[redacted]

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

Incident #123

ATIC NO. ----

DATE OF INFO 11 April 1948

AF NO. -----

LOCATION 4 mi. N of Alton, Ill

REPORT NO. ----

SOURCE Ex USAF COL

DATE OF REPORT ----

DATE IN TO ATIC -----

TIME OF SIGHTING 2330

COLOR ----

SHAPE Resembled huge fowl

SPEED ---- Estimated / Measured

SIZE bigger than an airplane

ALTITUDE ---- Estimated / Measured

COURSE ----

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ----

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION auto

SOUND ----

MANEUVERS flapped its wings

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES -----

JAH. BIRD

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #123 -- Alton, Illinois -- 11 April 1948

There is nothing of astronomical character in this incident.

If one considers Colonel Siegmund's statements apart from the considerably less reliable ones of other observers, it would seem that the object may really have been a bird.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 123

1. Date 11 April 1948
2. Time 2330
3. Location 4 miles north of Alton, Illinois
4. Name of observor Col [redacted]
5. Occupation of observor Former Commandant of the Air Base [redacted], Alton.
6. Address of observor [redacted], Alton, Ill.
7. Place of observation 4 miles north of Alton, Ill - ground
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude N/S
12. Speed N/S
13. Direction of flight N/S
14. Tactics "flapped its wings"
15. Sound N/S
16. Size "bigger than an airplane"
17. Color N/S
18. Shape Resembled a huge fowl and not a type of aircraft
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: Col [redacted] said he observed the creature at about 11:30 A. M. 11 Apr 48, while riding four miles north of Alton, Ill

(over)

[redacted] said he didn't see any flapping of wings but he was sure it was a huge fowl and not a type of aircraft. He was riding with a companion, Col. [redacted], Head of Western Military Academy, at the time. [redacted] however, was talking to a farmer and didn't see it. Siegmund said he didn't mention it to him as it seemed too incredible.

Note: A child [redacted], age 12, said he saw the bird flying over his home in suburban Glendale, Mo., some 3 months previous.

The Belvidere report quoted [redacted] and [redacted] as saying the bird was "bigger than an airplane" and flapped its wings.

RELIABILITY: Impossible to evaluate.
Col [redacted] was never questioned but some sort of investigation obviously should be made in lieu of the fact that he was once commandant of the Air Base [redacted]

Companion To Flying Saucer, "Monster Bird"

BY PAUL DIX

ST. LOUIS, April 10.—(UP) — A retired Air Force colonel and a 12-year old boy tonight backed up the report by two Belvidere, Ill., residents of spotting a "monster bird."

It was either the same mysterious bird of gigantic size they saw or one just like it, they said.

Col. W. F. Siegmund, former commandant of the air base at Kearns, Utah, said he observed the creature at about 11:30 a. m. last Sunday while horseback riding four miles north of Alton, Ill.

James Trares, 12, said he saw the bird flying over his home in suburban Glendale, Mo., about three months ago. Both Siegmund and the boy said they were apprehensive of telling anyone about it until they **read the United Press dispatch from Belvidere yesterday.**

THE BELVIDERE report quoted Robert Price and Veryl Babb as saying the bird was "bigger than an airplane" and flapped its wings.

Siegmund now sales manager for the Weestern Cartridge Co. at Alton, said he didn't see any flapping of wings but he was sure it was a huge fowl and not a type of aircraft.

Siegmund was riding with a companion, Col. Ralph Jackson, head of Western Military Academy, at the time. Jackson, however, was talking to a farmer and didn't see it. Siegmund said, "and I didn't mention it to him because it looked too incredible."

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.