

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

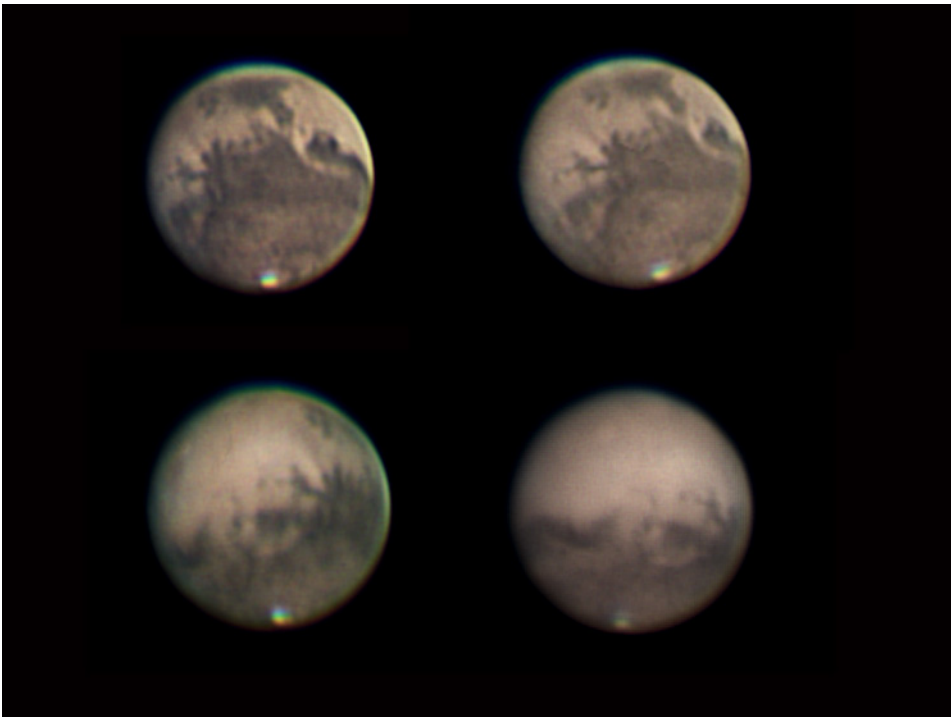


"No amount of belief makes something a fact."

James Randi

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RIP James Randi

Front: I have been a lot of V-shaped formations the past month or two. All of them are avian in nature. Seen from a distance a flock of birds can appear unusual and be mistaken for a formation of UFOs.

Left: Mars was a dominant astronomical object in the evening sky for September and October. This will continue into November and December. I would not be surprised if it generated UFO reports. I took these images in October.

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I never met James Randi but I wish I had. I understand that he was not that well liked by some but he seemed to be a person who had a sense of humor as well as a strong desire to expose people trying to deceive the public into thinking they, or somebody else, had exotic powers. I would think people would be grateful for Mr. Randi exposing such individuals but not everyone seems to want that to happen. My first exposure to him was when he appeared on the program, [NOVA: Secrets of the psychics](#). At the time, my interest in UFOs, and skepticism, was minimal but, as an amateur astronomer, I found Mr. Randi's debunking of astrology particularly amusing. For those who never saw this video, it is available on Youtube (see link above). There was also an amusing film about him called "[An honest liar](#)," which was also entertaining. I watched it on Amazon prime. [Robert Sheaffer dedicated a blog post for Randi](#) and it is worth a read. Randi's humor and wit, as well as all of his debunking, will be missed.

I hate to admit that I have not been following much of the UFO world in the past few months. I just did not see, hear, or read about anything significant happening. I did notice that there are quite a few individuals still mining information about old UFO cases. Unfortunately, this information is often some of the same old stuff that has been out there in one form or another. Anything new usually does not shed much more light on the case. The best one can say is that these cases remain UNIDENTIFIED, which is not saying much. An unsolved mystery proves nothing. However, if it can be turned into an actual identified (whether earthly or un-earthly), that is news worth talking about.

Speaking of UNIDENTIFIEDs, [Mick West's video](#) on explaining some of those Navy UFO videos is worth watching. I found his discussion about the Nimitz video particularly interesting. I suggest readers take the time to watch his presentation.

I noticed that the National Aviation Reporting Center On Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP) has still yet to add a link to an updated version of Technical Report #19. I pointed out, in SUNlite 12-5, that this had an obvious explanation and that, prior to publishing, SUNlite 12-5, Ted Roe had removed his report from the web site. I guess Mr. Roe has less free time than I do to fix mistakes or maybe he is hoping that nobody notices.

Once again, this SUNlite is a bit lean. I have been wanting to focus some attention on UFO cases other than those listed in the regular columns but I just haven't found the time to properly research them. As it is, this issue was delayed by the Mars opposition, and other personal interests, which interfered with my UFO hobby. The Blue Book review takes a significant amount of my time. It is tedious work and it usually involves a first pass of identifying the explanations that are not correct or have possible alternate explanations. Some of the case files are very lean and others are faded and tough to read, which makes it even more difficult to evaluate. After the initial weeding out, I then have to conduct further research on the cases that are left. Sometimes it is pretty easy to figure out but others require a little bit more work. I would love to move faster on this project but it seems like the current work load (evaluating six month periods) is about as much as I can expect to handle per issue.

WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

December 18, 1958 Marshalberg, North Carolina¹

58.12.18	23:15 ZT	Atlantic Ocean	2.5 mi north of Marshalberg, North Carolina	A	one airliner	one reddish object with a red trail of fire, no sound, (could be a missile : Blue Book)				03 20
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Case file

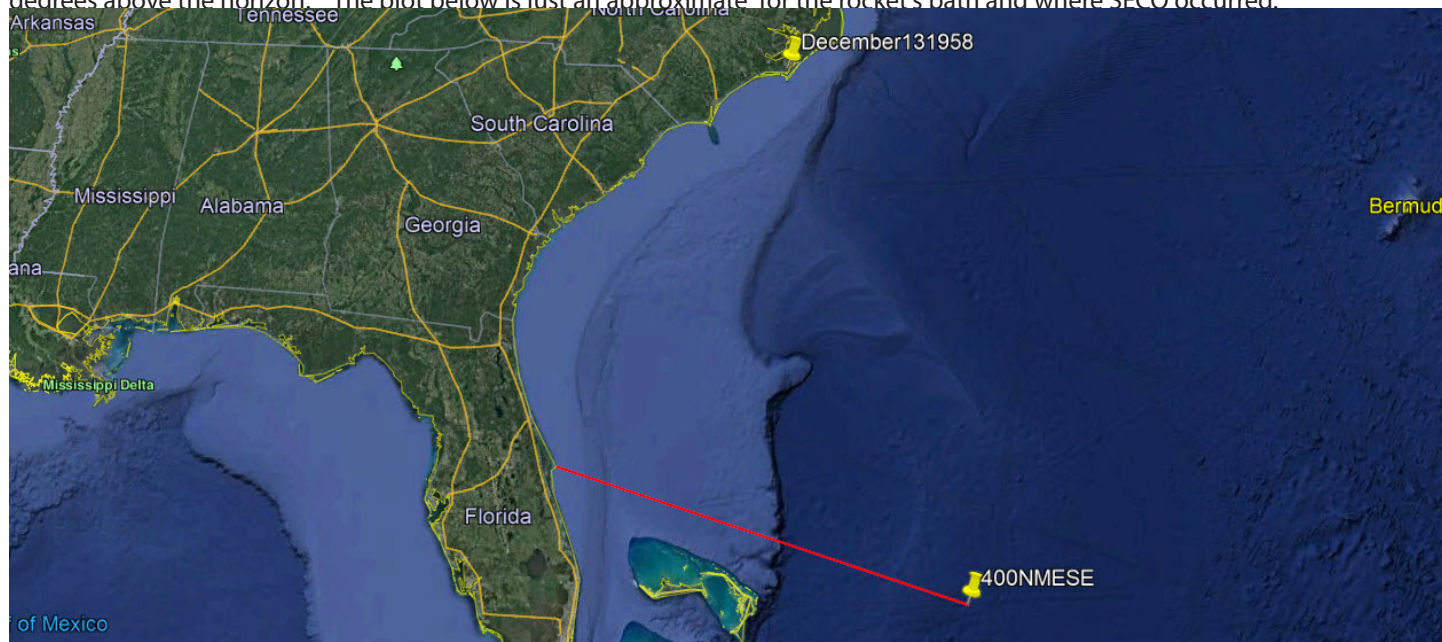
The source of the information for this sighting is from the project 1947 and Project Blue Book files. The Blue Book file contains enough information to analyze the case properly.

Analysis

The Blue Book file contains a message that states the object was first seen 15-20 degrees above the horizon in the southwest and it proceeded eastward.² It disappeared, by fading, in the southeast and was visible for 60-65 seconds. A follow up message indicated the object could have been a rocket. Blue Book wrote on the record card that it was possibly a missile launched from Wallops island.

I found the conclusion that it was from Wallops island to be a serious mistake. A launch from there would have the object to the north from the observer's location. The sighting was to the south and the most likely source would have been Cape Canaveral. The location of the sighting was in the Southeast coast of North Carolina about 500 miles from the Cape. The Astronautix web site lists a launch of the SCORE satellite using an Atlas B rocket booster at 2302Z on the 18th of December, 1958. Cape Canaveral was about an azimuth of 210 degrees, which means the rocket would have first been visible in the South-southwest. Secondary engine cutoff occurred around 5-6 minutes downrange. This would have been approximately 450 miles from Cape Canaveral giving it a bearing of about 160 degrees from the observer and at a distance of about 600 miles.

Assuming the secondary engine cutoff (SECO) was around an altitude of 100 miles, the rocket would have been visible about 5-10 degrees above the horizon. The plot below is just an approximate for the rocket's path and where SECO occurred.



A similar sighting happened on January 27, 1959, when an Atlas missile was observed from the vicinity of Bermuda and Wilmington, North Carolina.³ This demonstrates the missile would be bright enough and high enough in elevation to be visible.

Conclusion

The direction of observation and potential for being observed by an aircraft with an unobstructed horizon, combined with the time closely matching the launch time, indicates the rocket launch was the likely source of the report. This case needs to be removed from the Weinstein catalogue

Notes and references

1. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 40
2. "Project 10073 record card December 18, 1958". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/7203937>
3. "Project 10073 record card January 27, 1959". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9078892>

December 15, 1952 Goose Bay AFB, Labrador

December 15, 1952--Goose Bay AFB, Labrador. Radar-visual sighting of reddish UFO which changed to white as it maneuvered. [VIII].¹

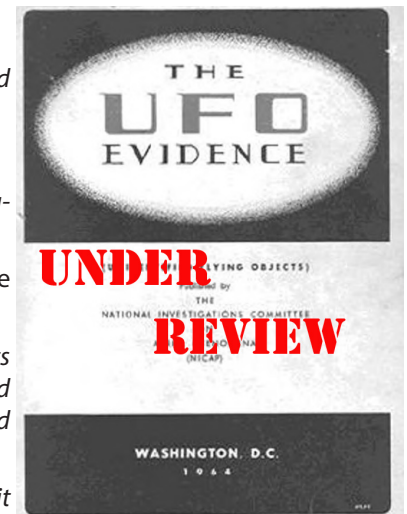
Section VIII has the case listed in a table which states the following:

*F-94 obtained radar lock-on; UFO observed visually as red light changing to white during maneuvers.*²

The footnote lists Keyhoe's "Flying saucers from outer space" and also mentions that it came from a USAF intelligence report. Keyhoe wrote:

Several other Intelligence reports, from Goose Bay Air Force Base, gave similar evidence from pilots and ground men. The first was the sighting on June 19, 1952, when a glowing red disc approached the field at night. As already described (in Chapter IV) the machine wobbled a moment, then turned white and climbed out of sight at high speed.

*On November 26 an F-94 pilot chased another disc several miles from the Labrador base. As it turned and climbed, the saucer's color changed from bright red to white. On December 15 he saw a second disc and tracked it on his radar. Again, he watched the color change from red to white, when the saucer swiftly maneuvered. The color changes were also seen by a T-33 jet pilot.*³



The Blue Book file

The Blue Book file is much more informative. According to the file, the pilot had been vectored by the Ground Control Approach (GCA) personnel to locate the UFO. Once they knew where to look, the T-33 and F-94 pilots saw a UFO. The F-94 then pursued it for about 25 minutes (2315-2340Z) at a speed of 375 knots but could not catch up with it. The pilot flew on a heading of 270 to 280 degrees azimuth.⁴

The UFO was described as having no definite size or shape. It was initially red but then changed to red and white until it faded away. Contrary to what Keyhoe described, there was no swift maneuvers. The observers reported that any maneuvers were, "gentle banks and turns and shallow descents and ascents".⁵ According to the air intelligence report, the radar operator on the F-94 reported only a momentary lock-on. The message traffic indicates that this operator had a momentary contact, which faded after one minute.⁶ It also states that Ground Control Intercept (GCI) radar had no contacts.⁷

It is important to note that the same pilot had reported chasing a UFO a few weeks before on November 26th. In that instance, the pilot pursued the UFO in a south and southwest direction until it disappeared at 2211Z.⁸

Analysis/summary

It appears that what happened was the Ground Control Approach people visually saw the UFO first and directed the aircraft towards it. The aircraft then saw it as well and began their pursuit in attempt to catch it.

Blue Book lists the explanation as Venus with the radar contact being due to radar malfunction.⁹ The Condon report seems to have agreed with this conclusion.¹⁰ However, on the 15th of December, Venus set approximately 2300Z in the West-southwest. Therefore, it is unlikely that Venus was the source of the sighting. That being said, the November 26th sighting could have been Venus since Venus set in the southwest around 2211Z, when the UFO disappeared. This may have been the reason for the Venus explanation offered by Blue Book since this sighting is also in the file. Adding to this is the fact that the record card is from 1963, indicating Blue Book had possibly identified the case in the 1960s and confused the two cases together.

As for the December 15th sighting, the bright star Altair was low in the sky (12-15 degrees) between azimuth 263 and 269 degrees during the time period of the sighting. It set around 0100Z at an azimuth of 285 degrees. It could have disappeared at 2315Z because of disappearing behind distant clouds.

The description of the object in the message and in the investigation report is a pretty good description of a star scintillating in the distance. Altair would have displayed changing colors of red and white, been a point source (no size or shape), and made gradual changes in azimuth and elevation over a twenty-five minute period. Considering the fact that the pilot probably chased Venus in late November, it seems possible that he could have chased Altair on December 15th.

Conclusion

One cannot say for certain that the pilot was chasing Altair but the evidence available seems to indicate that the Altair explanation is possible. As a result, the December 15th, 1952 case (as well as the November 26th incident) cannot be considered "good evidence" and should be removed from the NICAP best evidence as well as the Weinstein catalogue.

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. 133

2. *ibid.* P. 146.
3. Keyhoe, Donald. Flying saucers from outer space. New York: Henry Holt and Company, Inc. 1953. P. 149
4. "MSG from CG Pepperill AFB to HQ USAF/Air Technical Intelligence Center ". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170462>
5. "Air Intelligence Information Report IR-67-52 Page 2 of 2 " Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170464>
6. "MSG from CG Pepperill AFB to HQ USAF/Air Technical Intelligence Center ". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170462>
7. *ibid.*
8. "Air Intelligence Information Report IR-65-52 Page 1 of 1 " Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170470>
9. "Project 10073 record card December 15, 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9170460>
10. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968. p. 126-7

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 3331 NOVEMBER 19, 1954 CORVALLIS, OREGON.

Don Berliner lists the case as follows:

Nov. 19, 1954; Corvallis, Oregon. 4:15 p.m. Witness: P.J. Gunn, assistant professor of art at Oregon State University and ex-U.S. Navy aviation cadet. One bright white light hovered 8.5-9 minutes, then crossed 20 degrees of sky in 3-3.5 minutes.¹

The description by Sparks is essentially the same.²

The Blue Book file

The file is faded and difficult to read. It only contains a five page Air Intelligence report filed by the investigating officer from the 4602nd Air intelligence service squadron.³ While it gathered information from the witness, the investigating officer did nothing further to see if there was a solution. He simply concluded that the "turn" was unlike any sighting seen before and suggested it might have been an optical illusion due to the witness intensely concentrating on the object.

According to the record card, the event lasted 12 minutes and was visible in the Western and Southwestern sky. The object changed shape from being diagonal to horizontal. It was also initially a long thin line but then changed to a shorter and fatter shape. During the observations, the object changed color from white to pink to red. The object was initially at 270 degrees azimuth and 30 degrees elevation. The witness also described a change in shape of the object where the "north end" bent such that the north end became the south end. This took about 30-60 seconds. Finally, the witness mentioned seeing a "dark tip" on the original "north end" of the object.

The witness included a sketch showing the path of the object and how it changed shape.⁴ I took some effort to clip and enhance the faded document. While this reproduction is not the best, it does convey what the witness described.



The witness was the only observer and saw it through a second story window. The sun was behind a cloud bank but the object appeared to have been visible in a clear portion of sky since the witness stated it never passed in front of a cloud. In fact, the witness indicated it had passed behind a small cloud at one point. He added that it could have been an aircraft or natural object.

Analysis

Sunset time was 4:41 PM PST, which means the sun was only 3-4 degrees above the southwest horizon. The object was obvious some distance away since it passed behind a cloud and it appears to have been fairly small in angular size. Speed appears to have been slow but this is probably an illusion due to the distance from the observer to the object.

The description of the object is not that impressive. Other than the changing shape, it has the indications of being a contrail visible during dusk. The color change, duration, and direction of travel all seem to conform to this hypothesis. Even the sighting of a dark object at one end of the UFO indicates he might have seen the aircraft that created the contrail. One must remember that this is 1954, when jet contrails were something of a novelty as this newspaper story from 1954 indicates.⁵

The shape change could have been a perception issue due to the witness looking through a window or it may have appeared that way as the aircraft conducted a turn from going west to the south. One cannot say for sure but I don't consider it a serious issue with the contrail explanation.

Conclusion

In my opinion, I think this should be reclassified as probably an airplane contrail. I would not be surprised if it were a military aircraft out over the ocean. It is too bad that the investigating officer did not bother to do any further investigation to see if there was any military air activity to the west. Had he done so, it might have been solved in 1954.

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. 220.
3. "19 November 1954, Corvallis, Oregon." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6960120>
4. Air Intelligence Report I-A-UFOB-1. Page 4 of 5." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6960140>
5. "Sorry no saucer, just vapor". Long Beach Independent. Long Beach, CA. September 28, 1954. P. 1.

SORRY

No Saucer, Just Vapor

It wasn't a flying saucer that thousands of persons saw high in the sky, flying from northwest to northeast, shortly before 6 p.m. Monday.

It was a high-flying jet airplane and sunlight reflecting on the vapor trail of the large craft appeared a bright orange to ground observers.

Switchboards at The Independent, Press-Telegram and police station were flooded with calls from viewers who were certain they were seeing a visitor from outer space.

Project Blue Book case review: January - June 1961

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering January through June 1961. 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.

January 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Jan	India	Insufficient data	Agreed. This sounds like a possible rocket launch from Baikonur but there is no date for the event even though there is reference to news media reports. I could not locate a story in the media about the events.
2,3,4	Oakland, CA	Venus	This was not Venus. Conflicting data. Witness stated it was visible for 3 hours but then states the object moved rapidly from SW to NE.
3	Oloquet, MN	Meteor	Agreed
3	SW Stuttgart, Germany	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
3	Troy, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
5	E of Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
6	Dillsboro, IN	Aircraft	Agreed
8	Tarawa Island	Meteor	Agreed
9	Bothell, WA	Aircraft	Agreed. Possible contrails.
9	Lexington, KY	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Miamisburg, OH	Mars	Sirius
9	SE Altus AFB, OK	Meteor	Agreed
9	Naknek, AK	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Atlantic	Missile	Agreed. Polaris missile test.
10	Wichita Falls, TX	Venus	Agreed
11	Wichita Falls, TX	Unreliable report	Possible cloud/contrail
11	Fairborn, OH	Venus	Insufficient information. Report states that the UFO appeared over Page Manor. Reporting officer stated Venus was in SE at 45 degrees (this information was entered as if it came from witness instead of the reporting officer). Venus was actually in SW and 20 degrees elevation. It could have been Venus but, without the witness' positional data, there is not enough information to draw a conclusion.
11	Silver Spring, MD	Insufficient Data	Possible aircraft
11	Fort Worth, TX	Venus	Agreed
13	Buhl, MN	Venus	Agreed
13	Pacific	Meteor	Insufficient data. No duration listed. Could have been meteor.
13,14	Reardon, WA	Helicopter	Agreed
14	3 Mi SE Portales, NM	Meteor	Agreed
14	S. of Roosevelt, OK	Venus	Agreed
15	60 Mi. NNE Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed
15	Holt, MN	Meteor	Agreed. Possibly same meteor as Duluth MN but time is one hour difference (potential time error?).
15	El Portal, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration given. Only description is "Fast".
15	Cannon AFB, NM	Venus	Meteor
15	SE Payne Field, WA	Meteor	Agreed

16	Southern California	Meteor	Agreed
16	40 mi. W Santa Rosa Is and LA	Meteor	Agreed. Very possible that it is same meteor for Southern California sighting even though times are different by two hours (possible time error)
16	Fitchburg, MA	Refueling op	Agreed
17	Troy, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly two individual meteors confused as single object.
19	Azores	Satellite	Echo satellite
19-21	NE Coast US	Mars	Multiple observations from different locations. Most appear to describe the stars Arcturus, Capella, and Sirius
20	Kansas	Meteor	Agreed
21	Akron, OH	Moon	Agreed it was the moon. Slides are multiple and do not specify which was correct one.
22	Weston, MO	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Maxwell AFB, AL	Meteor	Agreed
24	Atlantic	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile launch.
27	Russell, Salina, KS	Meteor	Agreed
28	Midway Island	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed (appears to be meteor)
28	Newark, NJ	Aircraft	Agreed
28	Terre Haute, IN	Insufficient data	Possible observation of Satcat ID 28
29	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
30	Forbes, KS/Kirksville, MO	Meteor	Agreed
30	Atlantic	Reflection	Possible daylight sighting of Venus

February 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Cambridge, MA	Venus	Agreed
3	Spangdahlem AB, Germany	Meteor	Agreed
3	Van Nuys, CA	Insufficient data	No case file
5	Maine/Vermont	Meteor	Agreed
5	Cape Wales, AK	Meteor	Agreed
6	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
6	Brooklyn, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. Other than "morning", this report has no specific information.
6	8 mi. E Indian Springs, NV	Balloon	Venus
6	Atlantic	Venus	Agreed
6	Forsythe, MT	Venus	Agreed
7	LG Hanscomb Field, MA	Venus	Agreed
8	Philippine Sea	Meteor	Agreed
8	Pacific	Echo Satellite	Agreed
8	Springfield, MA	Meteor	Agreed
8	Dayton, OH	Aldebaran	Mars
8	Parkersburg, WV	Insufficient data	Sirius
9	Bitburg AB, Germany	Venus	Agreed
10	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration and azimuth values.

12	Finland	Venus Probe	Agreed. Venera 1 Launch was 0034Z from Baikonur. Sighting was at 0210Z to north or NE and headed north duration 10 min. The probe was placed in a parking orbit before the Zond fourth stage was ignited to send it to Venus. The location of the parking orbit was to the east of Finland at the time in question. It is possible what was seen was the ignition of the Zond booster.
12	Sterling city - Garden city, TX	Venus	Agreed
12	Guadalupe Island	Satellite	Echo Satellite
12 Feb/3 and 21 June	Fort Worth, TX	Aircraft Stars/planets	Agreed
14	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
15	Dayton, OH	Echo Satellite	Aircraft
16	Union, ME	Meteor	Agreed
16	San Angelo, TX	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
16	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed. Radar sighting only. Information insufficient for evaluation.
17	Vernon, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a letter with no specific information.
17	Humbolt, Saskatchewan, Canada	Decay 61 Gamma	Contrail
18	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Insufficient data	Jupiter
20	Atlantic	Missiles	Agreed
20	Kalispell, MT	Meteor	Agreed
21	Winnemucca, NV	Insufficient data	Agreed. Just a report of an aerial explosion. Possibly a meteor but very little information to draw a conclusion.
21	Baltimore, MD	Echo Satellite	Agreed
22	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed.
22	Webb AFB, TX	Meteor	Agreed
22	Silver Bay & Gilbert, MN	Meteor	Agreed
22	Vandenberg AFB, CA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing duration/speed
22	Pacific	Echo Satellite	Agreed
23	Misawa AFB, Japan	Venus	Agreed
23	Dhahran AFB, Saudi Arabia	Meteor	Agreed
23	Oakwood, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
24	Madrid, Spain	Meteor	Agreed
26	Tyndall AFB, FL	Venus	Possible aircraft
27	Guam	Meteor	Agreed
27	Yuma, AZ	Radar chaff	Agreed
27	San Bernardino, CA	Balloon	Agreed
27	Herndon, VA	Venus	Agreed
27	Arlington, VA	Meteor	Aircraft
27	Bark River, MI	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
27	Fort Meade, MD	Temperature Inversion	Agreed
27	Portland, OR	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of travel.
28	Ft. Washakie, WY	Ornament	Agreed. Physical specimen used to decorate car/aircraft.
28	Atlantic	Satellite	Echo Satellite

28	Waverly AFS, IA	Equipment Malfunction	Agreed. AFS had problems with equipment prior to registering target.
28	Williston, ND	Venus	Agreed
28	Adair AFS, OR	Mars	Venus
28	Honolulu, HI	Meteor	Agreed

March 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Spring Brook & Tioga, ND	Venus	Agreed
1	San Bernardino, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
2	St Albans, WV/Cincinnati, OH/Dayton, OH/Richmond, IN	Meteor	Agreed
2	Great Falls, MT	Meteor	Agreed
2	Minot, ND	Insufficient data	Venus
3	Aviano, Italy	Meteor	Agreed
3	Ephrata, WA	1. Venus 2. Weather	Agreed
4	Lakenheath, England	Meteor	Agreed
4	Grand Rapids, MI	Aluminum	Agreed
4	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
5	Lanett, AL	Satellite	Aircraft
5	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
6	Portland, OR	Satellite	Echo Satellite
7	British Columbia	Insufficient data	Possible bird
7	San Bernardino, CA	Balloon	Agreed
8	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
9	Dallas, TX	Meteor	Agreed
9	Chanute AFB, IL	Misinterpretation of aircraft in pattern	Agreed
9	Heppner, OR	Venus	Agreed
10	RAF Upper Heyford, UK	1. Mars 2. Weather	Insufficient data for visual observation. No azimuth values.
10	Minot/Bismark, ND	Venus	Agreed
12	Australia	Meteor	Agreed
12	Carswell AFB, TX	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness was described as not being clear in his report by investigating officer and suggested his recent head injury may have affected his report.
13	Osgood, IN	Satellite	Echo Satellite
13	Guard Island, Ketchikan, AK	Capella	Venus
14	Elkins, WV	Meteor	Agreed (confusing report in that duration was listed as 5 minutes but speed estimated at 5000 mph)
14	West Hollywood, FL	Balloon	Agreed
Spring	Kemah, TX	1. Spider Web 2. Unidentified	1. Agreed 2. UNIDENTIFIED
15	Chelveston, UK	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft

15	Misawa AB, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
15	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
16	Mediterranean Sea	Meteor	Agreed
17	Minden, NV	Insufficient data	Meteor
20	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
20	Roswell, NM	Insufficient data	Aldebaran Occultation
20-25	Frankfurt, Germany	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific date, course, or duration.
21	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
21	60 mi. E. Springfield, MO	Meteor	Agreed
23-29	Vicinity of Pierce, FL	Aircraft lights	Agreed
24-25	Rebun Island, Japan	Insufficient data	Case file missing
25	Gulkana, AK	Insufficient data	Meteor
28	Misawa AB, Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
28	Mellette, SD	Unreliable report	Agreed. Report of UFOs dogfighting military jets. Report of atomic bomb mushroom cloud as well.
29	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Meteor
30	Akron, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report was second hand and had inconsistent information (listed as stars being visible at the time the sun had not set).
31	California/Pacific	Decay Epsilon 2	Meteor

April 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	Missile	Not a Titan missile. Launch failed. Possible aircraft.
2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Duration not listed but described as "missile" with a "high rate of speed"
2	Reno, NV	Helicopter	Agreed
3	Maugatuck, CT	Insufficient data	Case File Missing
5	Corvallis, OR	Meteor	Case File Missing
9	Yokota, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
10	Taiwan	Meteor	Agreed
11	Cape Canaveral, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Pebble Beach, CA	Jupiter	Possible balloon.
11	Goose Bay, Labrador	Meteor	Agreed
14	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
14	Far East	Insufficient data	Agreed. Missing radar data.
16	W. Of Seguin, TX	Balloon	Agreed
18	Eagle River, WI	Hallucination	Agreed. UFO landing case with entities. Witness report did not sound credible.
19	Silver Grove, KY	Unreliable report	Aircraft
20	Cleveland, OH	Debris	Aircraft.
20	Sheridan, WY	Emotional	Agreed. Woman associated noise she stated she had heard (but others did not hear) with a sighting by her mother in another part of town.
20	Hanna City AFS, IL	Balloon	Agreed
22	Karachi, Pakistan	Meteor	Agreed

24	Pacific	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
24	Juneau, AK	Meteor	Agreed
25	Reidsville, GA	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
26	1000 mi SE of Yokota, Japan	Balloon	Insufficient information. Aircraft struck an object at 31,000 feet. It is assumed it was a balloon but nobody saw the balloon or any other object that could have caused the damage to the wing.
26	East Indies	Satellite	Echo Satellite
26	Pacific	Satellite	Echo Satellite
27	W. of Kadena, Okinawa	Meteor	Agreed
28	Derry, MA	Meteor	Agreed
28	Hialeah, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration and no direction of travel/positional data.
29	Edgerton, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction of observation. Witnesses contradicted each other.
30	Watchung, NJ	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data. Report lacked details.

May 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
May	Wantagh, NY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported in November 1964.
1	Atsugi NAS, Japan	Meteor	Agreed
1	South Hadley, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Listed as insufficient data due to no location. However, inside the report appears to be the location, which may have been 50-30 N and 171 W. Possible sighting of Discoverer 21.
2	Pacific	Satellite	Echo Satellite
3	Silver Grove, KY	Unreliable report	Same witness as May 10, 11 and 13. Reported multiple objects. Primary object appears to be Capella
4	Meridan & Jackson, MS	Satellite	Echo Satellite
4	100 Mi. N. of Wake Island	Satellite	Echo Satellite
5	Okinawa and Vicinity	Meteor	Agreed
5	Samoa	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
7	Kettering, OH	Meteor	Agreed
9	Tyndall AFB, FL	Aircraft	1st object was Echo satellite. 2nd object aircraft.
10	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
10	Silver Grove, KY	Stars	Capella
10	Ft. Bliss, TX	Altair	Vega
10	Juneau, AK	Satellite	Echo Satellite
11	Centerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft.
11	Indian Springs, NV	Aircraft	Venus and moon close together. Both thin crescent phase in location of sighting. Sighting lasted 4 hours and moved slowly west. Described as crescent shaped. Possible Moon or Venus (most likely Venus). Radar sighting not related and probably due to a false target.
11	Mediterranean Sea	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
11	Atlantic	Echo Satellite	Agreed
11	Silver Grove, KY	Procyon	Capella
12	40 Mi. E. of Peck, MI	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon

12	Dallas, TX	Birds	Agreed
13	Atmore, AL	Aircraft	Agreed
13	East Indies	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
13	Charleston, WV	Balloon	Echo Satellite
13	Silver Grove, KY	Stars	Capella
14	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Actual location was in the Pacific off the coast of Mexico. Possible aircraft
14	S. Haley Falls, MA	Echo Satellite	Agreed
15	Waco, TX	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
15	Far East	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
15	Atlantic	Satellite	Insufficient data. Listed as high speed and high altitude. No duration or directions. Echo satellite was visible.
15	Atlantic	Satellite	Echo Satellite
15	San Antonio, TX	Satellite	Echo Satellite
16	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Agreed. Very little information in report.
16	Valhalla Center, Alberta	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration listed.
17, 24 & 1 June	Washington DC	Balloon	Agreed
19	Bay Minnette, AL	Satellite	Aircraft
19	N. California & OR	Meteor	Agreed
20	Tyndall AFB, FL	Venus	Agreed
21	Pacific	Satellite	Echo Satellite
21	Pacific	Satellite	Echo Satellite
22	Maxwell AFB, AL	1. Venus 2. WX inversion	Agreed
22	Tyndall AFB, FL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
22	Davison AB, VA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Bronson & Cross city, FL	Balloon	Jupiter
23	Astoria, NY	Insufficient data	Venus
23	Wayside Park, FL	Conflicting data	Possibly Procyon setting
24	Falls Church, VA	Balloon	Agreed
24	Pacific	Meteor	Echo Satellite. Record card lists duration as 1 min. Message indicates 18 minutes.
25	Smyra, DE	Antares	Agreed
27	Nashville, TN	Balloon	Agreed
29	Las Vegas/Meade, NV	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Stanley, ID	Lenticular Cloud	Possible daylight sighting of Venus
31	Wichita Falls, TX	Satellite	Echo Satellite
31	Duluth, MN	Meteor	Agreed

June 1961

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
June	Temple, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date.
1	Winston-Salem, NC	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Far East	Satellite	Echo Satellite
1	Highland Park, IL	Altair	Aircraft

2	San Clemente Island, CA	Insufficient data	Venus
2	Miyako Jima AS, Japan	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
2	Tampa, FL	Insufficient data	Agreed. Radar sighting and visual sighting not related (two different directions and two different dates). No duration. Radar data lacking details.
3	Nevada	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness observed object for 2-1/2 hours with theodolite but information listed is very general with no specific azimuth and elevation data. No specific shape either. BB suspects it was a U-2 but duration seems excessive for such an explanation.
4	Dayton, OH	Venus	Agreed
4	Montgomery, AL	Insufficient data	Arcturus. Witness stated object was headed south but then stated it was still visible when he was making the report. Motion described as slow and erratic.
4	Silver Grove, KY	Aircraft	Agreed. Same witness as sightings from May.
5	Detroit & Selfridge AFB, MI	Satellite	Two objects reported. First was very fast - Meteor. Second went from West to East in 2-3 minutes - Possible aircraft (no satellite visible).
5	Champaign, IL	Bootes	Possible birds
6	Naha AB, Okinawa	Satellite	Echo Satellite
9	Mount Zion, WV	Chaff	Agreed
10	Middleton, OH	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration. No positional data. No time.
10	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
10	Far East	Satellite	No Case File
11	Caracas, Venezuela	Balloon with fire-works	Agreed.
11	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
12	Port Moresby, New Guinea	Insufficient data	Venus
14	Bedford, MA	Aircraft	Agreed
14-15	Lake Shelton, WA	Mirage/inversion	Capella
14 - 9/15	Bucyrus, OH	Venus and stars	Venus and probably Procyon
16	Bahama Islands	Insufficient data	Agreed. No duration or positional data.
16	Dayton, OH	Moon	Agreed
17	Budapest, Hungary	Chaff	No Case File
17	Pacific	Insufficient data	Meteor
18	Bloomington, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft
18	Washington DC	Occultation of Regulus	Agreed. The explanation in the summary notes there was no occultation visible from Washington DC. However, the proximity of Regulus to the moon could have produced the effect that Regulus was moving around the moon when viewed with the naked eye (observation by small boy and woman with the naked eye).
18	Westboro, MA	Aircraft	Antares
19	Springfield, MA	Inversion/Reflection	Agreed
19	Temple, TX	Aircraft	Agreed
20	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
20	Bunker Hill AFB, IN	Meteor	Agreed
22	Cincinnati, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Haverhill, MA	Cloud	Agreed

25	Pacific	Weather returns	Agreed. Object only seen on radar. No visual sighting.
28	Temple, TX	Inconsistent data	Meteor
29	Rome Center, MI	Meteor	Agreed
29	Palatka, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
30	Grosse Point, MI	Venus/Capella	Just Venus
30	Dexter, MO	Venus	Agreed
30	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Jupiter	Antares

Reclassification

I evaluated 278 cases in the Blue Book files from January through June 1961. In my opinion, 91 were improperly classified (about 33%). Forty-two (about 15% of the total number of cases/46% of the reclassifications) of these were listed as “insufficient information”. This table describes these cases and how I felt they should have been classified.

Date	Location	Reclassification	Reason
1/2,3,4	Oakland, CA	Venus	This was not Venus. Conflicting data. Witness stated it was visible for 3 hours but then states the object moved rapidly from SW to NE.
3	SW Stuttgart, Germany	Insufficient data	Possible Aircraft
9	Naknek, AK	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED
9	Miamisburg, OH	Mars	Sirius
11	Wichita Falls, TX	Unreliable report	Possible cloud/contrail
11	Fairborn, OH	Venus	Insufficient information. Report states that the UFO appeared over Page Manor. Reporting officer stated Venus was in SE at 45 degrees (this information was entered as if it came from witness instead of the reporting officer). Venus was actually in SW and 20 degrees elevation. It could have been Venus but, without the witness' positional data, there is not enough information to draw a conclusion.
11	Silver Spring, MD	Insufficient Data	Possible aircraft
13	Pacific	Meteor	Insufficient data. No duration listed. Could have been meteor.
15	El Portal, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration given. Only description is “Fast”.
15	Cannon AFB, NM	Venus	Meteor
17	Troy, OH	Insufficient data	Possibly two individual meteors confused as single object.
19-21	NE Coast US	Mars	Multiple observations from different locations. Most appear to describe the stars Arcturus, Capella, and Sirius
28	Terre Haute, IN	Insufficient data	Possible observation of Satcat ID 28
29	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo satellite
30	Atlantic	Reflection	Possible daylight sighting of Venus
2/6	8 mi. E Indian Springs, NV	Balloon	Venus
8	Dayton, OH	Aldebaran	Mars
8	Parkersburg, WV	Insufficient data	Sirius
15	Dayton, OH	Echo Satellite	Aircraft
16	San Angelo, TX	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
17	Humbolt, Saskatwan, Canada	Decay 61 Gamma	Contrail
18	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Insufficient data	Jupiter
23	Oakwood, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
26	Tyndall AFB, FL	Venus	Possible aircraft
27	Arlington, VA	Meteor	Aircraft

28	Adair AFS, OR	Mars	Venus
3/2	Minot, ND	Insufficient data	Venus
4	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
5	Lanett, AL	Satellite	Aircraft
5	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
7	British Columbia	Insufficient data	Possible bird
10	RAF Upper Heyford, UK	1. Mars 2. Weather	Insufficient data for visual observation. No azimuth values.
13	Guard Island, Ketchikan, AK	Capella	Venus
15	Chelveston, UK	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
15	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
17	Minden, NV	Insufficient data	Meteor
20	Roswell, NM	Insufficient data	Aldebaran Occultation
25	Gulkana, AK	Insufficient data	Meteor
28	Misawa AB, Japan	Insufficient data	Meteor
29	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Meteor
31	California/Pacific	Decay Epsilon 2	Meteor
4/1	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba	Missile	Not a Titan missile. Launch failed. Possible aircraft.
2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor. Duration not listed but described as "missile" with a "high rate of speed"
11	Pebble Beach, CA	Jupiter	Possible balloon.
14	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
19	Silver Grove, KY	Unreliable report	Aircraft
20	Cleveland, OH	Debris	Aircraft.
25	Reidsville, GA	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
26	1000 mi SE of Yokota, Japan	Balloon	Insufficient information. Aircraft struck an object at 31,000 feet. It is assumed it was a balloon but nobody saw the balloon or any other object that could have caused the damage to the wing.
28	Hialeah, FL	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No duration and no direction of travel/positional data.
30	Watchung, NJ	Balloon	Insufficient data. No positional data. Report lacked details.
May	Wantagh, NY	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness reported in November 1964.
1	South Hadley, MA	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
2	Pacific	Insufficient data	Listed as insufficient data due to no location. However, inside the report appears to be the location, which may have been 50-30 N and 171 W. Possible sighting of Discoverer 21.
3	Silver Grove, KY	Unreliable report	Same witness as May 10, 11 and 13. Reported multiple objects. Primary object appears to be Capella
5	Samoa	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
9	Tyndall AFB, FL	Aircraft	1st object was Echo satellite. 2nd object aircraft.
10	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
11	Centerville, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft.
11	Indian Springs, NV	Aircraft	Venus and moon close together. Both thin crescent phase in location of sighting. Sighting lasted 4 hours and moved slowly west. Described as crescent shaped. Possible Moon or Venus (most likely Venus). Radar sighting not related and probably due to a false target.
11	Mediterranean Sea	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite

11	Silver Grove, KY	Procyon	Capella
12	40 Mi. E. of Peck, MI	Insufficient data	Possible research balloon
13	East Indies	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
13	Charleston, WV	Balloon	Echo Satellite
14	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Actual location was in the Pacific off the coast of Mexico. Possible aircraft
15	Waco, TX	Aircraft	Echo Satellite
15	Far East	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
15	Atlantic	Satellite	Insufficient data. Listed as high speed and high altitude. No duration or directions. Echo satellite was visible.
19	Bay Minnette, AL	Satellite	Aircraft
22	Canton, OH	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
23	Bronson & Cross city, FL	Balloon	Jupiter
23	Astoria, NY	Insufficient data	Venus
23	Wayside Park, FL	Conflicting data	Possibly Procyon setting
24	Pacific	Meteor	Echo Satellite. Record card lists duration as 1 min. Message indicates 18 minutes.
29	Stanley, ID	Lenticular Cloud	Possible daylight sighting of Venus
6/1	Highland Park, IL	Altair	Aircraft
2	San Clemente Island, CA	Insufficient data	Venus
3	Nevada	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Witness observed object for 2-1/2 hours with theodolite but information listed is very general with no specific azimuth and elevation data. No specific shape either. BB suspects it was a U-2 but duration seems excessive for such an explanation.
4	Montgomery, AL	Insufficient data	Arcturus. Witness stated object was headed south but then stated it was still visible when he was making the report. Motion described as slow and erratic.
5	Detroit & Selfridge AFB, MI	Satellite	Two objects reported. First was very fast - Meteor. Second went from West to East in 2-3 minutes - Possible aircraft (no satellite visible).
5	Champaign, IL	Bootes	Possible birds
10	Far East	Insufficient data	Echo Satellite
12	Port Moresby, New Guinea	Insufficient data	Venus
14-15	Lake Shelton, WA	Mirage/inversion	Capella
17	Pacific	Insufficient data	Meteor
18	Bloomington, IL	Insufficient data	Aircraft
18	Westboro, MA	Aircraft	Antares
28	Temple, TX	Inconsistent data	Meteor
30	Grosse Point, MI	Venus/Capella	Just Venus
30	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Jupiter	Antares

Summary

The cases during this time period, were very taxing to evaluate. Many did not contain specific information and several of them can be traced to the Echo Satellite. I have been using the Two Line Elements for all potential satellites visible for the time period and then running them in the program, Heavensat, and seeing what satellites were possibly visible and if they came close to matching the descriptions. The Echo satellite was easily visible and seemed to align well with all the cases I classified as such. Out of the cases evaluated, thirty-eight were traced to the Echo satellite. That is 14% of the total number of cases. Out of those reclassified, fourteen were identified as the Echo satellite. It seems that Blue Book did not always have the computer printouts for Echo readily available. It probably took valuable computer time to create these printouts in 1961 and that may have contributed to the lack of

Echo Satellite confirmations.

There were five sightings from the same individual in Silver Grove, Kentucky. Most of them appear to be astronomical in nature with another sighting probably being an aircraft. It would have been nice if the UFO officer from a local air base had gone out to visit the individual and explain to them what they were seeing.

I reclassified one report as UNIDENTIFIED. That was the January 9th sighting from Naknek, Alaska. I could have listed this as an unreliable report since the witness claimed to have seen UFOs in the past, which made me wonder if he misperceived planes, stars, and satellites as UFOs. However, his sighting seemed to contain enough information to draw a conclusion and I ignored the comment about past sightings. The course was from NE to SW but the real puzzler was it lasted 90 minutes! Had it been 10 minutes, or less, I would classify it as an aircraft. 90 minutes usually means something astronomical but astronomical objects do not go from NE to SW in 90 minutes. The end result was I could not find an explanation and had to classify it as UNIDENTIFIED. If anyone has a potential solution for this sighting, I would love to hear it.

Next issue, I will continue the review with the second half of 1961.

References

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