

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

I still find it quite remarkable that so many adults can observe a stellar body and see fit to call it in as a “UFO.” Furthermore, what does it say about the total UFO phenomenon when these adults are often in groups and watch these stars for hours?

Allan Hendry - The UFO Handbook

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Too little time for UFOs?

It seems that my hobbies and family life this summer interfered with my interest in the subject of UFOs. It did not seem that I missed much. There appears to be nothing of significance happening after the UAP task force (UAPTF) released its report. The videos continue to be everybody's focus. As I had previously stated, the best place to learn what has been happening regarding any video analysis is to go to [Metabunk](#). While most of it is skeptical, any new efforts from the proponent side are identified and discussed.

Speaking of Metabunk, [Mick West and Chris Lehto had a session on Youtube](#) where they came to an agreement to examine some of the cases together. Shortly after this, Lehto went back to his Youtube channel and began to declare that the individuals on Metabunk were still wrong. He even invited IR technician [Dave Falch to debunk Mick West's arguments about the gimbal video](#). Once again, we were stuck with a Youtube argument involving Lehto attempting to reinforce his position to his audience instead of discussing the arguments with West or in the Metabunk forum. The video posted by Lehto forced [Mick to point out the problem with Falch's counterargument](#). Falch seemed to misrepresent what West had described regarding glare. West also demonstrated that Falch did not quite understand the equipment that was being used. Eventually, it came down to Falch stating that he was the expert and he knows better even though he seemed confused about some of the specifics of the ATFLIR system. Of course, this debate could be settled to some extent if the individuals worked together in a formal setting so they could actual understand what each was talking about. It looked like this was happening when Lehto and West met. In that exchange, Lehto came across as open-minded and willing to discuss the issues. However, once he got back to his own Youtube channel, he went back to his "I am right and you are wrong" mentality. It is not a proper method of resolving any differences in interpretation.

[Professor Avi Loeb is creating something called "The Galileo project", which appears to be an effort to collect photographic/video evidence of UAPs](#). Dr. Loeb is the scientist, who felt that the Asteroid-like object Oumuamua was not natural and might have been an extraterrestrial probe of some kind. One wonders if he got his idea from the science fiction novel, "Rendezvous with Rama"? According to the website, the Galileo Project is going to become engaged in the systematic scientific search for extraterrestrial technological artifacts (AKA UAPs or UFOs). The objective of the project appears to be to identify more of these "probes" in our skies, in orbit around the earth, and in interplanetary space. It seems like he is basically reproducing many of the activities already in operation. Even if we reject how the [Military's Space Surveillance Network](#) tracks everything in orbit, there are plenty of amateur satellite observers, who usually locate new objects orbiting the earth. [Seesat.org](#) is a great place for this information. I am not sure of what instrumentation he plans to use that is not already being employed by these dedicated amateur astronomers. Some of them employ sensitive video cameras that record faint objects. Meanwhile, observatories everywhere are discovering and tracking asteroids and comets at a prolific rate. So good are they at discovering comets that amateurs, who used to find most new comets, rarely discover them. If there are any "Rama-like" objects entering the solar system. They will quickly find them. Finally, we have to wonder why NASA and all the amateur meteor networks are not collecting UAPs on their systems. Additionally, there are weather cameras, security cameras, and various other instruments pointed skyward that don't seem to record UAPs with any detail. Even cell phone cameras have evolved to the point that they can record aircraft with reasonable resolution. Despite this jump in technology, UAPs remain elusive and often tend to be just smudges or blurry in any of these systems. To me, this says a lot about UAP photographs. Still, Dr. Loeb might be able to build a better mousetrap. I wish him luck but will be shocked if he discovers anything convincing.

Cover: Jupiter is a prominent celestial object in the evening this fall. It was also a notable object in the fall of 1963 and contributed to UFO sightings during that time period. You can see it in my case review for that time period starting on page 5.

Left: Was spaceman Spiff the source of the "go fast" video? For those who do not get the reference, I suggest you look up "Calvin and Hobbes".

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WEEDING OUT THE WEINSTEIN CATALOGUE

October 10, 1957 - Over western United States¹

57.10.10	04:08	USA	over western States	A	two Western Airlines aircraft pilots	a huge bright red fireball with a blue tail flashed across the sky	X	427
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Loren Gross is the only source used

The only source listed was the history of UFOs for October of 1957 by Loren Gross. It seems the media reports were pretty consistent and it was probably a meteor.² Gross even agreed with this conclusion. Instead of promoting this as something exotic, Gross focused his attention on astronomer Dr. H. H. Nininger, who did not like where the Air Force had computed the potential meteorite to have come down.³ According to the scientist, their computations were off and he implied that this meant the Air Force was not capable of investigating these kinds of reports (UFOs among them) properly. The Blue Book file contains multiple reports and newspaper clippings all indicating it was probably a fireball meteor.⁴

Analysis

There seems to be little doubt that the source of the sighting was a fireball meteor. As for the criticism by the scientist in Gross' selection, I agree that the USAF probably did not accurately determine the fall of a meteorite but they weren't scientists. The one scientist they did employ was Hynek and he was missing in action on this one. He probably had better things to do with his time. The reason for the identification of a potential landing site came from a report in the file, where a Navy pilot reported seeing it strike the ground. As a result, the local authorities were asked to search this area. This is probably the same Navy pilot, who reported a near collision with the meteor. Blue Book had to see if there was something that came down based on this information. Perhaps the criticism leveled by Dr. Nininger should not have been directed towards the USAF but towards the quality of the reports being sent to Blue Book by the pilots themselves.

Conclusion

In my opinion, this is another case that demonstrates the claim by Dominique Weinstein that pilots are "much more reliable witnesses than others"⁵ is incorrect. There is little doubt that this was a fireball meteor and that some of the pilots' claims about near collisions and seeing it strike the ground were not accurate. This case should 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. 34
2. "Fireball adds sky display". Star-news. Pasadena, Ca. October 10, 1957. P.1.
3. Gross, Loren. The fifth horseman of the Apocalypse: UFOs: A history 1957: October 1st to November 2nd. Fremont, Ca. 1997. P. 21-4.
4. "Case file - Themopolis, Wyoming, Myton, UT US, Western US October 10, 1957". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/6971467>
5. Weinstein, Dominique F. Unidentified Aerial Phenomena: Eighty years of pilot sightings. NARCAP. February 2001. P. 4

'FIREBALL' ADDS SKY DISPLAY

Object Believed Meteor Nearly Strikes Plane

By UNITED PRESS

The North American Air Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo., said today it believed a huge fireball that hurtled across the pre-dawn skies of five western states was a meteor.

Command officials said an Air Force investigating team would be flown immediately to the northeastern Utah site where the object apparently crashed shortly after 4 a.m. (MST).

The Command confirmed reports the mysterious fiery object narrowly missed a Navy plane in an area near the Colorado-Utah border, but said it could not identify the pilot or where the plane was based.

METEOR ACTIVITY

Command officials joined several eastern scientists in ruling out the possibility the fireball was part of the Russian satellite launching rocket. Other military spokesmen in this area rejected the possibility it was a run-away missile.

"This is a period of heavy meteor activity," said one Air Force official at the Air Defense Command. "A shower known as 'Giacobinids' was due Oct. 9 (last night) with others due on the 18th and 21st of October."

A Western Air Lines pilot, Captain Joe Seday of Los Angeles, said he saw the object while flying over southwestern Wyoming. He said a few moments later he talked air-to-air by radio with the pilot of the unidentified Navy plane, which had reported near-collision with the object.

NOT RUSSIAN ROCKET
The object was seen in scattered areas of Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana and Utah.

Witnesses at Vernal, Utah, said they saw an object that "looked like the moon—white with a blue flame that pulsed like a heart" disappear behind low hills 20 to 30 miles east of the city.

The possibility that the fireball was connected with the Soviet satellite appeared impossible. Radio trackers in Washington clocked the man-made moon over the midwestern states at the time of the reported fireball crash.

September 13, 1961 - Crawfordsville, Indiana

September 13, 1961--Crawfordsville, Indiana. 4:00 a.m. Three people reported a round, orange UFO which moved rapidly east to west, stopped and hovered for 5 minutes, then accelerated rapidly disappearing in the distance. [XII]

Section XII offers little in the way of additional information. It does not even list a reference.² I tried to locate the origin of the information for this sighting but could not find anything in the newspaper archive, Loren Gross' history or at the various UFO Internet sites. If there is a source, it seems it was either a written letter or an obscure newspaper article. Despite this limitation, there seems to be a possible explanation.

Blue Book file

Fortunately Project Blue Book has a case file for this date and approximate time. They list multiple sightings on the east coast and in the Midwest. Some of the furthest west were³:

1. Fletcher, Ohio (north of Dayton): Object observed in the eastern sky with estimated elevation of 10 degrees. Seen at 4:30 EST.
2. Cincinnati, Ohio. Seen near "morning star" (Probably Venus at azimuth 78 degrees and 10 degrees elevation). Seen at 4:35 AM.
3. Between Joliet and Goshen. Five civil jets at 9:36 GMT saw rocket appearance with explosion at end.

The time indicates 4:30-4:35 AM. This is close enough to the unsourced sighting of 4AM in Crawfordsville, Indiana to be the same event.

Analysis

Blue Book properly evaluated this as a Aeronomy mission rocket launch from Wallops Island.⁴ According to the media, it sparked numerous calls from hundreds of miles away.⁵ Crawfordsville is about 650 miles from Wallops Island. With an altitude of 205 miles, the release could be visible from Crawfordsville.

1961 September 13 - . 09:32 GMT - . Launch Site: Wallops Island. LV Family: Honest John. Launch Vehicle: Javelin.

- **Sodium release Aeronomy mission - . Nation: USA. Agency: NASA. Apogee: 331 km (205 mi).**

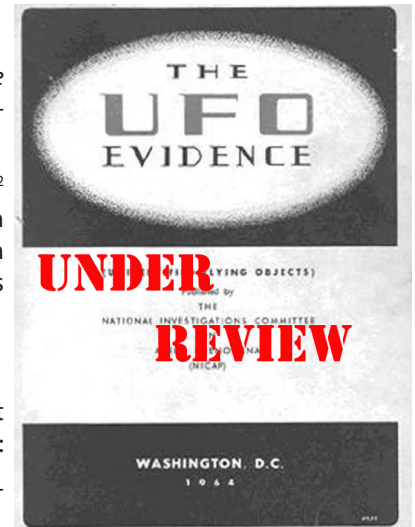
The only question has to do with the description stating it went from east to west. Perhaps what the witnesses were describing that it was seen in the east and then rose in a westward direction. Without the documentation, it is hard to say exactly what they meant by that description. In my opinion, I chalk this part of the description as up to misperception/misinterpretation. The point is that there was a known object visible around the time of the reported observation and is the probable source for the sighting.

Conclusion

It is too bad that the UFO evidence did not cite a reference for the information about the sighting. I have to assume it is somewhere in the NICAP files. Despite this lack of documentation, the likely source of the sighting was the Aeronomy mission.

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. 139
2. *ibid.* P. 151
3. "Case file - E. Coast US September 13, 1961". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/8302677>
4. "Space History Chronology 1961". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/1/1961chronology.html>
5. "Shot at Wallops Island set off rash of inquiries". Abilene Reporter-News. Abilene, Texas. September 14, 1961. P. 6-B



Shots at Wallops Island Set Off Rash of Inquiries

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, set off brilliant orange and yellow sodium clouds in the upper atmosphere twice Wednesday and stirred a rash of phone calls and inquiries at newspapers for hundreds of miles around.

Both shots were fired from its Wallops Island, Va., station as part of a study of upper atmospheric winds, temperatures and density. One was at 4:42 a.m. EST and the other at 6:33 p.m. EST. Two more tests in the same series are planned.

Wednesday night's shot was a 145-pound payload hurled aloft by a four-stage Argo D4 sounding rocket. The package contained a thermite compound which was ignited by an electrical charge, vaporizing the sodium.

The vapor was ejected first at an altitude of 110 statute miles and again at 230 miles, NASA said. It was studied from sites located at Dover AFB, Delaware; Anderson AFB, Md.; Camp A. P. Hill, Va.; Dam Neck Naval Fleet Training Station, Va., and Wallops Station.

The firing in the morning spread clouds visible for hundreds of miles, both at heights of 120 miles and 228 miles.

THE 701 CLUB: CASE 2171: TAOS, NEW MEXICO OCTOBER 17, 1952

Don Berliner's describes the case as follows:

*Oct. 17, 1952; Taos, New Mexico. 9:15 p.m. Witnesses: Four USAF officers One round, bright blue light moved from north to northeast at an elevation of 45° for 2-3 seconds and then burned out.*¹

Sparks expanded on Berliner's notes and even identified this as a meteor fireball:

Oct. 17, 1952. 10 mi S of Taos, New Mexico. 9:10 or 9:15 p.m. (MST). Kirtland AFB officer Major Charles R. Coble, 4910th Air Base Group, in Jeep traveling N on Hwy 85 saw a round, bright blue light move from N to NE at a [descending?] angle of 45° about 25 miles away at estimated 10,000 ft altitude, speed 2500 mph [25,000 to 35,000 ?? mph], then burn out suddenly in the SE. While at football stadium at half-time in Albuquerque (at 35°N ?, 106°35' W ?) Kirtland AFB officers 1st Lt. Richard D. Volk (34th Air Division ADC), 2nd Lt. William J. Arrowood (4910th ABG), and 2nd Lt. Warren J. Eljenholm (34th AD), sighted bluish-green light falling rapidly in a "near vertical path." [Meteor fireball IFO.] (Sparks)²

The Blue Book file³

Brad Sparks summarized most of the observations in his entry so it is not necessary to repeat the process again. All indicate the object was to the north of them and lasted only a few seconds.

Analysis

The object did not change course, it was very bright, seen at night, and it was visible for only a few seconds. These are all characteristics of a bright fireball.

Conclusion

There is little doubt that it was a fireball meteor that was observed. Even Brad Sparks considered it one. This case 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. 175
3. "Case file - Taos, NM October 17, 1952". Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/image/9169219>

Project Blue Book case review: July-December 1963

This is the latest edition of the Project Blue Book case review covering July through December 1963. 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.

July 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
1	Glen Ellyn, IL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	Oakhurst, NJ	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
2	Atlantic	Aircraft	Agreed
3	Klamath Falls, OR	Insufficient data	Possible moon set. Described as small moon-shaped and splitting into two as it got low. Gibbous Moon at azimuth 246 and elevation 1.6 degrees. Set at 1019Z. Seen in direction of Keno AFS. Keno, or at azimuth of 230 degrees.
4	Far East	Satellite	Possible aircraft
4	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
4	Hamilton, MT	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
4	Greensboro, NC	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report made almost four years later.
6	Sioux City, IA	Aircraft	Agreed
6	Sioux City, IA	Satellite	Insufficient data. No positional information or direction of travel.
8	Gulf of Mexico	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
9	Arlington Heights, IL	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
10	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 11
11	Ludington, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Far East	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
15	Plainview Long Island, NY	Lens Flare	Agreed.
15	East Orange, NJ	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
16	Baker, OR	Balloon	Agreed
16	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
17	Spencer, WV	Satellite	Agreed. Time listed incorrect. Actual time was 0240Z. Possibly Cosmos 14.
18	Three Lakes, WI	Aircraft	Agreed
18	Lompoc, CA	Balloon	Agreed
18	Key West, FL	Meteor	Agreed
18	McLean, VA	Balloon	Agreed
18	50 mi NE of Las Vegas, VA	Missile	Agreed. Atlas missile launch from Vandenberg.
19	Cooperstown, NY	1. Aircraft 2. Insufficient data	1. Agreed 2. Possible Meteor
20	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
20	Fairborn, OH	Balloon	Agreed
21	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
22	Arlington, VA	Jupiter	Agreed. Witness saw it on multiple nights in same location of sky at same time.
22	Englewood, OH	Antares	Arcturus
23	Houston, TX	Insufficient data	Agreed. Witness wrote letter about seeing UFOs. No further information in letter and witness did not complete form sent to them.

23	Stoneham, MA	Satellite	Unreliable report. Report made in 1965.
24	Key West, FL	Meteor	Agreed
25	Cincinnati, OH	Jupiter	Agreed. (It is possible that it was Capella but witness description of brightness indicates it probably was Jupiter)
25	Dayton, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
26	Hollywood, CA	Balloon	Agreed
26	Yakutat, AK	Meteor	Agreed
27	Morehead, KY	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Craig, CO	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Potomac, MD	Balloon	Agreed
30	Philippines	Missile	Atlas warhead re-entry at Kwajalein too far away. Observations made 36 minutes prior to launch. Meteor.
31	Beaver Falls, PA	Meteor	Agreed
31-Aug6	Scradsdale, NY	Aircraft	Agreed

August 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Aug	Plainview, NY	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Reported two years later in 1965
Aug	Easton, MA	Meteor	Insufficient data. No specific date. No duration or direction. Report made months after event.
Aug	Syracuse, NY	Insufficient data	Agreed. No specific date or time. No duration or direction.
2	Morehead, KY	Object attached to test aircraft	Agreed
2	Camp Springs, VA	Star/Planet	Agreed. Either Fomalhaut or Antares. Report is not clear.
3	Gagnon, ME	Insufficient data	Agreed. No direction given. Sounds like a possible daylight meteor.
4	Kabul, Afghanistan	Meteor	Agreed
4-5	Warner, NH	Meteor	Agreed
5	San Antonio, TX	Balloon	Agreed
5	Meville AS, Labrador	Balloon	Agreed. Photographs were of radar contact that could not be visually seen by aircraft sent to intercept. Technical analysis concluded it probably was a balloon with radar target.
5	West Haven, CT	Aircraft	Agreed. 12-year old witness reported by mail for sighting in early July but then sent form back for sighting in August.
5-6	Akron, OH	Aircraft	Agreed. Witness reported multiple sightings. All appeared to be aircraft.
5-7	Fairfield, IL	1. Moon 2. Jupiter 3. Meteor 4. Aircraft	Agreed. Photograph is just a picture of a landmark.
7	Muskallonge Lake, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Camp Kapitachuan, PQ, Canada	Aircraft	Agreed
7	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
7-8	Dayton, OH	Jupiter/Arcturus	Agreed. Arcturus is for second sighting, which is only mentioned on record card.
8	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Capella
8	Florida	Parahelia	Agreed. Sounds like sun dog.

9	Superior, WI	Balloon	Agreed
9	Muskallonge Lake, MI	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Chicago, IL	Aircraft	Agreed. Advertising plane.
10	Fairfield, IL	Misinterpretation of conventional Object	Insufficient data. Letter describing observation of various lights. These could be meteors and celestial objects but witness' report was less than thorough.
10	Nikiski, AK	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Valparaiso, Chile	Aircraft	Agreed
11	Warrenville, IL	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
12	Cleveland, OH	Salt Crystals	Agreed. Physical specimen.
12	Warner, NH	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Warner, NH	Arcturus	Agreed
12	Warner, NH	Aircraft	Agreed
13	Seattle, WA	Insufficient data	Agreed. Letter with no details. Form sent but not returned.
13	Borger, TX	Grass fly eggs	Agreed. Physical specimen.
13	Smithland, IA	Jupiter	Capella (although Jupiter is possible based on some of the witness' description)
13-14	St. Galen, Switzerland	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
14	Nilea, IL	Aircraft	Agreed
15	Miami, FL	Aircraft	Agreed
16	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
20	Auburn, ME	Chaff	Agreed. Physical specimen.
20	Turner & Ord River, Australia	Satellite decay	No satellite decay. Meteor.
20	Elko, NV	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Midas 7 satellite.
20	Rome, Italy	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED. Single witness with adequate description but no possible source.
21	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
25	Atlantic	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
25	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. Case file contains two sightings. Reports are confusing. First sighting at 0800Z with object at position angle 40 moving very fast course 130 deg. Second sighting was position angle 50 on course of 150 deg (it also erroneously lists the date as 28 Aug) at 0805Z. Elevation for both was indicated as "very high". BB interpreted position angle as elevation angle but it could also be position off the bow or azimuth. This makes the information confusing and incapable of being properly evaluated. This could have been two meteors or it could be two observations of the same object. If it were the latter, and if it was still visible in the same general location in the sky, it was not moving very fast at all.
26	Dayton, OH	Capella	Agreed
28	Sangley Point, Phillippines	Balloons	Agreed
29	Chicago, IL	Satellite	Not Echo. Possible aircraft.
30	Vandalia, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
31	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.

September 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Sept	Burlington, MA	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date given. Witness was 14-year old. Description appears to have been bright fireball.
Sept	Tenaflly, NJ	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No date or time.
Sept	Hendersonville, NC	Insufficient data	Agreed. Second hand report made one year after event.
1	Djakarta, Indonesia	Meteor	Agreed
1	Niland, CA	Aircraft	Agreed
1	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
2	Sacramento, CA	Jupiter	Agreed (Saturn closer to moon but it seems the description of an object orbiting the object through binoculars probably was observation of Jupiter and its moons)
2	Healdsburg, CA	Balloon	Capella
4	Oxford, ME	Hole in ground	Agreed. Photographs are of hole.
7	Corvallis, OR	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
8	Eastern KS	Aircraft	Agreed
9	Pacific	Insufficient data	Procyon
10-20	San Diego, CA	Satellite	Echo satellite and aircraft. Witness saw object on September 10-13. Echo satellite explains sightings off September 11 and 13. September 10 sighting sounds like aircraft. The witness reported it flashing on and off and vanishing after passing overhead, which indicates the light was possibly obstructed by the aircraft's fuselage. September 12 sighting may also have been aircraft. Witness report, while extensive, is missing positional information at the end of the sighting. All we can tell is the object appeared in NW and then proceeded in a direction that included being "overhead". It did not specify it ending in the NE, E, SE. Each sighting
11	Pacific	Aircraft	Agreed
12	Bloomington, IL	Jupiter	Agreed
13	Dayton, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
13	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Cosmos-19
14	Susanville, CA	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
15	Vandalia, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Airplane Contrail - See SUNlite 6-6
15	LaGrange, IL	Balloon	Agreed
15	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
17	Seattle, WA	1. Satellite 2. Aircraft	Agreed. Echo Satellite and aircraft.
20	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
20	California-Oregon	Meteor	Agreed
20	Pori, Finland	Meteor	Agreed
22	Vernon, TX	Meteor	Agreed
22	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
22-23	Cody, WY	Jupiter	Agreed
23	SE Oregon	Meteor	Agreed
23	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
23	Eagles Mere, PA	Aircraft	Agreed
23	Keesler AFB, MS	Contrails	Deacon Rocket launch from Eglin AFB

24	Martinsburg, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
24	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
24	Dagmar, MT	Meteor	Agreed
25	Pacific	Missile	Agreed. Observation of failed Atlas rocket launch.
25	Herkimer, NY	Aurora	Agreed
26	San Jose, CA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
27	Long Beach, CA	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
30	Muleshoe-Farwell, TX/Canon AFB, NM	Meteor	Agreed
30	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Possible Delta 1 Rocket Body.
30	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.
30-7 Oct	Murfreesboro, TN	Satellite	Insufficient data. No times recorded.

October 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Fall	Thaxton, VA	Thistle blooms	Agreed
Fall	Tupper Lake, NY	Creases in negative and vapor clouds	Agreed. "Vapor cloud" appears to be cloud in image from file. May also be stain on negative. I defer to analysts interpretation of image since they had a better quality image to work with.
Oct	Milwaukee, WI	Insufficient data	Agreed. No date. Reported in May 64.
2	Concord, NC	Satellite	Insufficient data. No time given in letter to ATIC.
2	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Aircraft
3	Ashland, KY	Aircraft	Agreed. Report made by 12-year old with some potential exaggerations of shape.
3	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Agreed
4	Bedford, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Pasadena, CA	Aircraft	Agreed. Report made by 12-year old who only had "glimpses" of the object.
6	Philadelphia, PA	Unreliable report	Aircraft (potentially with advertising banner)
6	Dayton, OH	Meteor	Agreed
7	Lanham, MD	Balloon	Agreed
8	Charleston AFB, SC	Meteor	Agreed
8	Pacific	Satellite	Echo satellite only fits if time was in error (0430Z instead of 0330Z). Possible aircraft.
8-10	Dayton, OH	Jupiter	Agreed
9	Fallon, NV	Jupiter	Agreed
9	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
9	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
10	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Report made over phone. Course listed as NE Echo moving towards SSE but visible. No additional information. Possible error in direction.
11	Santa Fe, Argentina	Insufficient data	Agreed. Report of Saucer landing with "beings" not investigated by AF.
12	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
12	Redding, CA	Insufficient data	Possibly Rigel
14	St. John, Canada	Satellite	Agreed. Possibly Cosmos 19.
14	Lookout Mountain, OR	Meteor	Agreed
16	Elmendorf AFB, AK	Meteor	Agreed

19	Reeds Port, OR	Meteor	Agreed
19	Bournemouth, England	Star/Planet	Setting crescent moon (BlueBook ruled out moon but moon was above horizon in the direction observed).
19	Barbers Point, HI	Missile	Aircraft
23	New Hampton, NH	Conflicting data	Witness gave conflicting information between letter and reporting form. Witness may misread form (he was 17-year old). This may have been sighting of setting crescent moon.
23	Meridian, ID	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
24	Cuper Fife, Scotland	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
25	Pacific	Insufficient data	Agreed. Only information is "bright white flashing light". No duration or direction.
25	Sioux City, IA (listed as Mitchell, SD)	Refueling aircraft	Agreed
28	Greece, NY	Aircraft	Agreed
29	Fairfield, IL	Rock	Agreed. Photograph of specimen
29	Lincoln Park, MI	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
30	Fairborn, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional information.
31	Saudia Arabia	Meteor	Agreed
31	Jacksonville, FL	Aircraft	Agreed

November 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
2	St Peter, IL	Meteor	Agreed
2	Bean Blossom, IN	Meteor	Agreed
3	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
5	Kindley AFB, Bermuda	Jupiter	Possible aircraft. Jupiter set about 40 minutes before sighting. Jupiter would fit if there is a one hour time error.
5	Nebraska - Iowa	Meteor	Agreed
8	Conde, Bahia, Brazil	Hoax	Agreed
11	Duncanville, TX	Insufficient data	Witness looking in direction of sun from inside of car. Glare from sun.
11	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
12	St. Claire County, MI	Aircraft	Agreed. It was concluded to have been a helicopter.
14	Stead AFB, NV	Missile	Agreed. Titan 1 launch from Vandenberg
16	Atlantic	Flare	Insufficient data. No direction or duration
17	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
18	New Platz, NY	Meteor	Agreed. Duration listed as 5 minutes but this was probably the resultant ion train. Witnesses stated it traveled faster than any aircraft. This was during Leonid maximum. Observers reported seeing multiple bright fireballs during the period. One fireball report in Sky and Telescope, from 80 miles away, was only 30 minutes after this sighting was reported.
18	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
19	Mt. Dora, FL	Unreliable report	Agreed. Witness report is erratic and call to family indicated that the witness "was seeing things again".
19	Phoenix, AZ	Spica	Arcturus fits description. Witness off in direction by 45 degrees.
19	Pacific	Meteor	Agreed
21	West Nyak, NY	Meteor	Agreed
21	Atlantic	Aircraft	Agreed

27	Kenema, Sierra Leone, Africa	Missile	Agreed. Centaur2B test launch 1903Z Explorer 8 0230Z
27	Monfobia, Libera, Africa	Missile	Agreed. Centaur2B test launch
27	Pennsylvania	Meteor	Agreed
30	Knoxville, TN	Meteor	Agreed

December 1963

Date	Location	BB explanation	My evaluation
Dec	Dixon, IL	Psychological	Unreliable report. Report made in 1965.
2	Pacific	Satellite decay	Agreed. Cosmos 22 Rocket body
2	Farallon Islands, Pacific	Missile	No rocket launches from Vandenberg on date and time listed. Aircraft with contrail.
5	Congers, NY	Unreliable report	12-year old witness. Possible aircraft.
6	Ashland, KY	Aircraft	Agreed (10-year old witness!)
6-7	France	Radar reflector	Agreed. Radar reported an object on radar moving slowly towards NW at 400 foot altitude and then falling after "turning". Search eventually found a radar reflector in region. Photograph of ML-307
7	Pennsylvania	Meteor	Agreed
8	Annandale, VA	Meteor	Agreed
9	Atlantic	Insufficient data	Actual sighting was in pacific. Record card moved decimal point of longitude from 174 to 17.4W. Agreed. Lack of duration. Only indication of duration was "very fast".
10	White Plains, NY	Flare	Moon rise (Waning crescent at azimuth 97 degrees elevation 6 degrees). Witness saw object in east through window. Witness stated there was no moon visible. Witness even described as a crescent. Witness stated it went eastward but only observed object for 38 seconds and witness had changed position from where he was observing object. Note at bottom of record card indicated that Dr. Hynek want to consider this a possible moon sighting.
11	McMinnville, OR	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
11	Snowmass, CO	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness did not give specific date other than "about a week ago". Time listed as "dusk".
11-12	Washington D.C.	Birds	Agreed
13	Cinnaminson, NJ	Meteor	Agreed
14	San Jose, CA	Meteor	Agreed
14	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
15	Kettering, OH	Meteor	Agreed
16	Pacific	UNIDENTIFIED	UNIDENTIFIED
16	Pacific	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite
19	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
21	Pacific	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Radar pickup only with minimal information. No visual sighting.
21	Clovis, NM	Meteor	Agreed
26	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Agreed. Echo Satellite.

Reclassification

I evaluated 226 cases in the Blue Book files from July through December 1963. In my opinion, 52 were improperly classified (about 23%). 18 (about 8% of the total number of cases/34% 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
7/3	Klamath Falls, OR	Insufficient data	Possible moons et. Described as small moon-shaped and splitting into two as it got low. Gibbous Moon at azimuth 246 and elevation 1.6 degrees. Set at 1019Z. Seen in direction of Keno AFS. Keno, or at azimuth of 230 degrees.
7/4	Far East	Satellite	Possible aircraft
7/4	Greensboro, NC	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Report made almost four years later.
7/6	Sioux City, IA	Satellite	Insufficient data. No positional information or direction of travel.
7/10	Dayton, OH	Aircraft	Possibly Cosmos 11
7/19	Cooperstown, NY	1. Aircraft 2. Insufficient data	1. Agreed 2. Possible Meteor
7/20	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
7/22	Englewood, OH	Antares	Arcturus
7/23	Stoneham, MA	Satellite	Unreliable report. Report made in 1965.
7/30	Phillippines	Missile	Atlas warhead re-entry at Kwajalein too far away. Observations made 36 minutes prior to launch. Meteor.
Aug	Plainview, NY	Insufficient data	Unreliable report. Reported two years later in 1965
Aug	Easton, MA	Meteor	Insufficient data. No specific date. No duration or direction. Report made months after event.
8/8	Chicago, IL	Insufficient data	Capella
8/10	Fairfield, IL	Misinterpretation of conventional Object	Insufficient data. Letter describing observation of various lights. These could be meteors and celestial objects but witness' report was less than thorough.
8/13	Smithland, IA	Jupiter	Capella (although Jupiter is possible based on some of the witness' description)
8/16	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
8/20	Turner & Ord River, Australia	Satellite decay	No satellite decay. Meteor.
8/20	Rome, Italy	Insufficient data	UNIDENTIFIED. Single witness with adequate description but no possible source.
8/29	Chicago, IL	Satellite	Not Echo. Possible aircraft.
Sept	Tenafly, NJ	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No date or time.
9/2	Healdsburg, CA	Balloon	Capella
9/9	Pacific	Insufficient data	Procyon
9/10-20	San Diego, CA	Satellite	Echo satellite and aircraft. Witness saw object on September 10-13. Echo satellite explains sightings off September 11 and 13. September 10 sighting sounds like aircraft. The witness reported it flashing on and off and vanishing after passing overhead, which indicates the light was possibly obstructed by the aircraft's fuselage. September 12 sighting may also have been aircraft. Witness report, while extensive, is missing positional information at the end of the sighting. All we can tell is the object appeared in NW and then proceeded in a direction that included being "overhead". It did not specify it ending in the NE, E, SE. Each sighting
9/15	Vandalia, OH	UNIDENTIFIED	Airplane Contrail - See SUNlite 6-6
9/23	Keesler AFB, MS	Contrails	Deacon Rocket launch from Eglin AFB
9/26	San Jose, CA	Insufficient data	Aircraft
9/30-10/7	Murfreesboro, TN	Satellite	Insufficient data. No times recorded.

10/2	Concord, NC	Satellite	Insufficient data. No time given in letter to ATIC.
10/2	Baltimore, MD	Insufficient data	Aircraft
10/6	Philadelphia, PA	Unreliable report	Aircraft (potentially with advertising banner)
10/8	Pacific	Satellite	Echo satellite only fits if time was in error (0430Z instead of 0330Z). Possible aircraft.
10/9	Kansas City, MO	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/10	Dayton, OH	Satellite	Insufficient data. Report made over phone. Course listed as NE Echo moving towards SSE but visible. No additional information. Possible error in direction.
10/12	Redding, CA	Insufficient data	Possibly Rigel
10/19	Bournemouth, England	Star/Planet	Setting crescent moon (BlueBook ruled out moon but moon was above horizon in the direction observed).
10/19	Barbers Point, HI	Missile	Aircraft
10/23	New Hampton, NH	Conflicting data	Witness gave conflicting information between letter and reporting form. Witness may misread form (he was 17-year old). This may have been sighting of setting crescent moon.
10/29	Lincoln Park, MI	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
10/30	Fairborn, OH	Aircraft	Insufficient data. No positional information.
11/3	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/5	Kindley AFB, Bermuda	Jupiter	Possible aircraft. Jupiter set about 40 minutes before sighting. Jupiter would fit if there is a one hour time error.
11/11	Duncanville, TX	Insufficient data	Witness looking in direction of sun from inside of car. Glare from sun.
11/11	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible aircraft
11/16	Atlantic	Flare	Insufficient data. No direction or duration
11/19	Phoenix, AZ	Spica	Arcturus fits description. Witness off in direction by 45 degrees.
Dec	Dixon, IL	Psychological	Unreliable report. Report made in 1965.
12/2	Farallon Islands, Pacific	Missile	No rocket launches from Vandenberg on date and time listed. Aircraft with contrail.
12/5	Congers, NY	Unreliable report	12-year old witness. Possible aircraft.
12/10	White Plains, NY	Flare	Moon rise (Waning crescent at azimuth 97 degrees elevation 6 degrees). Witness saw object in east through window. Witness stated there was no moon visible. Witness even described as a crescent. Witness stated it went eastward but only observed object for 38 seconds and witness had changed position from where he was observing object. Note at bottom of record card indicated that Dr. Hynek want to consider this a possible moon sighting.
12/11	Snowmass, CO	Balloon	Insufficient data. Witness did not give specific date other than "about a week ago". Time listed as "dusk".
12/19	Pacific	Insufficient data	Possible meteor
12/21	Pacific	Aircraft	Insufficient data. Radar pickup only with minimal information. No visual sighting.

Summary

This time period still seemed to have quite a few Echo satellite observations. There were 26 confirmed Echo sightings (about 11.5%). There were also three cases that probably involved the moon. The most interesting was the December 10th White Plains event. The witness woke up and saw the object out his eastern facing window. He then went back to get his glasses and saw the object at a lower elevation through the same window. The duration of the sighting estimated by the witness was 38 seconds. Most

notable was the witness stated the moon was not visible and the object had a crescent shape to it. The moon was a waning crescent visible in the east at the time of the sighting. It seems likely the moon was the source and the changing position had to do with the witness observing the object from a different position through his window after going back to get his glasses.

Another event that was interesting was the sighting of Rome, Italy of August 20. It was listed as "insufficient data" but I felt there was enough data to evaluate the case. This was a single witness sighting where a driver reported seeing a craft move around his vehicle. I suspect one could place this into an unreliable report category because it was just the witness who saw the event but that would have been a lazy way of classifying it. I also could have listed it as a possible helicopter or aircraft but there really was no evidence to suggest this was possible. As a result, I classified it as UNIDENTIFIED. Sometimes, you just have to accept the sighting for what it was.

With 1963 complete, I will be moving on to 1964 in SUNlite 13-6.

References

1. "Project Blue Book investigations." Fold 3 web site. Available WWW: <https://www.fold3.com/title/461/project-blue-book-ufo-investigations>
2. Project Blue Book archive. Available WWW: <http://bluebookarchive.org/> (Note: This website is no longer active but some of my files come from this location. It may become active again in the future.)
3. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA/ESRL Radiosonde Database. Available WWW: <https://ruc.noaa.gov/raobs/>
4. "Stratospheric balloons: Chronological lists of launches worldwide since 1947" StratoCat. Available WWW: <http://stratocat.com.ar/globos/indexe.html>
5. "Space History Chronology". Astronautix. Available WWW: <http://www.astronautix.com/s/spacehistorychronology.html>
6. Condon, E. U., et al., eds. Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. New York: Bantam 1968.

Correction to January 5, 1963 sighting

Ted Molczan has contacted me and pointed out that my classification of the Jan 5, 1963 Mayaguana, Bahamas sighting in SUNlite 13-4 as "Possibly Midas 3" was incorrect. I had used a six month old TLE and the satellite was visible to the northeast approximately twenty minutes after the time listed. The witnesses described it going to the East Southeast. I had listed it as possible because I felt the time difference was not that great and that the witnesses may have been in error about the direction. Ted also pointed out that the satellite would not be that bright in the position listed. Based on that information, I have changed the classification to possible aircraft. The witnesses estimated the speed as 2500 mph but it went from going overhead to the horizon in four minutes, which is indication of an aircraft speed. The location is in the eastern end of the Bahamas and it could have been a patrol aircraft or a passenger/transport aircraft en route to Puerto Rico or the Virgin islands. There is no indication that the object exhibited any unnatural behavior.