

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 28 Mar 54		2. LOCATION Norwich, Connecticut		12. CONCLUSIONS 1. ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1. 1700 (DAY) GMT 1.28/2100Z 2.29/0015Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian (large number)		2.	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1. 1½ hrs 2. 1 second		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE - - -	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING 1. Large, round, very high, bright metallic color, varying movement and speeds. 2. Observed from 2 towns 8 mi apart.				11. COMMENTS 1. Upper air research balloon over area at time of sighting (see balloon track for 28 Mar). 2. Meteor.	

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EASTERN, CONNECTICUT.

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Muth

On Sunday, March 28, 1954, an unidentified flying object was seen over parts of Eastern Connecticut composing the towns of Danielson, Plainfield, Moosup, Jewett City, Norwich, New London and others. The object was viewed for an approximate hour between 5 & 6 p.m. by hundreds of people throughout the areas mentioned above. The object caused enough consternation to have the local paper besieged with telephone calls requesting information on the sighting. Police barracks were also alerted by some citizens.

The March 29th issue of the Norwich Bulletin had a short account of sighting, they listing the event as probably either a balloon sighting or a sighting of Venus. The article also said other reports on object varied, as in direction object moved. The article made no effort to actually identify object.

The following is a resume of several eye witness reports as given to the author of this article:

Time of Sighting: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. approximately.

Date: Sunday, March 28, 1954.

Weather: Exceptionally clear with no clouds visible.

Shape of Object: Round - A few observers said object had depth roundness like a ball - Most would not hazard guess as to this fact, they saying only that object appeared round from bottom. Many observers said object was definitely elliptical in shape. Two observers said it appeared hollow in center.

Movement: All but one or two observers claimed movement was in different directions - horizontally and vertically but movement was in general easterly direction. This did not coincide with ground wind at that time. All observers said object appeared lower at times. When it disappeared it moved off straight up until it could no longer be seen.

Color: At most times object was a bright metallic color. Observers felt that object was too bright to watch, and they felt the necessity of shielding their eyes. All observers agreed that object seemed to change color at times, especially when moving. At this time, the top portion seemed to glow orange and red. Those observers watching through binoculars or scopes agreed that there seemed to be fire around object.

Height: Height could only be approximated. All observers agreed object was far above regular transport planes' path, as some planes went over during sighting time. All observers agreed object was higher than jets usually fly when jets are mere dots in the sky. At this height, object appeared through the naked eye about the size of an orange. Through 7½ power binoculars, object appeared to be approximately 2 feet in diameter.

Speed: Reports of speed differed. Some observers said object was moving slowly at all times; others said object moved very swiftly at times, so much so that it was impossible to keep object in sight through binoculars.

Sound: Object was soundless at all times.

Peculiarities: 1. One observer claimed he saw some sort of tail assembly at bottom of object, while looking at object through binoculars.
2. Some observers claimed object had spinning motion.
3. Most observers saw some type of fire on red

4. Some observers saw what resembled jet blast coming out of object when it moved.

Comments: All observers agree that object was something like which they'd never witnessed before. All observers were convinced object was not a star; most observers were certain object was not a balloon. Object was seen at same time in localities at least 50 miles apart.

The last witness to contact me was one of a group of men in Norwich, Connecticut, who witnessed this sighting through powerful glasses. Among these men were some who were pilots, former pilots and engineers. Their account of sighting coincided with others noted above. This group was sure object was not a balloon; the men said object seemed to have energy because of its movements, etc. One man of this group, who after seeing object went into his house to telephone, noticed strange and unusual disturbances on his television set.

My conclusion from above facts noted is that object was obviously not a star. There is still a possibility that it was a balloon.

Respectfully submitted


I had just completed the other long report enclosed when another strange occurrence was brought to my attention.

I had placed a small ad in a local paper requesting interesting reports on the March 28th sighting. This ad of course, had with it my name and address.

On Thursday, April 1, I received a phone call at 7:30 p.m. from an excited woman who wanted to know if I were the one who requested information on the Sunday sighting. When I replied in the affirmative, she asked for information on something strange her father-in-law had just witnessed. Her father-in-law a Mr. [REDACTED] spoke only Polish, so she passed the information on to me with a translation of his words.

The story she told me was rather disjointed, but from what I could gather, the man had been outside of his home, in Goodyear, Connecticut, when he was suddenly covered by a bright light that cast shadows on the ground. Next, a flaming or bright object went over his head. He rushed in to his home for he was apparently badly frightened; he glanced at the clock immediately, and he placed the time at 7:15.

I asked the woman the direction in which object was moving, and I learned it was heading north.

Because of the nature in which the report was given to me, I frankly did not put much credence in it. Mr. [REDACTED] had said the object was about 200 feet in the air; although this was low for a jet, this was what I immediately thought it was although I'd failed to ask the man about the sound object made.

I was about to call Mr. [REDACTED] again when I had another call. This call was from a Mr. [REDACTED] of Wauregan, Connecticut, a man whom I know well, and whose veracity I would never question.

The story Mr. [REDACTED] gave me really startled me because it agreed with Mr. [REDACTED]'s report in all respects. Here is the story as he told it to me without any embellishments.

"At 7:15 this evening I was walking to my home when suddenly I was bathed in light. My first thought was that I was in the path of an on-coming car. The light cast huge shadows on the ground. As I glanced up a huge ball of light passed over me. The light was 200 to 1000 feet up, and it was moving at tremendous speed. Before a second had passed, it was out of sight. I can only describe object as being spherical in shape and extremely bright. The object made no sound at all as it passed over me. It left no trail as a comet might."

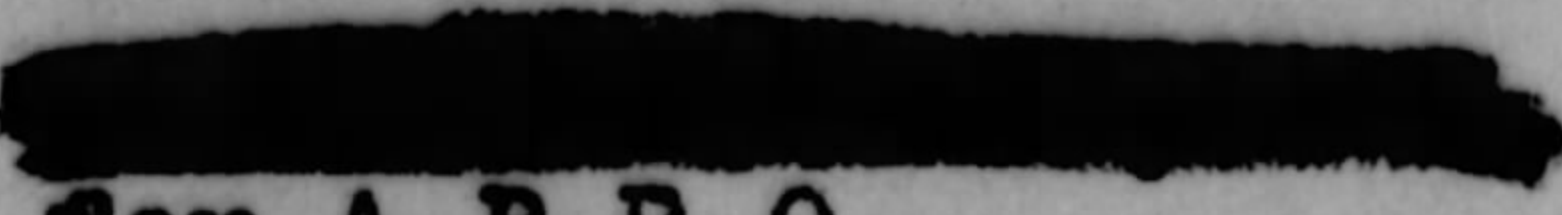
I questioned Mr. [REDACTED] about the object's being a jet although of course, the fact object was silent pretty well ruled out its being a jet. Mr. [REDACTED] was positive object was not a plane. Not only because of lack of sound, but because of extreme speed. He said he had seen jets at low altitudes, but jets stayed in sight longer than this object did.

Mr. [REDACTED] said object was moving due north. It was headed directly toward the north star.

The summary of all this is that it was not a jet because of sound. Its being a comet is doubtful because of flat trajectory and this had no tail showing. As to its being a fireball, I do not know. Because of soundlessness, that fact might be doubtful also.

Most interesting of all, I believe was the fact of object's being seen in two places, Goodyear and Wauregan, towns eight miles apart, at just about the same time. This is a real indication of the thing's speed.

Respectfully submitted,


for A.P.R.O.