

ARE "MYSTERY ANIMALS" INVOLVED WITH UFOs?

Charles Bowen

MANY readers may wonder what on earth Lake Monsters, Yeti and mystery out-of-place big cats, huge black dogs and giant birds have to do with UFOs. Janet and Colin Bord, in their fascinating new book *Alien Animals* (Granada Publishing Ltd., St. Albans, London, New York etc. — 258 pages, UK price £7.95 net) make a pretty good stab at the task of showing them the possible connections.

In the first five parts of *Alien Animals* they deal with their "...preoccupation... with those types of animals... that behave strangely and are not accepted by Science — but which have been seen by thousands of reliable people. Among other things they take the possible UFO connection with alien animals in their stride in the last part of this book.

Those five earlier sections are devoted to a massive collating and reording of the evidence of "Elusive Lake Monsters," of "Cats that can't be caught," of "Mysterious Black Dogs," of "Giant Birds and Birdmen," and "Man, or Manimal?" (the latter being about Big Hairy Monsters). Those are the main section, or chapter heads wherein are laid out, and weaved together reports and comments on sightings of these creatures, phenomena or manifestations — call them what you will — on a world-wide basis. Impeccably written, the book is copiously illustrated and is essential reading for anyone involved in ufology.

To read through "Cats that can't be caught" was, for your reviewer, rather like a nostalgic trip down memory lane, for it re-created the sense of wonder and excitement that had been shared with his friend Waveney Girvan — then editor of *Flying Saucer Review* — in the days from mid-1962 to October 1964. There were several visitations of animals of a feline variety in the western side of Surrey, and northern Hampshire — and therefore remote from their normal habitat — plus a well-publicised appearance of what was called a "cheetah" at Shooters Hill in South East London. It can be recorded that in addition to being a prominent ufologist Waveney Girvan was also a dedicated Fortean, and during the course of our daily commuting journeys there was much discussion concerning the similarities between UFO behaviour — their *elusiveness* was a point in question — and the behaviour of the mystery animals.

Completely unexpectedly, confirmation of a possible link between UFOs and mystery animals came from South Africa. The driver of a car, and his passenger, had stopped on a road near Vereeniging to investigate an unusually large dog "as big as a buck" when a 50-foot UFO "buzzed" the car until the men drove away. The story was reprinted in FSR Vol. 10, No. 3 (May-June 1964). Thereafter there were reports of the "Surrey Puma" at Crondall, Odiham and Ewshot, close to

Waveney's home, as well as at Dunsfold, Hascombe and Hurtwood Forest near Cranleigh.

By mid-September 1964 it was learned that Waveney Girvan was a very sick man, but he wrote one last item which was to appear in the World Round-up column of FRS Vol. 10, No. 6. Here is an extract from that piece: "Because of their possible connection with UFOs the *Review* this year has published accounts of mystery animals seen in South Africa and England. There is another to add to the list, and it comes from Crondall, Hampshire. The animal is an unpleasant creature quite apart from its disgusting stench. It has apparently attacked a man and a steer. Mr. Edward Blanks, manager of Bushylease Farm, Ewshot, said both he and his son had seen the animal several times in recent weeks. . ."

Waveney Girvan died on October 22, 1964, but just before that, your reviewer visited Bushylease Farm and learned that whenever the prowling "puma" was in the area the farm's fierce alsatian dog cringed in a corner; that the animal's nocturnal visits were preceded by the appearance of lights playing on the roofs of the buildings from an undetectable source; that the animal was also accompanied by a strong smell.

As the years went by, connections between Lake Monsters and UFOs, and "Big Hairy Monsters" and UFOs, began to become clear to researchers like Janet and Colin Bord and the late Ted Holiday. And as for that strong smell — that was also reported in a number of "Humanoid" cases (the "Spectre of Winterfold" for example, and Winterfold is close to Hurtwood Forest).

The Bords confess that "...there are many questions we have been unable to answer, and some that we have not even attempted to answer, such as: Why do alien animals appear in such a multiplicity of forms? Why are they materializing at all? Is there an intelligence behind them?" In other words they have been very careful, and objective; they have not committed themselves to any particular idea. However, they have examined and explained the many ideas and views that have been put forward — are these manifestations the result of teleportations? Of time-travel? Are they phantoms of beasts which once lived in the areas? Are they denizens of other planes of existence? Are they holograms? (Presumably holograms projected in our direction by something.) Are they Black Magic conjurations?

All this, and much else besides — including a brief look at the problem of animal mutilations — is examined in considerable depth. Above all, it seems we should be prepared to accept that UFOs and alien animals are inextricably linked.

FSR BOOKSHELF — 3

New UFO books reviewed by...

Janet & Colin Bord

ON January 1979 the House of Lords debate on the question of UFOs was introduced by **The Earl of Clancarty**, who is also Brinsley le Poer Trench, author of several UFO best-sellers, founder of Contact International, and a past editor of this magazine. During the 3½ hours of the debate the noble lords appeared to be as generally uninformed about the UFO phenomenon as might any other assorted collection of individuals. The result was very much a foregone conclusion, and Lord Clancarty's appeal "Is it not time that Her Majesty's Government informed our people of what they know about UFOs?" was stonewalled by Lord Strabolgi for the Government with the customary "...there is a wide range of natural explanations to account for such phenomena. There is nothing to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that such phenomena are alien space craft."

The text of the debate is now available in book form, with the addition of marginal notes by **John Michell** which enlarge upon the UFO references made by each speaker and provide the UFO novice with the background necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the debate. He has added a brief biography of each speaker, and there are also some 20 relevant illustrations of variable quality. Lord Clancarty provides a Preface and an Afterword, and the whole will be a necessary addition to the collection of UFO historians. **The House of Lords UFO Debate** is published by Open Head Press and Pentacle Books, and is available from the former at 2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 1NN, price £3.30 inclusive of UK postage.

As Hilary Evans observes in the title of his large-format UFO book, UFOs are "the greatest mystery." He has attempted a concise overview of this incredibly complex phenomenon, and has for the most part succeeded well. Short chapters on different aspects are interspersed with data on famous cases such as the Betty and Barney Hill abduction and the death of Captain Mantell. The book is very heavily illustrated with many full-page colour pictures, mostly artists' interpretations of UFO encounters. The danger with these is that they can tend to detract from the reality of the subject matter and give UFOs a science-fiction aura. There are few actual UFO photographs to redress the balance, and the photograph captioned "UFO, ball lightning or camera shake?" looks to us like a street lamp.

Our principal criticism of this book is that there is no list of further reading. Having read the intriguing though brief data in this book, the newcomer will be frustrated by not knowing where to look next. Nevertheless, this is a book we definitely recommend to the newcomer to

ufology. (**UFOS: The Greatest Mystery**, by **Hilary Evans**, Albany Books, 1979, £3.95, 94 pages)

Canadian author **Yurko Bondarchuk** has written an interesting and useful book which documents the Canadian UFO scene: **UFO: Sightings, Landings and Abductions** (published in a large paperback format by Methuen Publications, 2330 Midland Avenue, Agincourt, Ontario, M1S 1P7, Canada at a price of \$7.95 (Canadian dollars). Copies can be obtained direct from the publishers, and purchasers outside North America should send an extra Can\$3.10 to cover airmail postage, or Can\$.70 for seairmail). The scope of the book is shown by a list of the chapter titles: The Photographic Evidence; UFO Landings and Physical Traces; Physical Reactions to Sightings; UFO Occupants; UFO Abductions; UFOs and Military Installations; Military Pilot Sightings; UFOs and Energy Generating Sites; the E.M. Effect and Power Blackouts; UFOs and Radar Sites; Civilian Pilot Sightings; The Canadian Government and UFOs; Future Scenarios. The book is fully illustrated with drawings and photographs which give added interest to a readable text. There are also a full bibliography and index.

Ten years on... **Brad Steiger** has come a long way since he wrote *Flying Saucers are Hostile*. In his latest book **Gods of Aquarius**, subtitled "UFOs and the Transformation of Man" (Panther paperback, £1.25), he states: "I believe that it is an integral part of the UFO phenomenon to lead us to a clearer understanding of our true role in the cosmic scheme of things and to direct us to a level of awareness whereby we might more readily attain that 'state of oneness and self-sufficiency that is equivalent to deity itself.'" (p. 44). This is a far cry from *Flying Saucers are Hostile* with its chapter headings "Someone Up There May Not Like Us" and "Must We Prepare for a War of the Worlds?" What has happened to Steiger since 1967 to change his mind so dramatically?

In his new book Steiger has collected together material on all aspects of the benevolent space brothers as they are interacting with mankind today. He quotes extensively from other people's writings (some essays were prepared specially for his book) and has highlighted some unusual and rarely discussed aspects of ufology, such as the many people who believe themselves to be not of this world. However, the effect is one-sided: there are still many unpleasant cases in ufology, such as abduction and medical examination, harassment and injury, which are surely strange behaviour for benevolent space brothers.

Who will this book appeal to? The "popular" market,