

as one watches them. Many is the time I and others have watched such a cat crossing an open hillside when it has 'vanished' as if into thin air, presumably into a cave or some hidden goyal as we locals call the smaller coombes or unfarmed bits of countryside hereabouts.

Yet, as often as not, on going to what seems the exact spot, we find that the animal has disappeared, with the terrain showing no obvious hiding places. At such moments the air feels charged with electricity as one's own 'hackles' rise at the back of the neck and one feels as if one is in the presence of unseen, watching eyes, which is probably the case.

In recent years sightings of adults with cubs have been made which adds to the speculation surrounding these superb creatures. I have actually sat at a wood edge to suddenly feel watching eyes boring into me, have turned and there has been a black big cat just standing observing, as if it has sensed my presence and come to see what I'm up to. There has never been an obvious threat, yet the feeling is always one of awe at their power. At those moments, if it does not leave then *I do* - quite quickly.

Once two of us watched a black leopard coming towards us along a disused green lane, from a vantage point looking down along its length. The lane was bordered with trees and bushes with steepish fields on either side and leading to a waterway below.

Suddenly this cat came to a gorse patch but instead of appearing out the other side it, too, vanished. I say 'vanished' because though it might simply have lain down to rest up amongst the gorse, when we went down to look, it had gone, yet I feel sure that at no time as we walked down to the lane did I lose sight of the spot.

A friend who studies the phenomenon along with the Cadborosaurus situation in British Columbia, living in puma country, took 20 years before he saw one in the wild. So yes, such cats can appear and disappear virtually at will, their senses much more acute than ours.

My own view is that the black alien big cats (ABCs) are leopards, the melanistic form of the more usual spotted

leopard. I do not accept that a large number of black pumas are about, and in any case the ones we are observing are leopard-like in every way.

Intriguingly I have had a variety of stories from people as to their origin including the obvious releases and escapes from captive situations such as 'pets', menageries and so on, over many years, which makes some sense of sightings going back to Roman times for example, and of the strange beasts, black dogs, Wisht hounds and such which have always roamed the countryside of reality and legend.

I have received suggestions that a foreign power was dropping them off here to destroy our livestock and farming, and another that, bored with the mundanity of pheasant and other game-shooting, some people have released various animals including large cat species to better enjoy the thrill of hunting them in the wilds of 'Britain!

That the cats, some of them, are dropped from UFOs is not an uncommon theory. Interestingly, UFO activity, crop circles and ABCs often occur at the same time in many areas, and I've witnessed this myself many a time. I am not saying the three are part and parcel of one situation, but the links are there in terms of timing.

Of course, there are also links between all three and, say, local buses or the Royal Mail vans or whatever! One can easily make out a case for linked phenomena, but equally the links cannot be refuted and should therefore be examined both separately and in the context of possibly being related.

Hauntings by 'ghost' cats also comes into the picture, and rightly so. As a dowser, who also studies leys, I have my views on this aspect of the big-cat presence, but that will have to be for another time.

What is certain is that alien or mystery cats of large size definitely exist in the wild in this country and abroad, countries where they are not naturally found in the wild. Have no doubt about that, dear readers. I have no doubt there are a number of reasons for their presence, and if space permits I will keep you informed.■

HUM, THROB AND GROINKLE DEPARTMENT.

I. To the Editor,FSR, August 14,2000.

Dear Mr. Creighton

Thank you for FSR 45/2. As regards the spread of AIDS as mentioned in this issue, I read similar statistics in *NEXUS MAGAZINE*. I attempted to discuss these frightening aspects with several friends and acquaintances, but no interest was shown whatsoever. *Perhaps they are all asleep?* (YES! - G.C.)

The article on the 'mystery whine', on page 22, reminded me that I have found a similar article in one of my scrap-books. It was in the (now long defunct) periodical 'TIT-BITS', of either the late 1940s or early 1950s, most likely the latter. Here is the article if you are interested.

Regards, David J. Hampton, 21 the Ridings,
Bishopstoke, Hants. SO50 9PN

HAVE YOU HEARD THE MYSTERY THROBBING? UNTRACEABLE SOUND BAFFLES BRITAIN.

Have you heard the mystery noise? It's the British equivalent of America's flying saucers, and it's just as mysterious. Hundreds of people now claim to hear it - a whirring, throbbing, or roaring sound, a noise similar to the humming of the wind in roadside telephone wires or akin to the roar of 'planes flying high.

ARE FLYING SAUCERS INVOLVED?

Ear-witness reports differ, as with eyewitness accounts of flying saucers, but the facts are on official file at the B.B.C. Some people complain of the noise only at infrequent intervals. Others insist that they can hear it day and night... and they claim that it's getting louder.

One investigator, a retired London barrister, has asked sufferers to get in touch with him in order that scientific observations can be made, and reports have flooded in

from all over the country. There are even examples of *deaf people* who 'hear' the vibrations. Sometimes a man is worried by the noise, while his wife cannot hear it.

One by one, possible sources have been checked. Theories of distant jet engine tests or a 'radar hum' have all been disproved. One man turned up at Broadcasting House declaring that the noise was slowly killing him. Post Office and electrical engineers have been called out to people who assert that the continuous throbbing keeps them awake.

Most hearers agree that the noise is loudest at night and in the early morning. Some have kept log-books to show that the sound was intermittent until 1945, and has since been continuous. Doctors have even attached a name to the sound and call it '*radiophobia*'. It is used to describe the eccentrics who appear in the courts to claim injunctions against the Minister of Supply or the Postmaster-General that the noise shall cease.

Yet a parallel mystery recently cropped up in Australia,

where newspapers and radio authorities were bombarded with letters demanding that the "radio irritation" should cease. Sufferers were advised to switch off. Back came replies that they *had* - and could still hear it.

Are flying saucers sending these signals? Are they travelling on a humming, throbbing, sound-beam? Is it all imagination? People who hear the sound claim that those who cannot hear it simply cannot be listening!

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR.

Very interesting. I will look out our own reports from early issues of FSR. And will our readers please be so kind as to send in to me any such reports and stories that they may find in their own scrapbooks?

* (Note, incidentally, that whereas in the case recently published by us in FSR 45/2 it was said that 'only women tended ~~not~~ to hear the whine', this early report mentioned that, whereas a man was frequently worried by the sound, it was his '*wife*' who could not hear it!) -G.C.

II. MORE THROBBINGS, HUMS AND "GROINKLES".

In a letter dated August 24th, 2000 from long-term FSR reader D.J. Strudwick of Meopham, Kent, we learn that he and his wife Lesley have been similarly troubled for years past by what they term "*a groinkle*"! They live on the North Downs Ridge, four or five miles from the nearest motorway.

Late at night, on August 23, Dave Strudwick was working in his study on an electronic project, when he became aware once more of this "groinkle", which "sounds like a dish-washer running".

He checked everything, but everything, dish-washer, washing machine, heater, air filter fan, etc. was switched off. Going up to bed, where Lesley was already asleep, he could still hear it in the bathroom, and then, horror of horrors, it was even at its loudest in the bedroom!

When he awoke at 6.00 a.m. next day, it had stopped. But when his wife woke up shortly afterwards her first words were: "I heard that noise again last night."

Mr. Strudwick says no underground caves are known to exist beneath the area where he lives, but about ten miles away, further up on the North Downs Chalk Ridge, there are the famous chalk caves at Chislehurst. He says UFO sightings have always been very frequent in that area. But his wife "*wonders whether the noise may not be due to the 'Little Greys' doing their weekly wash in their caves on night-rate electricity?*"

[If so, what a pity that, while they are on the job, the "Little Greys" apparently can't make themselves a little "whiter than white". G.C.]■

LATEST REPORTS FROM SPANISH AMERICA. BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

I. MORE "CHUPACABRAS".

In the last few years these creatures have been reported not only from Puerto Rico, but also from Mexico, Panama Republic and Panama Canal Zone, Nicaragua, and even from some of the southern states of the U.S.A!

The principal latest reports, gathered by Scott Corrales of the Hispanic UFO Research Centre, California, come from Chile.

Early on Sept. 13, 2000, 3 geese and 5 ducks were found dead in the usual condition in the La Flora district of Chile. This followed a whole series of similar reports from six or seven other localities of Chile, where the populace have spoken of a "**strange being that leaves no traces of any footprints, and is more like a ghost or a creature of the Devil himself**".

Geese are historically famous for their usefulness in sounding an alarm, but these geese gave none! And all

were found dead, bloodless, feet upwards, none of them showing any signs of violence except for the curious small punctures -all on the necks and throats.

The fowl house had also contained chickens and a dog. the dog was found alive, huddled in a corner, and the chickens had escaped by taking refuge up among the rafters. The owner said the killings "**appeared to be the work of a creature that passed through the wire without leaving a crack**". (Source: Newspaper *La Cuarta*, Sept. 14, 2000.)

Next, another local newspaper, *La Estrella del Loa*, (no date given), reported that, on or about Feb. 6, 2001, two chupacabras had been seen in the villages of La Banda and Independencia Norte, on the outskirts of Calama, in Chile.

A woman named Patricia Valdivia, of La Banda de Calama, had opened her front door and found a chupacabra