

UFOs AND MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

PART I: THE ANIMAL DEATHS IN PUERTO RICO

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Our contributor is an engineer who lives in Puerto Rico. He sent the text and photographs to Gordon Creighton, who had already commenced translating the version that appeared in the Spanish magazine *Stendek*, No.22, December 1975. The second part was published in *Stendek* No.23 of May 1976.

FREQUENT attempts have been made to correlate the appearance of UFOs with the mysterious deaths or disappearances of animals in certain regions of the world.

A famous case is that of "Snippy", the horse found mutilated at Alamosa in the State of Colorado, USA, in November 1965, and whose mysterious fate has been linked by various investigators with UFO happenings in that part of the country.

The year 1973 saw, both in the USA and in the whole of Latin America, what was possibly the most important UFO Wave of recent times. During the following year, 1974, it was the turn of Europe to have abundant UFO sightings.

Following a similar pattern, mysterious deaths of animals began to be reported, from January 1974 onwards, from various American States, notably Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. (See *APRO Bulletin* Vol. 23, No.4, January-February 1975. Also Jerome Clark's article "The Strange Case of the Cattle Killings," in *Fate* for August 1974.)

More recently, on March 4, 1975, the influential newspaper *The New York Times* reported "numerous mutilations of animals in the northern part of Texas and in Oklahoma", and stated that Governor David Boren of Oklahoma had launched an enquiry into the question of mysterious deaths of animals.

In many of the cases the dead animals have been found to lack an organ (an ear, the tongue, the nose, the tail, or the reproductive organs) and the mutilations have been carried out "with the skill of a professional." Such, in fact, was the conclusion of professors of Medicine in the University of Minnesota after they had performed numerous autopsies on the carcasses of such animals (see *Replica*, Miami, Florida, March 19, 1975). Furthermore, it was noted that the dead animals all appeared to be "completely without blood" as though the body had been drained by a needle."

Here in Puerto Rico, between February and July of 1975, numerous cases occurred of deaths of animals in almost identical circumstances and coincidentally with the occurrence, in the selfsame geographical region as dozens of UFO cases and of cases of other phenomena held to be related to UFOs.

In the course of our enquiries we have conducted scores of interviews, made many laboratory studies, and spent months of time on analyses and sifting the material. What follows below is, in concentrated

form, the gist of our work, which may well throw an entirely new light upon the UFO phenomenon.

The Mystery Killings

The first deaths took place before February 25, 1975.

Then, from that date onwards, innumerable strange killings of animals began to be reported from the area around the town of Moca in the North-western corner of the Island of Puerto Rico. Then, at the end of March 1975 there came the first report from nearby Aguadilla, and cases began appearing gradually in other areas too.

Already in March the term "The Vampire of Moca" had been coined and was current among the people, this being the alleged cause of the strange animal killings. These reports were headlined in the chief daily papers. One journal, *El Vocero*, which gave extensive publicity to the killings, called upon the Government, in an editorial on March 15, to investigate the enigma, and reverted to the same theme in its editorial of March 21.

As a possible explanation for the deaths that had occurred up to then consideration was at first given to snakes. Dr. Juan A. Rivero, the herpetologist at the University of Puerto Rico, investigated the cases and stated on March 22 that the deaths of cows, goats, and birds "definitely were not caused by any snake." On the same date, Saturday, March 22, Senator Miguel A. Deynes Soto, President of the Agricultural Commission of the Puerto Rico Senate, visited the Moca district, together with Attorney-

Case from Moca, February, 1975

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General, Victor Calderon, and the Police Commandant for the Western Region, Colonel Samuel Lopez. The theory that snakes might have been the possible cause having been ruled out, the authorities now began to think that the "Vampire of Moca" was some mentally unbalanced human. And so public promises were made that he would speedily be captured and brought to justice. So far as we know however, up to the present time no charges have been brought against anyone...

On the following day, March 23, veterinarian Mariano Santiago, of the Federal Department of Agriculture, said of his investigations that he had come to the conclusion that he was unable to explain the causes of the "strange wounds" found on the bodies of the animals. After that there arose a widespread popular belief that the mystery deaths were the work of "vampire bats." So once more Dr. Juan A. Rivero himself, author of various works on the zoology of the Caribbean Region, had to make it clear, in statements published on April 7, that that possibility was ruled out too.

Meanwhile, a few days previously, Police Superintendent Astol Calero Toledo had declared "I don't believe in vampires!" But he was quite unable to give the newspapermen an explanation for the dead animals.

On April 9, Sr. Felipe N. Rodríguez, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, stated that "the situation is preoccupying — and occupying all the time of — my Department." And another spokesman, Sr. Isaías Fernández, Federal Meat Inspector, said that he "did not know the reason for the deaths of the animals."

Throughout the month of April further cases were occurring around the Metropolitan Area of San Juan itself, coinciding in time with various UFO sightings in different parts of the island. In July there were more cases of animal mutilation in the area where they had started, Moca. Up till today no official report whatsoever has been made giving any attempt to explain the mystery killings.

The Features Observed

The undermentioned observations are valid in all the cases that have occurred:

1. The animals are killed during the night, usually in the early morning hours.
2. In almost every case, the owner of the animals, even when he is sleeping quite near to them, perceives no noise or alarm among the animals themselves.
3. In some of the cases the owner is awakened by a "loud screech" or by what sounds like the flapping of the wings of a gigantic bird. In a few of the cases the owner states that he saw "a strange animal" fleeing immediately after the attack on his animals.
4. The animals give the appearance of having died as a result of the wounds received, although in certain other cases these do not look as though they are sufficiently serious to have caused death.
5. The wounds on the animals seem in many of the cases to follow a definite pattern. They look as

though they have been produced by a sort of *punch* or sharp pricking instrument which cuts through all organs or bones that it encounters in its path. The wounds seem to vary according to the size of the animal. In the case of birds, the diameter of the wounds is about one quarter of an inch; in cases of goats, the diameter is over an inch. The depth of penetration of the wound also varies in many cases. But what is above all particularly curious to note is that *there is never a drop of blood anywhere around the wound*. Furthermore, the wound remains open: that is to say, it is as though the instrument producing the wound has simultaneously extracted any flesh or organs which it encountered in its passage.

The positions of the wounds vary, but in the majority of the cases they occur near the neck of the animal or in its thorax.

6. In addition to the wounds, some of the animals also have their neck completely broken. And in a number of cases there is also mutilation of organs. The case that has been studied in this respect (Case No. 12) was handled by Dr. Angel de la Sierra, a biophysicist in the University of Puerto Rico. He reported that the cut inflicted on the ear of the piglet in question "is similar to what is done in experimental surgery for the purpose of investigating defects in hearing."
7. In various of the cases, the killings have been "selective." That is to say, in pens where there were other birds or animals, only one species has been killed. None of the other birds or animals show any sign of wound or attack.
8. The list of animals killed, and their percentages, is as follows:

Domestic fowls (hens, cocks, guineafowl, etc.)	182	57.8%
Ducks	40	12.70%
Goats	33	10.50%
Rabbits	20	6.38%
Geese	18	5.70%
Cows	8	2.55%
Sheep	5	1.59%
Pigs	3	0.96%
Dogs	3	0.96%
Cats	1	0.32%

As can be seen, the bulk of the victims are domestic fowls. If we consider ducks, rabbits, and geese also as domestic animals kept in pens, then the total amounts to 82.58%, which indicates that the marked preponderance of the mystery killings involve animals kept in pens and hutches.

9. The cases occurred in both rural and suburban areas.
10. In cases 7, 15, 22, 23, and 37, the owners of the animals say they saw "a strange animal, very hairy, running away..." Or they say they heard "a screech, as though from a gigantic bird," or "a loud hum," or "a deafening noise," or "a loud flapping noise." Case no. 7 was investigated in very great detail. Don Cecilio Hernández, aged 65, lost a total of 35 chickens over a period of several nights. On the last of these occasions he saw "what

looked like a woolly dog, ...with no legs or head... running off towards the hills silently." And he adds: "I have never in my life seen such a sight. It looked just like a mass of wool running along."

11. The following other cases are not directly linked with the deaths of animals, but they do all involve accounts of strange animals:

a. María A. Levedo, of the Barrio de María district in Moca, says that one night (12.30 a.m.) early in March she heard "a strange animal on the zinc roof of her house". She could hear it walking about and "pecking". Then it flew off with a "terrible screech."

b. Pellín Marrero, of Rexville, Bayamón, told the press that he had seen a "whitish-coloured gigantic condor or vulture" flying around over the region. (March 25.)

c. On March 26 the workman Juan Muñiz Feliciano, of Barrio Pueblo, La Sierra Sector, Moca, said that, when returning home at 10.00 p.m., he had been attacked "by a terrible greyish creature with lots of feathers, a long thick neck, bigger than a goose", which he reckoned to weigh about 50 lbs. When he called out to his neighbours and began throwing stones at it, it flew away.

On that same day, March 26, Olga Iris Rivera and Bárbara Pantoja, both of the Nemesio Canales housing complex, said they had seen "a gigantic bird flying around among the clouds."

12. The majority of these cases of mysterious animal deaths were the subject of Police investigations, but so far nothing has been published regarding the results of their investigations nor has any attempt been made to explain the cause of the mystery killings.

Some of the more enigmatic cases

1. The most mysterious and puzzling case in the Moca region, and the one that has been the subject of most investigation, both official and private, is the

one that occurred at the farm of Sr. Héctor Vega Rosado.

On the morning of March 18, Señor Vega found two of his goats dead, each with a wound from some sharp instrument under the thorax and on the upper part of the haunches. Next day, March 19, he discovered to his great surprise, that there had been a repetition, with ten goats dead, seven wounded, and ten missing. The report of this received great publicity.

Sr. Luis R. Urbina, Radiation Instructor with the local Civil Defence authorities, was quoted as having found evidence of radioactivity. This report caused much alarm. Some few days later, Señorita Mildred Cabán, a radiation technician, stated that she had found a count of 0.005 in the same area. Our own investigations on March 22 showed however that the radiation detected with a Geiger counter was normal for the region in question.

The farm of Sr. Héctor Vega Rosado, where these goats had been killed, is to all intents and purposes quite open, being separated merely by a wire fence from the small adjacent road which links the farm with Barrio Pueblo, a district of Moca. There is no electric lighting in the area. Anyone who studies the area will find it extremely difficult to comprehend how anybody, even with the assistance of others, could catch ten goats there in the open field in the middle of the night and kill them with some sharp stabbing weapon and wound seven more and carry off a further ten. The wounds on the goats all lie around the thorax and are almost an inch deep. In some of the animals the wound goes right through the body, and yet there is no sign of any blood around the wounds.

Although Sr. Vega himself thinks it possible that some unbalanced maniacal person might have caused the deaths, our own view is that, considering all the circumstances, the solution is not so simple as that. The Police, for their part, have published no conclusions about the case.

2. Before going to bed, Señor Buenaventura Bello was in the habit of going out to feed the geese which as a pastime, he kept in the back-yard of his home in Los Ángeles, Carolina (part of the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, Puerto Rico). And so, as usual, he went out to the geese at 12.30 a.m. on April 5, though he noted at the time that one of his dogs, who always went with him, this time preferred to remain at a distance, "barking insistently at something or other."

Later that morning, at about 8.30, Sr. Bello found his ten geese and three pullets all dead and scattered in a circle. When the bodies of the geese were examined, it was found that each of them had a deep stab wound one-quarter of an inch in diameter, from which the feathers had been removed.

One of the dead geese was found in the back-yard of the neighbouring house, which was unoccupied at the time. This goose, unlike the rest, had had the upper part of its body cut right off "as though with a very sharp instrument."

Sr. Bello immediately informed the Police, who in due course conducted an extensive investigation,

Case from the farm of Señor Héctor Vega, Moca,
March 19, 1975 (goat)

**One of Senor Buenaventura Bello's mutilated geese,
San Juan, April 5, 1975**

as also did the Federal Department of Agriculture, who took away several of the dead geese for examination. Thereafter, Sr. Bello's dogs "refused to go out into the yard, however much you tried to push them," and would not do so until several days had elapsed.

A curious point to note is that Sr. Bello's bedroom is right next to the yard where the geese were kept. Despite the fact that these birds are extremely prone to giving the alarm at the least sound, and are in fact used in many places as "watchmen", on the night in question Sr. Bello heard not the least noise, whereas he had always done so on previous occasions when attempts had been made to steal his geese.

On March 8, while in the kitchen preparing a meal, Sr. Bello heard, for a brief moment, a strange and "extremely penetrating" noise, which astounded him. Straight away, one of his two dogs started to bark frantically, "as though there was something in the room." The dog continued to bark in this fashion until the strange noise had stopped. The witness was

An X-ray of one of the mutilated geese

unable to give any explanation for the noise, any more than there is any explanation as to what or who could have killed his geese in so strange a fashion.

In the course of our investigations we managed to have one of the geese X-rayed and to have an autopsy performed on it by a well known pathologist who prefers to remain anonymous. The result of this examination shows that the bird received two stabbing wounds which penetrated to a depth of more than an inch and destroyed the adjacent organs, while at the same time in some fashion cicatrizing the wound so that no blood would flow from it. The wounds are a quarter of an inch in diameter and appear to converge inside the bird's body.

Neither the body of the goose which we had examined nor the site showed any radioactivity in excess of what is normal for the area, nor were any other traces found. It has been impossible to establish the cause of the wounds, though everything indicates that both wounds were inflicted on the bird simultaneously, causing instant death.

THE DAGENHAM PARANORMAL RESEARCH GROUP

The DPRG plans to undertake a 12-month intensive study programme of an important facet of UFO evidence — the UFO photograph. We have enlisted the aid of a number of photographic specialists whose analyses will be published in scientific papers and in a general release book. *Photos and films for this study are urgently required;* high prices will be paid to those deemed worthy of analysis.

The DPRG UFO film and photo library consists of approx. 800 photos from a possible maximum of 900 in existence. Although we do not have every single UFO photo, we do at least have the important ones. We offer a copying service to researchers for which the only charge is the cost of copying material by a reputable laboratory, plus postage. Photos are available in 35mm slides or 3½" x 5" enprints. Maximum quantity per order: 5 photos.

All enquiries to: Barry King, DPRG, 554 Goresbrook Rd., Dagenham, Essex. RM9 4XD, England.

UFOs AND MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

PART 2: UFO SIGHTINGS IN PUERTO RICO



Sebastion Robiou Lamarche

Our contributor, Sr. Robiou, a Puerto-Rican engineer, sent us the illustrations used in Part I of this article. The text, however, has been taken from the Spanish journal *Stendek** (Nos. 22 and 23 of December 1975 and May 1976). Translation by Gordon Creighton.

THE first of the cases with which we will deal took place in January, 1975. The witness failed to give the precise date. Señora A.A. (she wishes to remain anonymous) was asleep in her home in the Garden Hills sector of San Juan when she was suddenly awakened by a strange sound. It was a powerful intermittent hum, accompanied by another constant hum which appeared to be of lower frequency. The electric fan in the bedroom suddenly stopped. Alarmed at this, Sra A.A. took the daughter who was sleeping with her, collected her other child, and they all went to another room and shut themselves in.

A few moments later, the loud hum stopped and the electric fan started up again. Sra A.A. had seen nothing. She had merely heard the hum, which scared her.

A few days later, in the patio of her house, near the swimming pool, her gardener found three strange marks forming a triangle. Around that time she also learned that on the same night when she had heard the weird hum, the family in the house next door had seen an intensely bright light above the palm tree in front of the house. The light itself was not unbearably bright, but it had other lights, green and red, with it and it seemed to have "bright holes" in it. This strange light had remained there for about ten minutes and then moved away and disappeared from view in the west.

This case has been the subject of intensive investigation. The three marks found in the patio were three inches deep and four inches wide, and formed an equilateral triangle with each side measuring 44 inches. Engineer Oscar Hernandez of the Foundation Engineering Laboratories made a profound study on the spot and in his laboratory, covering all aspects of the terrain. As a result of his study, he was able to establish that an average weight of around 14,190 lbs. would have been required to produce such holes on that type of soil. So far, no grass has grown again on the areas where the marks were, despite the fact that no signs of burning were detected there. Likewise no signs of abnormal radioactivity were detected in the area.

The next case was on January 12, 1975, when Señor Pedro Vega Avilés stated that he had seen three objects "brighter than the stars" travelling southwards in a zigzag motion near San Sebastián at about 5.30 a.m.

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Moca

On March 12, when the reports of mysterious deaths of animals at Moca had already begun, a farm worker from Moca named Luis Torres Aldaondo, and his son and daughter-in-law plus eight neighbours, all saw, passing overhead at tree-top height at about 9.30 p.m. "something that looked like a Police screen, of various colours, and spinning like a top." Then it suddenly began to rise as it moved off eastwards. The witnesses said it looked as though made of "shining silver" ... and that it was "bigger than the house." They said they heard "a faint whistling noise." The sighting lasted but a few seconds before the object was lost to sight among the clouds.

On March 21, just a few days after the mysterious killings of goats which we have already described, and when there had already been a dozen or so of similar cases, a party of witnesses, Señor Carlos Santiago and his wife and one of their daughters, were driving in their car when they observed a UFO which passed at great speed and very low over the El Mamey district of Moca. The object appeared to be "incandescent" and was soon out of sight. On March 24, Dr. Juan Sánchez Acevedo, a well known Moca physician and the local president of one of the political parties, was at work in his study at about 12.00 p.m. when he heard a "shaking, juddering" noise as though from something in the air. He described the sound as like a long drawn-out "ruum" ... "and stronger than an earthquake". The vibration caused the doors to rattle and his car to shake. Dr. Sánchez Acevedo at once wakened his wife, but by then the noise had moved away and seemed to be fading out. They saw nothing.

Round about the same period in March, three witnesses, Arnaldo Rullán, Carlos Rullán, and Alexis Fernández, reported having found "an area of flattened reeds, circular, as though some heavy flat-shaped object had settled there." And elsewhere in the same town of Moca, at the sports-field, while they were watching a game of soft-ball, three witnesses, Teodoro Quiñones Muñiz, Norberto Méndez, and Jorgo Ramos, saw "a greenish-blue disc descending from the sky". They then saw it perform a sharp turn and move off rapidly towards the east. (The date of these last two happenings have not been established.)

During the days that followed, various witnesses said they had seen a weird bird at various places in

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the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, and meanwhile reports were still coming in of strange killings in other towns on Puerto Rico.

San Juan

On March 21 came the first sighting (of the current wave) of a UFO over San Juan, the Capital. It was at 9.30 in the morning, when a group of people walking along in Santurce saw "a saucer-shaped object moving off towards the North, in the direction of Isla Verde." They said it was travelling at the height of an aeroplane, but at a staggering speed, and that it had a dome "which seemed to be metallic."

Three days later, on March 24, near Puerto de Tierra, in the same area of San Juan, two girl secretaries, Antonia Cintrón and Paquita Martínez, were returning to work from lunch at 1.00 p.m. when they saw "a stationary luminous object ... which afterwards began to move slowly, emitting brilliant flashes of light." They added "It was something very strange; not an aeroplane; it seems it must have been what they call a 'flying saucer' because it was oval and silvery coloured."

April 6 is a very important date. This was the date of the first strange case of dead animals in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan itself, i.e. the case of Sr. Bello's ten geese, which we have already described above. And, also on this same date came the first close-sighting of a UFO right in the centre of San Juan.

Disc jockey's encounter

That night, Willie López was working as a disc jockey with Radio Station WBMJ (Radio Rock), located in the Darlington Building at Miramar, when he heard three very loud blows on the outside window behind the controls. (The radio station is on the top floor of the building in question.) Going over to the window, the young López saw a luminous figure in rapid movement which seemed to hide behind one of the external columns of the building. Then, remembering that he was all alone in the studio, he telephoned a friend, José Manuel, who lives in the same multistorey building. However, by 10.45 p.m. his friend had still not arrived, so Willie Lopez, unable to contain his curiosity any longer, went over and opened the window suddenly. And he beheld, right in front of the building, and on top of the adjacent cooling tower, "a luminous white object, or rather a yellowish-white object, saucer-shaped, about forty feet in diameter," and only about three or four feet from the building. In the interview which he gave to the press Willie López said he had noticed it was "making a rocking movement." The UFO itself was stationary, the rocking movement was slight, and the UFO's luminosity was constant. Alarmed, Willie López slammed the window shut, and then instantly stopped the music he had been broadcasting, and told the listeners what he had just experienced. (Some days after this incident, the young disc jockey was still suffering from nervous shock and under treatment with sedatives.)

At 1.50 p.m. (precisely the same time) on

Tuesday, April 8, when López was in the studio, along with announcer Raymond Rosado and Rosado's wife, and just as they were about to go on the air with a piece of promotion based on the events that had happened two days previously, they heard the whole air conditioning system of the building start to vibrate. As they described it, "it seemed as though the whole place was about to collapse."

Meanwhile, just as this was happening at the studio, out at Guaynabo, where the radio station's actual transmitters are located, things were also happening. Rafael Pérez, Efraín Camacho, José A. Soto, Wito Castro, and Johnny Acevedo all saw a shining object descend and produce a powerful explosion, as a result of which it seems that the whole district, including the WBKJ (Radio Rock) transmitter, was without electricity for twenty minutes. The object that fell made a crater several feet wide and the ground at the spot remained hot for several days. While the possibility of its having been a meteorite naturally cannot be ruled out, does there not seem to be a strange element of coincidence about this whole business?

Power failure

On April 11 there were sporadic power failures in various parts of San Juan. On the day following, April 12, a group of eyewitnesses saw a UFO "resembling the rotunda on the Capitol" near Paquita's Place, a restaurant in the Piñones district, to the north-west of San Juan. And on April 17, again at Moca, a lady named Wanda Feliciano, and her brother Elly and his companions Félix Cruz and Rosaura Vargas, claim to have seen a UFO. (This date too coincides with the strange deaths of animals in various places.)

Weird creature, animal effect and another mutilation

On April 18, Orlando Franceschi, janitor at the San Luca Hospital at Ponce, claims to have had a personal encounter "with a horrible monster that he would never be able to forget", right in the back-yard of his own home. Coming out of the bathroom, at 8.00 p.m., he was just about to go to the ice-box for some water when, looking out through the window that gives on to his back-yard he saw what at first he took to be a dog pass by. Astonished, since he knew his own dog was tied up not far from there, he seized a shovel which was standing near the door and stepped outside. "Arriving round at the back of the house, I saw nothing, but when I came back ... I saw it coming towards me ... it was the same thing that I had seen go past the window; with long ears, a long noise too; the mouth wasn't very visible, but I noticed a slit, with no lips, two black blobs which were its eyes, the jawbone of an ape ... and it was walking the way 'zombies' do, swaying from side to side. It was an amazing sight ... I felt it was going to attack me, so then I hit it with the shovel. It was about four feet or so from me ... it was very small, let's say about 4 ft. 8 inches high ... I hit it on the chest with the shovel and the blow sounded a hard one. On feeling the blow from me, it backed away,

but it made no sound ... it moved as though it was floating. I said to myself: 'this is no vision' ... and I hit it a second time with the shovel and again it backed away. When I hit it the third time, I was in a rather uncomfortable position ... I can't explain it exactly, but I fell, as though I hadn't hit him, I fell just because of the weight of the shovel. I tried to get up again, but, I don't know exactly how or why, I was paralyzed ... I don't know if it was through fear ... I had no strength. I felt there was something that wasn't in me. I looked around and the creature was gone. Then my strength came back. There was a zinc sheet in the neighbour's fence between the two houses, and this had been pushed through on to the other side, as though it had escaped through there. I can't of course swear to this, I don't know whether it flew away or whether it just disappeared. While all this was going on, my dog didn't bark even once."

After this episode (transcribed by us here from his original taped statement) Señor Franceschi, who is aged 26, went back into the house, where were his mother, his wife, and his two daughters. Seeing the distraught state he was in, the family at once called the Police, who launched an investigation, the results of which have not been divulged. Franceschi remained under sedation for the next two days. Immediately after the incident, five young men who were returning that same night from the Glenview housing estate said they had seen a "strange dwarf" and pelted it with stones. It is to be noted that a cock was killed that same night and was found near Franceschi's house. It displayed the same characteristic wound as were found on the other dead animals and which we have already described.

A week later, Señor Franceschi started hearing voices which, as he said, "I am absolutely sure were not imaginary." And he went on: "I heard what sounded like somebody speaking to me, and this voice said to me that on Saturday, May 31, all Christians should meet together to pray. I heard the voice repeat this to me seven times. It said that the churches must remain open, so that there would be nobody who had not prayed ... and that if this was not fulfilled even worse things would happen than are happening now."

In fact nothing did happen on Saturday, May 31, though lots of people heeded the exhortation which Señor Franceschi had had published in the newspapers.

Juane Díaz and Cosmo

Let us however return now to previous events. On the day following the Franceschi case, that is to say April 19, Señora Alda Isabel Vázquez de Figueroa and her daughter Camille observed a UFO at Las Corozas, a suburb of Juana Díaz, a town near Ponce. Said the eyewitness: "It was around 10.15 p.m. I was just tidying up, and then I went to get a dress to iron it. I opened the door leading to the patio, and I saw a vivid orange light hanging stationary above the garage. It was quite near, and I stood there quietly, watching. I remained there like a statue for I don't know how long - maybe five minutes - and the light remained in the same spot. The thing was bigger than an automobile wheel ... Then it rose up a bit, quite silently.

The body of the thing was very orange and its brightness was enormous. Then it moved away and was concealed behind the mountain, but still leaving the whole area lit up."

On some subsequent date after April 20, which we have not been able to establish precisely, Señora María Socorro Janer and her husband saw an object "shaped like a cupola, with a vivid bright light", when they were travelling by car near the town of Cosmo, not far from where the last case had occurred.

Arson-loo?

On April 29, at 3.30 a.m., Señora Juana Vázquez and her children were awakened by something that lit up their house in Peñones, a suburb of San Germán. One of the most astonished members of the family, Ivan, aged 17, said that they got up and, looking out of the window, saw "a bright object stationary over their lavatory." Señor Vázquez and her children Jennie, Luis, Pastora and Ramonita confirm this.

The UFO was shooting out "flashes of blinding light" which made it impossible for them to make out the precise shape of the object. The lavatory caught fire, and the witnesses heard some "faint sounds." Then came other sounds that were "louder and of higher pitch", and the UFO shot upwards and vanished.

The latrine continued to burn and the fire was put out with the help of the neighbours who came rushing up immediately. One of the neighbours, Rubén Hernández Blas, an agricultural worker, said he had seen the UFO as it was moving away. This case created a great commotion in the whole district and was thoroughly investigated by the Police.

Other residents in the district reported that on that same night they had noticed a great deal of disturbance among their domestic animals, especially the dogs, which had barked furiously. Other reports, unconfirmed, indicate that two cows were found dead at the time, in very mysterious circumstances, right inside the suburb of Peñones.

Cupey

The area of activity seems to have moved, and at 4.30 a.m. on May 4, a Señor R—, residing at Cupey, to the south of the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, "saw a UFO with a big intensely yellow pulsating light on one side (the extreme right from his point of view) and another less vivid light at the other side, plus a row of eight rectangular lights," stationary at a distance of about 1,500 ft. from his suburban home. He at once aroused all his family, who all watched the phenomenon for 45 minutes until they grew weary and went back to bed. The following day they went back to the spot where the UFO had presumably landed and they found an area, some 25 ft. in diameter, which "seemed to be burnt." They observed moreover some strange marks, shaped like feet with only three toes. These were 14 inches long and tapering from a width of 4 inches at the back to 19 inches in front. These marks seemed to be in a straight line, and spaced at intervals of 50 inches.

Along with these marks, the witnesses also found some "scratch marks" on the ground. This case, which received no publicity, was investigated by Electrical Engineer Heriberto Ramos.

Professor's view

May 17 brought two high-altitude sightings. One of them was seen from Las Crobas, Fajardo, by Gustav Zeissic, a Doctor in Astronomy and Professor of Physics at the University of Puerto Rico. Others with him who saw it were Julio Peignand, a professor of Psychology, Luis A. Delgado de León, a sculptor, and José F. Delgado Ramírez, a banker.

Low level UFOs

On the same day, May 17, at 9.30 p.m., came another low-level sighting of a UFO, sighted from two places in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan. At Park Garden in Rio Piedras, Mérida Méndez was in conversation with Georgina and Norma Toro in the back-garden of the two last-named. Norma suddenly saw an object ... "round and yellow and all with a very powerful light," and shouted to her two friends to look. The UFO was stationary at an angle of about 60° of elevation, above a neighbouring house. They noted that the object consisted of three parts, and that the middle part had some "windows" which emitted a brilliant green light. Suddenly, as they watched, the UFO started "to rise, at an angle, rotating as it did so, and making a 'pu-pu-pu' sound." They also saw that as the UFO rose a red light came on inside it.

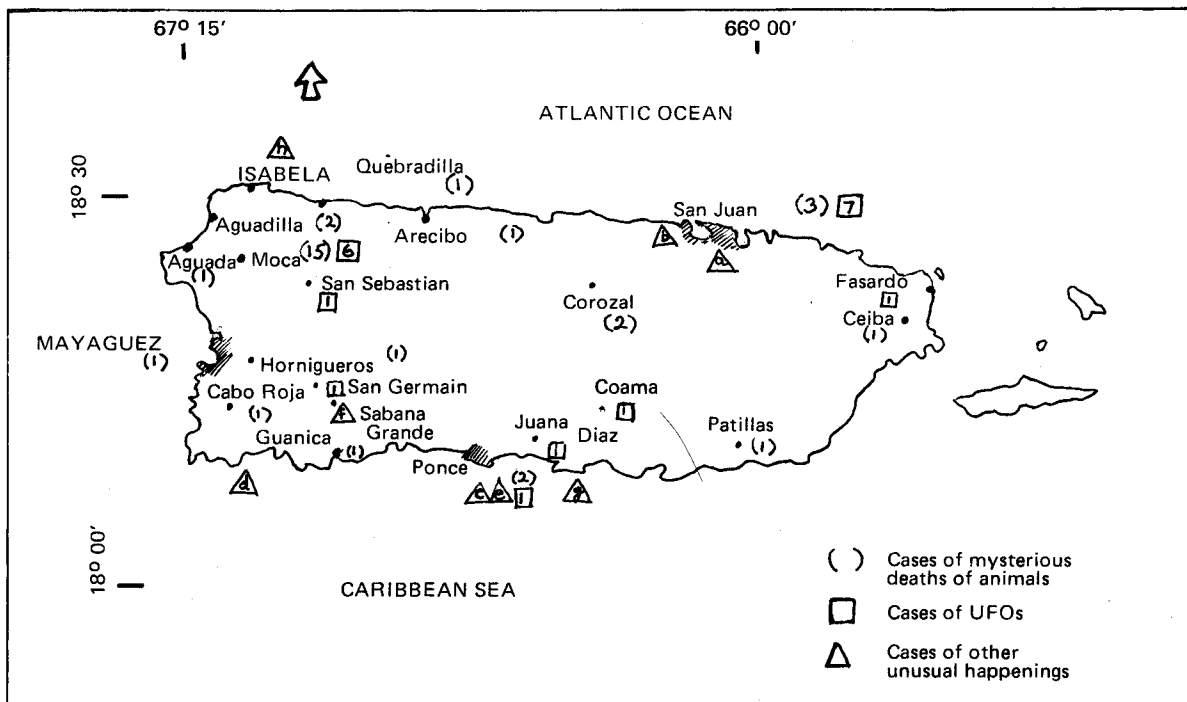
After the UFO had climbed higher in the sky it remained there circling around over the area for some minutes. It then disappeared from sight.

On that same night, May 17, approximately one hour later, a UFO, flying slowly and very low, was seen from the Miramar sector, in the same part of the suburbs of San Juan, by a professional man and his wife who prefer to remain anonymous.

On May 24, at 9.50 p.m., not far from the same area, the Ortiz de Rivero family reported that they too had seen a UFO flying low, "with blinking red light." As it moved off towards the south-west the light then became a vivid white. The witnesses stated that on its central part it had what they described as "elliptical skylights showing a yellow glow."

Pilot's report

After this last sighting, the nature of the reports changes and they now refer generally to UFOs seen at great heights over more distant regions of the island, such as Maricao, San Gerardo, and Cayey-Salinas. On Wednesday, June 18, two commercial air pilots informed the press (anonymously) that they had seen UFOs over Villalba and over the area around San Sebastián. In one case, said one of the pilots, "Some weeks ago, between Barranquitas, Villalba and Ponce, I saw two white lights and one red one stationary in space. The red light was flashing, and the two white ones very brilliant. The time was about 11.00 p.m. The object — or the lights — were towards the northwest, that is to say, nearer to Ponce. Then at one point the UFO started moving up and down, as though simulating impulses, and



The island of Puerto Rico

flashes began coming from the lights." Amazed at what he had seen, this pilot called up the Air Control Centre to ask whether there was any plane or helicopter in the area, but the reply was that there were none.

Remarks and Conclusions

1. Nobody, either privately or officially, has succeeded in establishing the cause of the deaths of the animals. Official Police investigations took place. Also investigations by the Department of Agriculture and by Federal Agencies. The conclusions were ... silence.

2. It is not possible to establish categorically a link between the mystery deaths of animals and the UFO sightings. However, it must be emphasised that both of these phenomena were occurring simultaneously, and practically in the same chronological order, in certain definite geographical zones.

3. The UFO cases started at the beginning of the year. The strange deaths of the animals began to be reported before the end of February. In the town of Moca both the phenomena — UFOs and animal deaths — were occurring simultaneously, and when sightings of UFOs outside the Moca area began to be reported, so too did the strange deaths of animals in other places also begin to be reported. Around the end of July, 1975 came the last cases of strange deaths of animals in Moca, as though a cycle were closing. *Since that date we have no further cases of either phenomena.*

4. We think we can safely say that 1975 has been the peak year so far as Puerto Rico is concerned for the weird and strange. In addition to the UFO phenomena and the strange deaths of animals and a number of reports of sightings of an enormous bird, which we have quoted above, we have also had the undermentioned happenings of a strange nature

a. January 14, 1975, at 2.30 p.m. a mysterious explosion was heard throughout almost the entire Metropolitan area of San Juan. The Puerto Rico National Air Guard (i.e the Air Force) deny that any machine of theirs broke through the sound barrier over the city and caused this spectacular noise. The cause remains unexplained.

b. On that same day, January 14, at 7.30 p.m. Señora Isabel Dávila of the Santa Juanita residential estate at Bayamón claims to have heard a strange moaning noise and to have seen tears of blood gushing from the eyes of an image of the Sacred Heart. This happening received widespread publicity over a period of several weeks.

c. January 23: Señora Dionisia Arteaga reported that on this day her son Radamés saw blood coming from a picture representing The Almighty which hangs in her residence in the Dr Pilá housing complex in Ponce.

d. February 22. A search was called for after a boat failed to return to the town of La Pargüera. Six days later, on February 28, the boat was found drifting in the Canal de la Mona, with everything in complete order, the engine in perfect condition, but both the occupants, two young professional men from the district, missing.

e. March 6. Another strange explosion of unknown origin shook the town of Ponce. It was heard practically all over the town.

f. From the beginning of March reports of fresh "miracles" began to come from the town of Sabana Grande, where there is a Sanctuary for religious pilgrims — due to the fact that on May 25, 1953, the Virgin is alleged to have appeared there. These new reports of "miracle cures" continued over the following weeks.

g. April 1. The press reported that a sailing boat had been found without its crew. The boat had put to sea a few days previously from Guayamar, on the South Coast of Puerto Rico, and the Coast Guard had mounted an energetic search for it.

h. June 20. Some wax remnants on a porcelain plate are allegedly converted into an image of the Virgin del Carmen. This event is reported to have occurred at Isabela, in the home of Arturo González and his wife. According to the report, Father Ignacio and Father Elías, priests of the local Catholic church in the town, accepted the existence of the image as authentic.

5. What is above all evident from all this is that we are seeing what we might term a *new phase of activity by the UFO Phenomenon*. The UFO Phenomenon is now manifesting itself more openly; it is ceasing to be rural, and in many cases it is now a town phenomenon; there are more low-altitude sightings; there are three cases with physical marks left on the ground, one of these being the alleged incendiarism in an outside latrine. The UFO theme is the subject of frank and open discussion in the organs of the press. And, above all, it is now connected in the mind of the public with the killing of animals.

* * * * *

In conclusion, I must add that the work of compiling this Report has been made possible thanks to the co-operation received by me from:

William Santana Font, Architect.
Noel Rigau, Agricultural expert.
Oscar Hernández, Engineer.
Heriberto Ramos, Engineer.
Salvador Freixedo, S.J.
Alfonso Martínez Taboa.
Carlos Alvarado.
Freddy Badillo Javariz.
Francisco Marín.
José Vargas Lisboa.
Osvaldo Laurido Santos.
Rafael Portela.

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MORE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

Sebastian Robiou Lamarche

MY two previous articles¹ on animal mutilations referred to incidents upon the island of Puerto Rico. The present brief report refers to similar happenings in the nearby Dominican Republic which, with the Republic of Haiti, forms the island lying between Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The following report appeared in the newspaper *El Caribe*, of Santo Domingo (Capital of the Dominican Republic), for December 18, 1978. The item was under the signature of Juan Federico Matos Espinosa, a special correspondent of the newspaper, and was datelined Barahona, December 17, 1978:

"A strange animal with doglike characteristics is devouring domestic animals in the Batey Central district of this town, and keeping the local inhabitants in a state of terror.

"The animal is getting into the back-yards (patios) of homesteads in the sectors of Los Blocks, Las Salinas, and Nuevo Amparo, belonging to the Ingenio Barahona (Barahona Sugar Plantation) and is catching cocks and hens, ducks, rabbits, and *curios*², according to reports received from residents of the district.

"Senores Alberto James, Otilio Beltre, Remigio White, Gilberto Garcia and Amando Pena stated that the strange creature 'is so intelligent that it smashes the padlocks on the pens in which the domestic animals are shut up.'

"They say that it gets in during the late hours of the night, and after catching the fowls it drains their

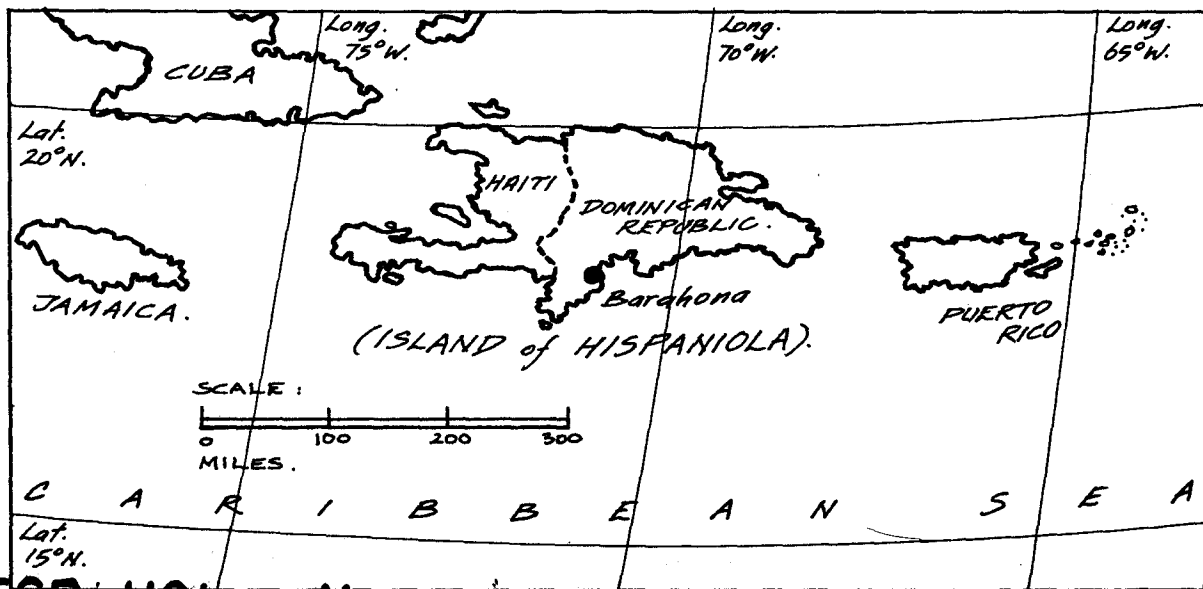
blood away and then leaves the carcasses lying in the pens.

"The occupants of the Batey Central sector believe the creature is a *bacha*³ or *dundun*⁴ owned by some local trader who wants to frighten people. They also say that it could be an 'evil spirit,' which has been sent by some local sorcerer to find fowls and rabbits for him, or again, it might be 'some witch that has broken her compact with the Devil and is now wandering around in space and reappearing on earth at night.'

"The Batey Central People say the creature is constantly changing shape. Terror has reached such a pitch among these people that nobody goes out of doors after nine o'clock at night, for fear the *bacha* might catch them if he hasn't found any fowls to eat."

What is striking about this report is that all the features and characteristics are precisely the same as they were in the Puerto Rico animal mutilation wave of 1975. The phenomenon seems to be identical in Brazil, Mexico, Spain, USA, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

What is notable however in all these countries is the varying fashion in which the phenomenon is interpreted. Thus, in Brazil, it is the *bicho*⁵. In Spain, they call it a *savage wolf*. In Puerto Rico it is called the *Moca vampire*, and now, in Santo Domingo



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pital of the Dominican Republic) they blame it on a "baca" or a "dundun".

Now, the Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola (the old Spanish name from the days of Christopher Columbus) with the Netro Republic of Haita, and Haiti, as everyone knows, is the home of some of the most evil Voodoo and black magic practices found on our planet.

In the Voodoo rituals of Haiti, a *baca* is a devilish animal which obeys only its master, who has made a pact with the Devil.

The *dundun* is much the same sort of thing, except that some folk consider it to be a sorcerer that has turned into an animal.

I must point out that Barahona, where these cases have been reported, lies only a few kilometres from the borders of Haiti, and consequently, as is quite natural, the whole of this region (which I know personally) is dominated by beliefs in Haitian Voodoo.

SIGNPOST TO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE?

(Continued from page 20)

suggestion is no less valid than the others, it still doesn't prove a thing. It may be further objected that it is not scientific to attempt to establish one unproved hypothesis — in this instance, alternative space/time continuums — by citing another that is equally unproved, namely the OBE phenomenon.

Such objections are reasonable. Admittedly, the uncontrolled and essentially unverifiable psychic projections of a temporarily un-bodied individual earthman are at first sight very far removed from the complex phenomena of UFO visitations. It would be quite unscientific to try to construct a firm theory on so insubstantial a base.

THE SPRUCE BUDWORM CONNECTION

(Continued from page 21)

Readers who are unfamiliar with this glorious sight should try to get a glimpse if they can of the cover of FSR Vol. 12, No. 2 (March/April 1966) which shows Charles Gibbs-Smith's majestic Cappelquin photo — a matchless example of the luminous budworm cloud. This mighty entomological apparition was captured, as readers will recall, on film at Cappelquin (County Waterford, Ireland) at 3.15 p.m. on December 26, 1965, by Miss Jacqueline Wingfield and Miss Lisbet Mortensen.

This being settled, may we please now pack up at FSR? I would like to get back to my latest hobby — Arabic. And, of course, to my moths (non-luminous).

References

1. FSR Vol. 24, No. 3.

Finally, to emphasise it once more, the most interesting point about it all is that these sorts of terrifying phenomena and mysterious killings are always *interpreted* in different fashions, in accordance with whatever the prevailing ideas are in each of the countries involved.

Notes by Gordon Creighton

1. See *UFOs and Mysterious Deaths of Animals*, in FSR Vol. 22, Nos. 5 and 6 (1976). See also *A "Flying Humanoid" in Puerto Rico*, in FSR Vol. 23, No.6 (1978).
2. *Curios*. I do not know this word, which must be a local term.
- 3 & 4. See final paragraphs of the article for the meaning of these two Voodoo terms.
5. One of the most used terms in Brazilian Portuguese, meaning *animal, vermin, louse*, etc. In the present usage, as applied to black magic etc., I think the best English rendering is maybe *critter*.

But what is insufficient for a settler's home may bear the weight of an explorer's tent. Monroe's explorations seem to have brought him to a world which could — just *could* — be the place from which our UFOs come; or, if not that place, then it could indicate the *kind* of place we should be looking for. It is just possible that Robert Monroe has, unknowingly, provided a signpost which will direct us towards the solution of a crucial part of our problem.

References

1. Robert Monroe, *Journeys out of the Body*, Souvenir Press 1972.
2. Flourney, *From India to the Planet Mars*, Harpers 1900.

2. Except when straight out of the ovens of Old Peking.
3. Experts in every quarter of the globe have pored over the photos of the Adamski *scout-ship*. This object is remarkable on account of the many specialized purposes to which it can be applied. I have personally heard the leading American ufologists state categorically that it is:
 - a. *The overhead lamp in a hospital operating theatre.*
 - b. *A chicken-incubator.*
 - c. *A tobacco-curer.*

I don't know what the Papuan ufologists say it is, but I do know that here in Britain it was stated to be part of a *beer-cooler*. How's that for versatility?

As we all know, of course, the truth is that it is a spruce budworm in the larval stage.

4. It is nice to have some St. Elmo's Fire around once more, for I had not heard much about it in recent years, and I felt that this was rather sad. In April or May 1946, when I was back in Britain briefly and working in the Foreign Office — cooped up in the same room with Guy Burgess — I noticed one day that the *Daily Telegraph's* science correspondent had just ruled that the pesky little *Foo Fighters* were also St. Elmo's Fire.