflicting data	Agreed. Witnesses (all teenagers) gave conflicting information. It could have been a meteor.
31	Meadow Vista, CA	Satellite	Aircraft. No bright satellite visible. 16-year old.
31	Dayton, OH	Balloon	Agreed
31	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old.
31	Toledo, OH	Balloon	Agreed. Prank fire balloon.
31-8/1	Waldwick, NJ	Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter from 11-year old with little information about sighting. No form was returned.

Reclassification

I evaluated 300 cases in the Blue Book files from April through July 1967. In my opinion, 78 were improperly classified (about 26%). 36 (about 12% of the total number of cases/46% of the reclassifications) of these were originally listed as "insufficient data". This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
4/1	Tuscon, AZ	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 58
4/2	Sacramento, CA	Insufficient data	Meteor
4	Pensacola, FL	Saturn	Mercury. Saturn too close to sun. Mercury just approaching greatest western elongation and visible in direction observed.
5	Plaza, CO	Venus	Venus had already set. Visible 5 minutes moving in NW sky. Satellite Echo 2.
5	Westminster, CO	Insufficient data	Aircraft
5	Old Bridge, NJ	V: Conflicting data P: Insufficient data	V: Agreed. Witnesses (12 and 13-year olds) could not get date of event correct. P: Suspected hoax. Looks like a small circular object that was tossed in air and photographed.
6	Wilberforce, OH	Insufficient data	Possible ground light/spot light reflecting off low clouds.
7	Toledo, OH	Aircraft	Venus. Object visible in NW for 20 minutes. Slowly descending with some perceived rapid motion. 15-year old.
11	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possible satellite. Possibly Cosmos 142.
11	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Aircraft
11-12	Toledo, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Jupiter setting in west. Witness saw object for two hours out their window on two nights before it disappeared behind building.

12	Cherryville, NC	Aircraft	Possible moon set seen through hazy skies. Reported as formation of lights. Witness looking in direction of moon and Venus. 16-year old.
13	Fort Erwin, CA	Satellite Decay	Possible rocket launch. Molczan does not have it on his list. Launch of Scout 1 rocket from Vandenberg around same time. Only witness form has event towards East going south. Rocket launch would be to west going south. It is possible witness got directions wrong.
14	Hicksville, NY	Insufficient data	Possible prank fire balloons
15	Tucson, AZ	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 2 satellite. Witness stated event lasted 30 minutes. Echo 2 visible for 15 minutes but trajectory was very similar to track described. 12-year old.
16	Silver Springs, MD	Insufficient data	Possibly Echo 2 satellite. Witness gave course as NE to N (form appears to have been filled out in real time via phone communication). Echo 2 traveling towards NE at time of sighting.
16-21	Topeka, KS	Aircraft	Possible Echo 2 satellite. Witness listed seeing it in NW going north every night between 9:15-9:30 PM on the dates given. Echo 2 made passes around 9:30 on 16, 18, 20 and passes around 8:50 on 17, 19, and 21.
18	Tucson, AZ	Balloon	Moon setting. Witness described it as orange, with the upper 1/3rd missing and dark markings. Moon was just past first quarter and low in WNW at time of sighting. Visible 15 minutes. Zulu time incorrect. Time was 0130 MST = 0830 Z (not 0730Z)
19	El Cajon, CA	Aircraft	Possible flares. Saw yellow-orange lights in a string to the NW (direction of ocean). They disappeared behind clouds with little or no motion for two minutes.
19	Burney, CA	Aircraft	Possibly Pageos-1
22	Toms River, NJ	Satellite	Sun had not set. Possible Aircraft. Witness gave conflicting data as direction listed as N-S but sketch indicates S-N. 14-year old
24	Triangle, VA	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft	Insufficient data. Confusing report by 15-year old. Event lasted 3-4 hours but two separate UFOs. Witness did not define which events took how much time and what directions were associated with which event. Teletype message also unclear on specifics about event.
26	Columbia, MO	Parachute Jump	Sirius. Parachute jump explanation would be possible if seen in daytime. Second sighting on 29th was probably Procyon.
28	Willimsett, MA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44 RB. 14-year old
May	Brockaway, PA	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness does not give a specific date and time. Characteristics are of a satellite but cannot be verified.
7	Paris, TX	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration and description limited. Indication that there was a radar contact but radar site reported no contact on their radar.
9	Indianapolis, IN	Insufficient data	Venus
12	Galion, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
13	Webster, ME	Insufficient data	V: Possible aircraft P: Agreed. Photograph just shows blobs of light and out of focus point sources. Main blob could be an internal reflection.
13	Ventnor, NJ	V: Insufficient data P: Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. There were no photographs in the file. I suspect that the photographs mentioned are the photographs from the Webster Maine case.
17	Shade, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Witness did not give positional data to determine course. 15-year old.
18	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega

19	Riverside, CA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 15-year old.
24	Englewood, CO	Balloon	Possibly Venus seen through clouds.
25	Sioux City, IA	Aircraft	Possibly Mars. Witness stated object was green/white with red glow, to the south, and stationary. Witness driving her car when she saw object.
26	Cleveland, OH	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Witness wrote duration as 15-20 minutes but clarified in remarks that it was 15-20 seconds with rapid motion.
6/2	McKeesport, PA	Conflicting data	Possible meteor. 14 and 15-year old.
4	Fairborn, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus, Jupiter, and Pollux. 16-year old
4	Indian Hills, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus.
5	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
5	Roaring Springs, TX	Ball Lightning	Meteor
10	Enon, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 13-year old
11	Phoenix, AZ	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12	Dayton, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly Arcturus
14	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Possibly Cosmos 58. 14-year old.
17	Xenia, OH	Insufficient data	Possible Cosmos 44 and Echo 2. Cosmos 44 disappeared over the northern horizon. A few minutes later, Echo 2 appeared in the same general location.
23	Manchester, PA	Insufficient data	Aircraft. This is same as 23-30 (see below). While the details are limited, the witness is reporting seeing multiple UFOs every night on multiple nights. They act like aircraft.
23	Oakgrove, OR	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 157. 14-year old.
24	Fort Lupton, CO	Insufficient data	Possibly Venus. Witness gave no direction but Venus visible in the west and witness remarked he has seen same UFO for the last two months.
25	Bristol, TN	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. Date listed as July 5 in letter and location was actually Glade Spring, VA (witness from Bristol, TN). 14-year old.
27	Frenchtown, NJ	1. Insufficient data 2. Insufficient data 3. Satellite 4. Satellite 5. Aircraft	1. Echo 1 2. Echo 1 3. Echo 2 4. Centaur RB 5. Agreed
28	Pearl City, HI	Insufficient data	Possibly Vega
29	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Cosmos 103 RB
July	Mt. Auburn, IN	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Time given but only date is "Sunday" in July. 13-year old.
1	Dyke, VA	Aircraft	Echo 1.
1	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Echo 2 was main object. Secondary object Insufficient information because witness "lost track of it". 17-year old
2	Plainfield, IN	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Witness submitted report in January 1968. Actual sighting was in St. Paul Minnesota during professional baseball game. Many fans present but witness only one who saw the object even though it was visible for some time and moved at a speed of a propeller driven aircraft.

2	South Broken Bow, OK	1. Aircraft 2. Aircraft 3. Satellite 4. Aircraft	Information is confusing because times are not listed other than it appears to have happened over a 30 minute period. It appears that all were possible satellites. 1. Cosmos 145 2. Echo 2 3. Echo 1 4. Pegasus 2
5	Concord, CA	Missile activity	Insufficient data. Witnesses reported seeing object on several nights but gave no specific times/directions. It is possible this was the Echo 1 satellite that made passes around the time indicated (after sunset was the only time given) during the time period (several nights before and on July 5).
5	Las Vegas, NV	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft. 13-year old. Form filled out in January 1968.
6	Niles, OH	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report submitted in January 1968. Possibly Echo 1. 11-year old.
6-7	Brooklyn, NY	Ground Light	Possible meteors. Witness reported momentary flashes of light late at night.
10	Lebanon, MO	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Letter sent in February 1968. 13-year old.
10	Covington, KY	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Letter sent in May of 1968.
11	Macon, GA	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 44RB. Witness was in moving car on road that goes N, NE, and NW. It is possible they saw the rocket body as it faded into shadow.
12	Indianapolis, IN	Balloon	Possible moon set
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22	Kettering, OH	Satellite	Aircraft. Sighting was before sunset.
25	Manchester, NH	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Insufficient data. Witness did not give precise location of hill object was visible near. Witness saw object while driving in the vicinity of the local airport. Stated it was in the direction of hill and faded away. Object appeared stationary. It is possible a tower or ground light behind, or on top of the hill, made it disappear as the car moved closer to it.
27	Newcomerstown, OH	Aircraft	Meteor. 10-year old.
28	Durand, MI	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report submitted in February 1968.
28	Anaheim, CA	Aircraft w/advertising sign	Arcturus. 13-year old.
29	Brandon, VT	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
30-31	Kernville, CA	Conflicting data	Possibly Altair. Conflicting data is because witness confused dates.
31	Meadow Vista, CA	Satellite	Aircraft. No bright satellite visible. 16-year old.

Summary

While April was a heavy month for UFO reports, the number of reports appeared to have waned in June and July. This may have to do with the news about the Colorado Study fading away. Still, there were still plenty of UFO photographs being submitted.



Many looked like they could have been hoaxed. I tended to look skeptically at photographs being submitted by teens. In many cases, one can't prove they were hoaxing the images by tossing objects in the air but that possibility can't be eliminated. I performed a simple test with a tossed UFO model a few years ago. If one were to zoom in properly, the object can appear to be a disc hovering in the sky. However, the full picture shows what was the actual situation.

Speaking of teens, they produced a significant number of UFO reports. They account for almost one-third of the cases (84/300 = 28%) during the time period. I have always stated that some of these reports are well documented by some of these observers but, in a significant number of the cases, their imagination tends to taint their reports.

The Echo satellites, as well as a number of bright satellites, were readily placed in the evening sky during this time period. This resulted in the number of UFO reports due to satellites increasing from the last time period. I determined that satellites accounted for 45 cases (15%).

Venus was also well placed and near greatest brilliancy. It generated a significant number of reports. 24 incidents were of the planet Venus (8%).

Next issue, I will be evaluating the cases between August and December of 1967.

References

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