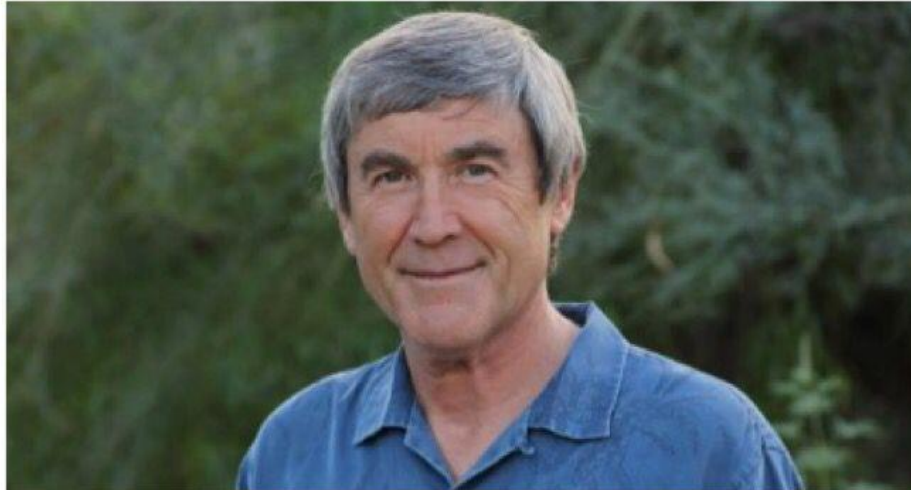


BUFORA
NIC
National Investigations Committee



AN APPRAISAL OF UFOLOGY DURING 2019



"There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. ...It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the universe. ...The impression of design is overwhelming."

~ Paul Davies

2019 was a busy year for BUFORA with sightings increasing in number and BUFORA was receiving an average of approximately 100 sightings per month..

One of the reasons for the increase was because of several launches of the Starlink Satellites during 2019 and launches in January 2020 and an upcoming launch this month. See link below:

<https://spaceflightnow.com/2020/02/07/spacex-considers-starlink-spinoff-as-teams-ready-for-mid-february-launch/>

The Starlink Satellites can look very odd to observers as although they move like satellites, there can be great numbers of them moving in a line across the sky and so they are very unfamiliar to observers.

It has to be remembered that sightings are random, sometimes influenced heavily by the media, movies, documentaries, UFO literature and, of course, the internet, to name but a few. These factors often contribute to numbers of sighting reports received, because there is a huge amount of UFO information to be accessed via all these factors, leading to increased reporting of sightings that are triggered by many of these influences.

Looking at numbers of sightings to BUFORA and other UFO organisations can be somewhat irrelevant as so many of them have a rational explanation and do not remain unexplained, if investigated meticulously, and if they are reported within a few days. This is also dependent upon witness information of their sighting being accurate and not reinforced by beliefs and interpretation based on those beliefs. There are many problems in understanding the reality of sightings that are reported to BUFORA that actually remain unidentified and these remain at a much lower percentage than the media and other agencies would have us believe

Things can become somewhat confusing for the investigators due to several problems, including whether the sighting is being reported years on from the actual observation. This creates problems because memory is not anywhere near as accurate as people understand, so reporting a sighting years later can be far less accurate than we realise, clouded by time and editing of that memory using UFO imagery with which we have become familiar, and therefore subconsciously adding this to our memory years later. Therefore, statistics of sighting reports to BUFORA (or any other UFO organisation) do not give definitive statistics or clarity to our understanding of the reality of those sightings that remain unidentified.

Within BUFORA it is the case that up to 98% of all sighting reports can be explained providing they are reported very quickly, preferably within 48 hours, by completing in detail, the BUFORA sighting report form. In addition, accuracy is obviously critical to this so that stable and reliable witness testimony is needed. This is a difficult one, as there are many things to take

into consideration, including the witnesses themselves, their beliefs and their perception and interpretation of their sighting. In addition to this is how a witness observes a night-time sighting with distance, speed, height and shape being misleading because of angles of viewing along an apparent trajectory giving a flawed ability to appreciate the whole picture, so to speak.

Before endeavouring to give approximate statistics, I would also like to address the percentage of visual images that BUFORA has been receiving now for many years.

Approximately 72% of sighting reports to BUFORA during 2019 were visual in the form of photographs and video footage. This gives the added impetus of witnesses feeling that they have captured a photograph, or even better, video footage which will be the definitive proof of 'visitors' from 'out there'.

Unfortunately this is very unlikely to be the case. Photographs and footage can give very misleading information, which can look extremely curious to the photographer, but all is not as it seems.

Perceived 'UFO images' always have to be supported by a fully detailed completed BUFORA Sighting Report Form by the witness/photographer. This can give further information that is sometimes in conflict with what the witness photographed, particularly if they did not see anything with the naked eye when taking the photograph. This creates further problems for evaluation by my colleagues, Mark Easen and Dave Newton.

If nothing is observed at the time of taking the photograph/s but only after uploading it to their phone/computer, then it can often be the case that it has been something on the camera lens i.e. rain drops, dust or something close to the camera lens such as an insect, a falling leaf or a bird not noticed at the time of taking the photograph. Also, reflections can be a common cause for 'UFO images' Please see Mark Easen's excellent article on the BUFORA website:

<https://www.bufora.org.uk/Reflecting-on-UFO-Images.php>

It is also significant that a percentage of images, which are evaluated and have a definitive explanation, are dismissed as being wrong even though these evaluations are backed up and confirmed by a robust and objective analysis. In my opinion and experience, this may occur because the photographer wants to believe that he/she has captured an object or light of unknown origin and therefore the human factor of powerful beliefs can drive their dismissal of an explanation for their photograph or video footage.

High strangeness reports have also been increasing over the last few years and are received via BUFORA enquiries, telephone calls and email. These are narratives that include perceived experiences and encounters up close and personal with something that is interpreted to be of non-human origin, where witnesses can report psychological and physiological effects from their experience.

To recap, this means that we are looking at several types of sighting reports and experiences.

1. Sightings of unexplained lights and objects in the sky, which are not photographed, and which are reported within a few days of the sighting via the online BUFORA sighting report form.
2. Sightings that are accompanied by photographs or video footage, sometimes not observed by the photographer with the naked eye, but seen when uploaded to their phone or computer.
3. Historical Sightings, and these can be sightings reported from many, many years ago or just a couple of years or a few months.
4. High strangeness experiences, which have increased a little over the last few years. These reports are different from the others in that people report something which they perceive as something up close and personal where they give an account of seeing an unknown object/light at close range, which they feel may have created physiological effects and be responsible for their perception of 'missing time' during their encounter.

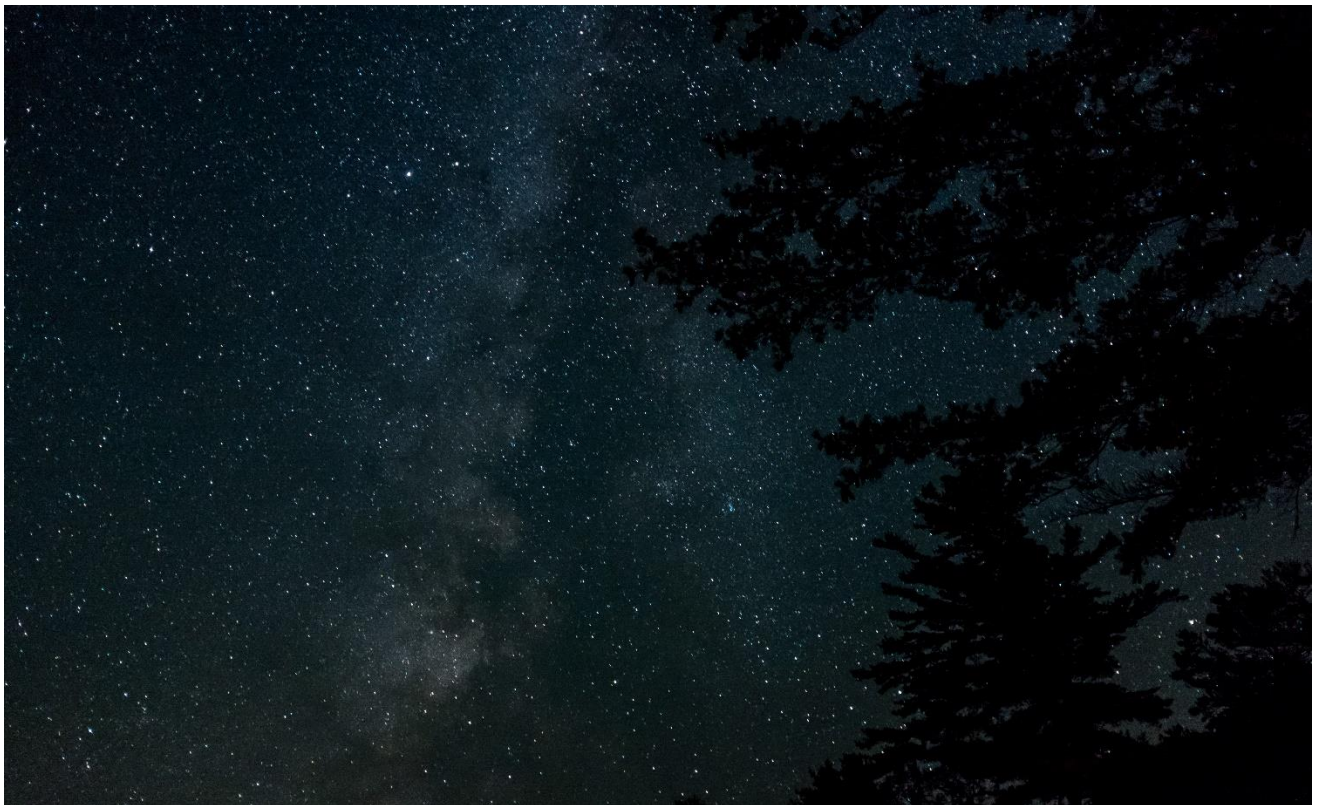
These reports still make up only a very small percentage of narratives to BUFORA, but they have been steadily increasing during the last ten years. They have not reached the numbers reported during the nineties when accounts like this were at an all time high of 8% of all sighting reports to BUFORA. This was somewhat unsurprising due to the very high profile of the UFO subject during the nineties with huge numbers of conferences, UFO magazines, books, documentaries high media interest and internet sites devoted to the subject of UFOs and many and varied bizarre tales of aliens and abductions often 'recalled' under regression hypnosis. These reported experiences became embedded into the human consciousness with images that were readily

accessible to try to comprehend an unusual and strange experience or sighting.

The fact that there were so many triggers for people to interpret odd and strange experiences and sightings to be of non-human origin was not taken on board and so these images would become unwittingly used to 'embellish or 'decorate' a high strangeness report, specifically where hypnosis was used to 'elicit the truth' of these narratives adding to a lack of robust and objective investigation.

It must be remembered that there are many and varied possible rational explanations for these puzzling tales.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGHTINGS TO BUFORA DURING 2019



Steve Gray Copyright

Now to some general information on statistics of sightings to BUFORA over 2019.

As stated, BUFORA are receiving in the region of 100 plus sightings per month. 20% of these sightings are those reported within a few days via the online BUFORA sighting report form and can be definitively identified reasonably

often. These are sightings only and not accompanied by photographs or video footage.

Therefore about 20 sightings per month without visual images.

72% of sighting reports were photographs and video footage, so therefore most sightings were visual in the form of photographs and footage.

These are evaluated by BUFORA image specialists, Mark Easen and Dave Newton.

This gives an estimate of up to 72 sightings per month being visual.

Historical reports comprise those sightings being reported from many, many years ago, sometimes up to forty years ago. Also, sightings that can be reported from several years ago or even many months ago fit into this category for the purpose of giving the percentage that make up sightings that are reported a long time afterwards. **Historical sightings are estimated at 5% per month, therefore approximately 5 sightings per month.**

High strangeness experiences reported to BUFORA can be complex and odd, in that most of them do not follow the patterns of sightings of lights or objects in the sky, and do not appear to be UFO related at all. In fact they can follow unusual anomalies of what would normally be identified as apparitions, or little creatures, following more the patterns of mythology and folklore and the paranormal and other mysteries.

These accounts follow eerie tales of bedroom type visitations from a variety of figures, bright lights, sounds and sense of a presence, out of body experiences floating and being 'taken'.

High strangeness experiences account for about 3% of reports to BUFORA so they account for about 3 per month.

This percentage is increasing, but it is a somewhat blurred connection to the UFO subject with many possible explanations, which are critical in defining the nature of these reports.

TO CONCLUDE:

We must begin to decipher, decode and become conversant with the multifarious parts of the UFO subject and how complex it has become. As technology has advanced, this has opened the gateway of 'UFO infrastructure' and what lies beneath all the hype and exposure that gives such a superficial

overview of the subject including any kind of definitive insight to the reality of sightings that remain unidentified at this time...or possibly any other time!

Gloria Heather Dixon

February 2020