

A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

The effects of UFOs on Animals, Birds, and smaller creatures

Part 1

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INTRODUCTION

IT is already some years now since the suggestion was made to me by Dr. J. Allen Hynek that I compile a catalogue of these cases.

This has meant re-reading a large proportion of the literature. I certainly have not been able to cover all of it, and no claim is made that this list is exhaustive. I do believe however that these 150 cases in which UFOs were seen to be present or may *possibly* be thought to have been present, will furnish a thoroughly representative sample of all the main categories of phenomenon or of effect.

A small number of the cases given here—such as the cases of panicking sheep—may conceivably prove to be due to some other simple and perfectly explicable cause. So far I have seen no such explanation.

But the picture as regards “UFO effects on animals and birds” will not be complete, or anywhere near complete, until somebody has made a careful study of the available “psychic” and para-psychological records of disappearing animals and strange behaviour by animals. (I recall, for example, that at Borley Rectory, the famous “most haunted house in England”, there was at least one report of a dog which was so terrified by something it saw or felt that it ran away and was never found again.)

The results of such an inquiry into the parapsychological field could be of overwhelming importance for the UFO investigator. For they may furnish us with a clear answer to the question whether the “UFO Phenomenon” is—to use John Keel’s term—*environmental*, i.e. something that is always here, that has been here as long as we have—or possibly even longer—or whether, alternatively, the “UFO Phenomenon” is a *relatively new phenomenon, due to some factor or agency that has only recently made its appearance in our environment*.

I confess that I have often felt tempted to opt for the “permanent environment” view. But in the course of compiling this catalogue, I have been greatly impressed by the total, utter, abject terror displayed by so many animals and birds in the presence of UFOs. Were the “UFO Phenomenon” due to some long-existent environmental factor present here on the Earth and in the Earth’s atmosphere, one would have thought that animals and birds would surely, in the course of the ages, have finally developed some sort of familiarity with, or tolerance of, such an environmental factor, even if—as most people assume—what disturbs them so much is primarily some kind of VHF emission. That a VHF factor seems often to be involved, I can well believe. But it looks to me at present as though this is far from accounting for the whole of the discomfort and the terror shown by animals and birds.

Could this terror perhaps be something much more fundamental, elemental, springing possibly from the *instinctive knowledge* of our animals and birds that the “UFO Phenomenon”—or a part of it—relates to *some power or agency that is utterly alien and inimical to the creatures of our world: a power or agency whose coming can only spell dismemberment, destruction, and death for them*.

This overwhelming fear displayed by the animals and birds may be our proof, then, that the “UFO Phenomenon” is *not environmental*, but really is “something from outside”, i.e. either something from “outside of our planet” or from outside of our particular space/time framework: in any event, something that is fundamentally and implacably hostile, repellent, evil, from the point of view of all life native to our particular planet. *And something that is altogether new in the experience of Man and Beast and Bird*. (Which it cannot be if, for example, my Case No. 1 is authentic.)

There still remains the possibility that only a portion of the “UFO Phenomenon” falls into this category of the inherently hostile and evil (i.e. “Demons”), while the remainder relates to some agency or agencies which at best are actively benevolent (i.e. “Angels”) or at worst merely neutral and objective towards Earthman and his fellow-creatures. Should such benevolent or merely “neutral” agencies exist (and all Religions tell us that they do, just as all Religions tell us about the “Others”) then there is a pressing need for us to discover as soon as possible the true natures and the true origins of such agencies and, above all, for us to discover some infallible yardstick whereby we may be able to judge instantly with which putative agency or faction we are confronted in any particular case. It goes without saying that our very survival, and the survival of the other life-forms that share this Planet with us, may depend upon the degree of success with which we tackle this particular aspect of the Great Enigma.

Our critics and opponents will naturally continue to insist that only crackpots and “psychos” see UFOs or think that UFOs exist. When, therefore, we come down to brass tacks, and to the problem of animals and birds reacting to UFOs, these critics find it necessary to tread mighty warily. For it is not assumed that our “furred and feathered friends” are “psychos” too. (Perhaps this is the reason why the Condon Report has kept well away from so prickly an issue as the effect of UFOs on animals and birds? Not a word is said therein about it, nor in the writings of Dr. Donald Menzel or Mr. Philip Klass or all the rest. Clearly, none of the 150 or so episodes that I have listed herein occurred . . .)

Many will have perhaps noticed, as I have, how edgy our scientific and technical critics sometimes become when either the “E.M. Effect” or the “Effect of UFOs

on Animals and Birds" crops up in the discussion. The "E.M. Effect" does not in fact worry them too badly, because their stock explanation is that the engine was not stopped by a UFO, but was stalled by a neurotic or psychotic driver who *imagined* that he was seeing a UFO. They have a point, which we can willingly grant them in a few cases at any rate. But they remain far less happy about the birds and animals, for here no such easy escape solution is at hand. The only safe position for our opponents is consequently to maintain resolutely that no such weird and abnormal behaviour by animal or bird can ever be proved to have occurred except where there is a good cast-iron explanation. Thus squawking chickens are always squawking because there is an eagle or a sparrowhawk overhead. Panicking sheep have been set in motion by that ubiquitous agency the common dog. Cattle are rushing about because maddened by bot-flies. And so on.

THE CATALOGUE—(i) B.C. TO 1946 A.D.

1. **Middle East** (*Reign of Alexander the Great*, 356-323 B.C.) A historian of the reign of Alexander the Great allegedly tells of two strange craft that dived repeatedly at his army, until the war elephants, the men, and all the horses panicked and refused to cross the river where the incident occurred . . . The historian describes the objects as "great shining silvery shields, spitting fire around the rims . . . things that came from the skies and returned to the skies."

Frank Edwards: *Stranger Than Science*
(Pan Books, London), p. 198.

2. **Rutland, England** (September 15, 1749)
Fiery object like a waterspout, whirling and roaring, frightened cattle and rustics.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 207.

3. **Robertson County, Tennessee, U.S.A.** (between 1817 and 1821)

The farm of John Bell seemed to be haunted, with typical poltergeist phenomena occurring and "flying lights" being seen.

One of the many visitors who came to see the haunted house was General Andrew Jackson. When he was approaching in a horse-drawn waggon, the wheels of the waggon suddenly seemed to "freeze", and the straining horses were unable to move it until a "sharp metallic voice" from behind some bushes cried: "All right, General. Let the waggon move!", whereupon the wheels began to turn again.

FSR, November/December 1968, p. 16.
John Keel: *Is the "E.M." Effect a Myth?*

4. **Horton, Wiltshire, England** (June 1857)
The *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* of July 2, 1857, reported farmer Wm. Brown rode towards a "whirl-puff". There was no rush of wind, and the conditions did not resemble a real whirlwind. Horse was terrified, staggered, and Mr. Brown almost lifted out of the saddle.

FSR, November/December 1966, p. 18.

5. **Swaffham, Norfolk, England** (January 15, 1869)
Something seen in sky, and "mysterious explosions not of meteoric origin", stampeded hundreds of sheep.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

6a. **Bonham, Texas, U.S.A.** (1873)
At Bonham, Texas, in 1873, workers in a cotton-field were terrorised by a shiny, silver object that came streaking down from the sky at them. It swung around, like a great silver serpent, said one witness, and dived at them again and again. A team of horses ran away, and the driver was thrown under the wheels of the waggon and killed.

6b. **Fort Riley, Kansas, U.S.A.** (1873)
And on the same day, an hour or so after the incident at Bonham, the same or a similar thing swooped down from the skies at some Army troops on the cavalry parade ground at Fort Riley, Kansas, and terrorised the horses to such an extent that cavalry drill ended in tumult.

Both from Frank Edwards: *Stranger Than Science*, p. 198.

7. **Berkshire, England** (8.20 a.m., November 20, 1887)
An unknown something in the sky, and mysterious explosions, stampede sheep over an area of 210 sq. miles.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

8. **Thames Valley, England** (night of November 13, 1888)
Sheep stampeded over area of 22 square miles. Found panting in terror and crowded under hedges, on widely scattered farms next morning.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

9. **Chiltern Hills, England** (October 25, 1889)
Over a region of about 40 square miles, sheep in hundreds burst simultaneously out of folds and barns. The panic was contagious, though the farms and folds were not adjoining, but miles apart.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

10. **Leroy, Kansas, U.S.A.** (April 19, 1897)
The Hamilton household were aroused by a commotion among their cattle and household dogs. Going out, they found overhead the "Texan airship", which had lassoed one of their heifers.

Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, p. 16.

11. **Rockland, Texas, U.S.A.** (11.30 p.m., April 22, 1897)
At Rockland, Mr. John M. Barclay, having retired for the night, heard his dog barking furiously, and also a whining noise. He went out to look, and saw a great machine stationary (the "Texas Airship") a few feet from the ground. A man from the machine, asked him for lubricating oil, cold chisels, and bluestone. Asked where they were from and whither going, the man replied: "From anywhere, but we will be in Greece the day after tomorrow."

D. B. Hanlon and J. Vallée: *Airships Over Texas*,
FSR, January/February 1967, p. 23.

12. **Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.** (April 1897)
The *Dallas News* of April 28, 1897, had a report of an anonymous witness (a lawyer) who was driving his horse and buggy at night when the "Airship" passed overhead. The horse snorted, reared, plunged madly, nearly overturned the buggy, and stood trembling like a leaf.

Donald B. Hanlon: *Texas Odyssey of 1897*,
FSR, September/October 1966, p. 8.

13. **Hot Springs, Arkansas, U.S.A.** (night of May 6, 1897)
Two law officers, Sumpter and McLemore, tried to approach the landed UFO on their horses, but the animals refused to go nearer than 100 yards or so.

Jerome Clark: *The Strange Case of the 1897 Airship*,
FSR, July/August 1966, p. 15.

14. **Seal Rocks, Sutro Heights, San Francisco, U.S.A.** (November 22, 1897)
The "airship" flew over the Cliff House and projected its powerful beam on Seal Rocks, causing the seals to dive frantically into the water.

Lore and Deneault: *Mysteries of the Skies*, p. 7.

15. **Thames Estuary Marshes, England** (1901)
Another stampede of sheep. All fled westwards, away from the North Sea.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.