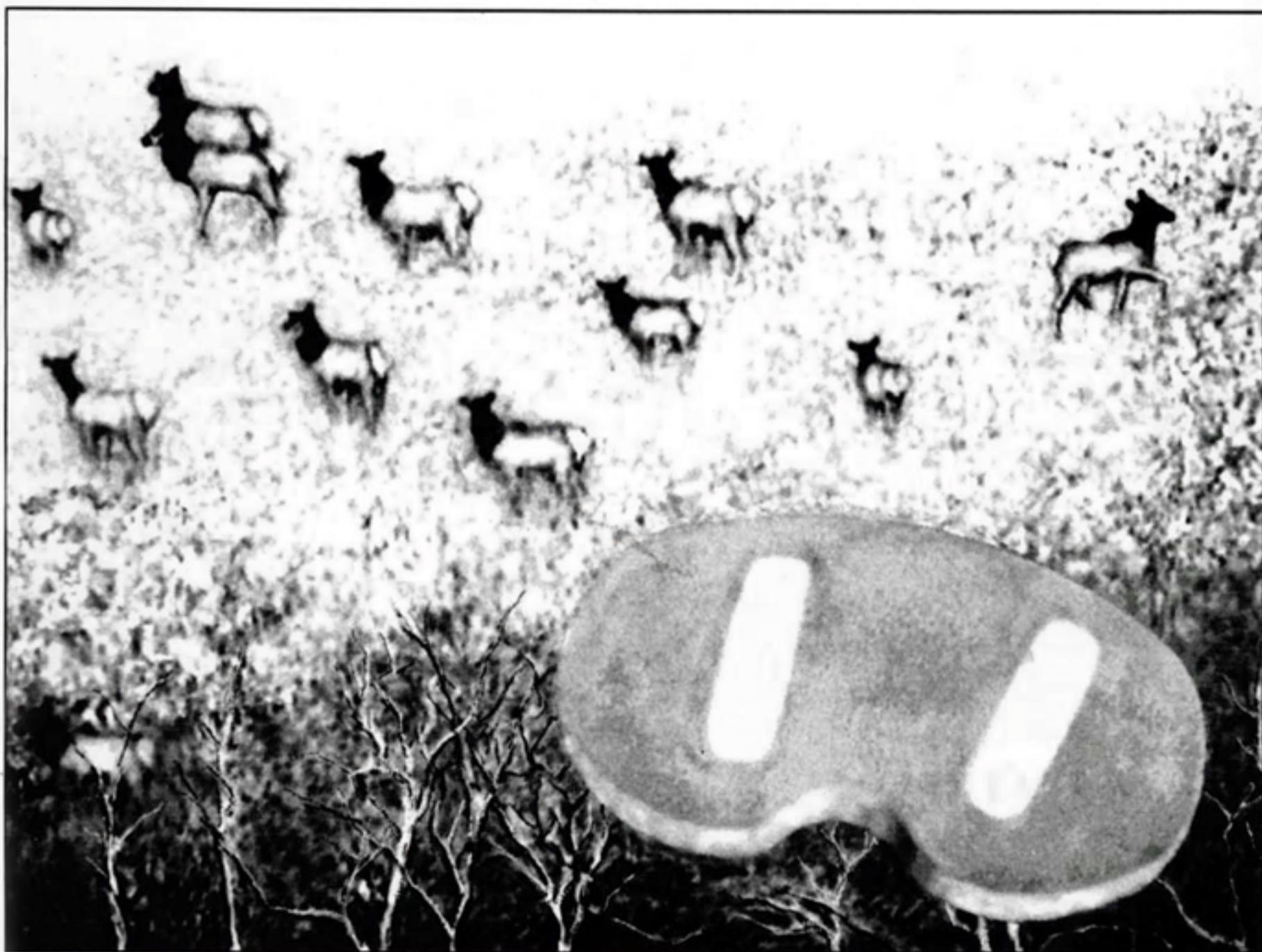


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Rendition by Robert Fairfax of elk abduction witnessed by forestry workers in Washington state.

Two photo events may involve same object

By Nicholas F. Schmidt, Ph.D.
with Gregg Fisher

Incident #1

On April 3, 1998, Gregg Fisher and I left Red River, NM, during the early morning hours and drove south towards Roswell. The purpose of our trip was to look for UFOs and to visit places of ufological interest in the Roswell area.

Several hours later, at approximately 11 a.m., Mr. Fisher spotted a silver-white, shimmering object to our West in a cloudless sky just north of where the Pecos River intersects Route 84 in New Mexico. Mr. Fisher pulled his truck to the side of the road. We left the vehicle to continue observing the object, which remained in the same place for about 10 minutes, 35 degrees above the horizon and, by our estimate, a half mile away in the southwest sky.

During that time it disappeared and reappeared several times in the same spot, seemingly fading in and out of view when it so desired. When observable, the object was noiseless, absent wings, tail section, contrail or flashing lights, remained stationary, and glittered as though someone were reflecting sunlight back to us with a mirror.

The object then "blinked out" for 10-15 minutes, only to reappear in the southeastern sky approximately the same distance from the original point of observation. Viewed with the naked eye, it exhibited the same characteristics as described above.

Mr. Fisher located the object in his binoculars (8x21) and observed it for 30-40 seconds. Through the binoculars he saw an ovoid disk, flat on the bottom and oval shaped on top, rapidly vibrating up and down. The object hovered in place during the entire 30-40 seconds of observation.

I eventually found a whitish object in my camera lens. Then, with autofocus locked on infinity and without the need for panning, I took 5 pictures over a 5-7 second time period. At that point the object abruptly disappeared from view. The entire incident lasted some 30 minutes. No missing time was experienced.

It is important to note that while I took the pictures, Mr. Fisher continued to observe the object through the binoculars. What he observed and subsequently sketched on paper was quite different from the photographic evidence. This intriguing anomaly would happen again.

The film was developed that same day in Roswell.

A detailed field report was written soon thereafter (I am a former consultant for MUFON). A week or so later the field report and the 1x photos were shared with Bob Turner, State Director of MUFON New Mexico. Immediately thereafter this same report (minus photos) was submitted to Walter Andrus at MUFON National Headquarters after contacting him by phone.

Incident #2

Almost thirty days after the first incident Mr. Fisher and I returned to Dallas, TX, via Arizona and lower New Mexico. On May 2, between the hours of 1 and 2 p.m., I spotted a shimmering object while we were driving South on Interstate 17 several miles north of Cornville, AZ. We stopped the vehicle, stepped outside and scanned the area for quite some time, but the object did not reappear.

No other objects were visible in that section of sky. The appearance and behavior of the object was similar to that of the first incident, even though this sighting event lasted only five seconds. The object was estimated to be less than a mile from our point of observation and about 60 degrees above the horizon in the southwest sky.

The next morning (May 3) we left Eagar, AZ, at 8:30 a.m. and headed east on Route 60 towards New Mexico. Two hours later we began to pass through the desolate Plains of St. Agustin and eventually reached the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, VLA Telescope site located between the towns of Datil and Magdalena (western New Mexico). The White Sands Missile Range is located approximately 75 miles southeast of this site. Prior to arriving at the Observatory, an object appeared several times on the left-hand side of our truck, but Mr. Fisher identified it as a small, dark airplane.

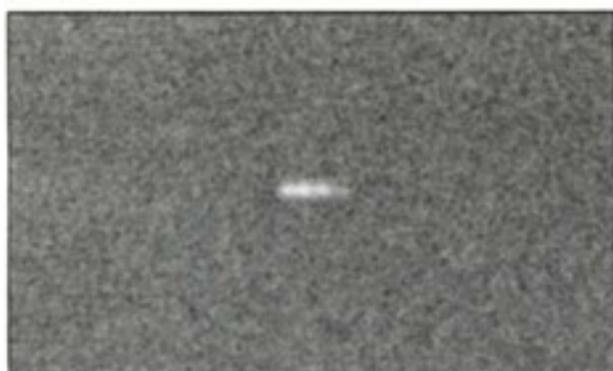
We stopped on the side of the road by the Observatory, the only people in the area. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Fisher spotted an object in the northeast sky estimated to be a mile from our location and about 35 degrees above the horizon. The sky was clear and cloudless. It was approximately 10:30 a.m. After viewing the object through his binoculars for several seconds he distinctly felt it was a small airplane moving from right to left. Strangely, the "plane" was dark in color, totally silent, and no flashing lights, markings, motor/propeller or cockpit windows were visible.

I pointed my camera at the object, which appeared as a small, whitish spec, and centered it in the viewing lens. With autofocus on infinity and without panning, I snapped 5 pictures in about 5 seconds. The fifth picture did not contain the object as it disappeared between frames 4-5 and was no longer visible. I could not tell what the object was through the camera lens, nor did I hear any engine sounds. Just prior to our ar-

Figure 1: April 3, 1998. Location was Rt. 84 just north of the Pecos River, New Mexico.

Figure 2: May 3, 1998. Location was Rt. 60 at National Radio Astronomy Observatory, VLA Telescope site, New Mexico.

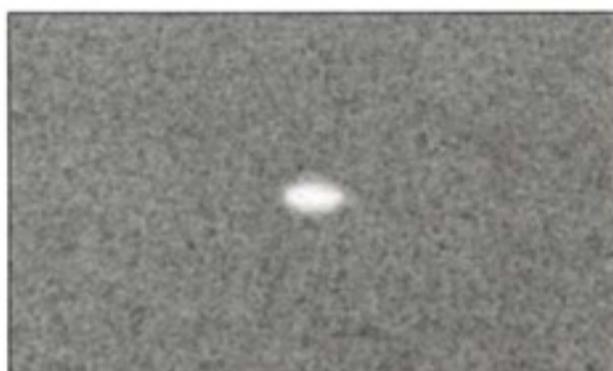
**Photo A
Photo 1
4/3/98
50x**



**Photo 2
4/3/98
50x**



**Photo 3
4/3/98
50x**



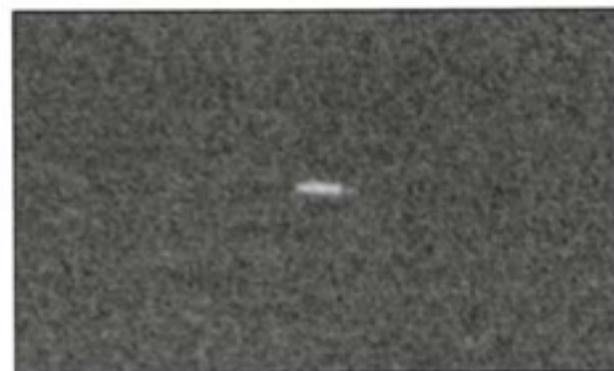
**Photo 4
4/3/98
50x**



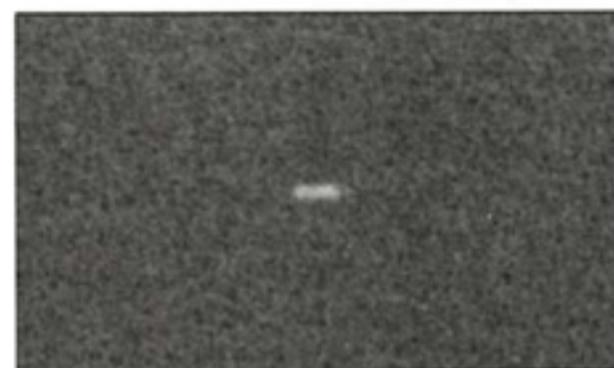
**Photo 5
4/3/98
50x**



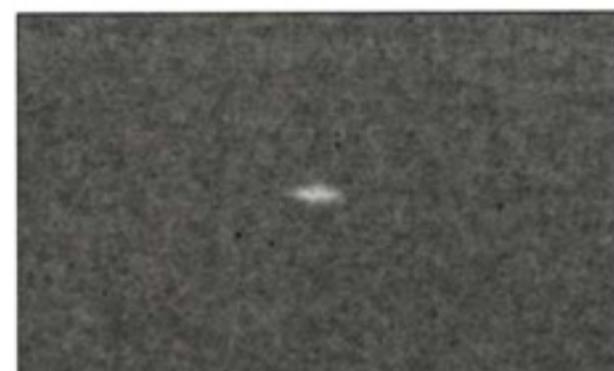
**Photo B
Photo 1
5/3/98
50x**



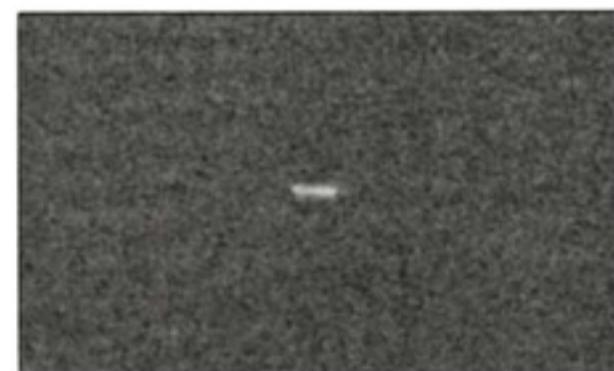
**Photo 2
5/3/98
50x**



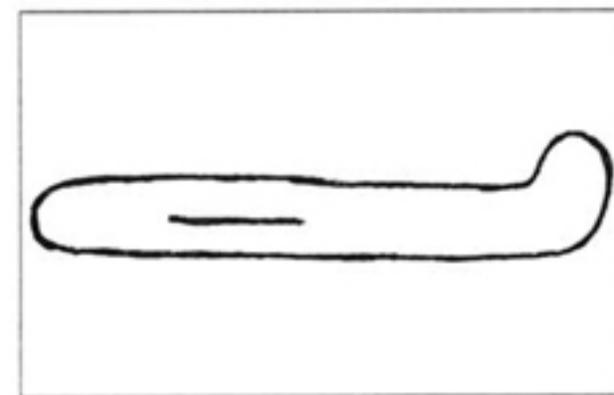
**Photo 3
5/3/98
50x**



**Photo 4
5/3/98
50x**



**Sketch by
Greg
Fisher of
what he
observed
through
binoculars.**



rival or shortly after leaving the scene (we can't recall exactly when), several unmarked helicopters were observed in the same area where the object had been observed. No missing time was experienced during this event.

When I returned to Connecticut and had the film developed, I could see that the object photographed was not an airplane. Mr. Turner and Mr. Andrus were sent copies of the May 3 field report.

Photographic Details

The camera used to photograph both sightings was a Nikon 8008S, 35-millimeter still camera equipped with a Nikon ED, AF Nikkor 80-200mm, 1: 2.8 zoom lens. During incident # 1, Kodak Plus 100 for color prints (ASA 100) was used, the lens opening was f-5.6 (estimated), the shutter speed was 1/1000 of a second, and the zoom lens was set at maximum distance (200mm).

During incident #2, Kodak Gold 200 for color prints (ASA 200) was used, the lens opening was not noted, the automatic shutter speed was most likely 1/1000 of a second, and the zoom lens was set to its maximum (200mm).

All photographic negatives of the object from the first and second incident (nine total) were eventually taken to a professional laboratory and enlarged to 50x under the same conditions. The enlarging apparatus was a Super 0 Chromega F Dichroic II fitted with a 63mm EL-Nikkor lens, 1:2.8. All color filters were set to neutral. The pictures were printed on Kodak EKTA Color Supra II F glossy paper.

Photographic Evidence

Figure 1 (previous page) shows the five pictures taken during the April 3, 1998, incident. All photos were taken within a 5-7 second time span and are enlarged 50-fold. "Morphing" of the object over this short period of time is readily apparent, which occurred just prior to blinking out. In addition, an aura surrounds the object, and it too changes shape as the object changes configuration.

Figure 2 (previous page) contains the four pictures of the object taken during the May 3, 1998, event. All photos were taken within a 5-second time span and were enlarged 50-fold. Again, morphing of the object can be observed seconds before it disappeared from view.

A comparison can be made between both objects. Photo A is a 50x enlargement of print #1 from the April 3 incident; photo B is a 50x enlargement of print #1 from the May 3 incident. Interestingly, each photograph was the first of five in the sequence of pictures taken from each incident.

During the second incident, the distance to the object from the camera seemed to be further than that of

the first incident. In addition, only print #1 from the May 3 photographs exhibits a shape that has a reasonably defined "3-ball"-like configuration (see Figure 2). The three remaining pictures of this incident show that the object is similar in length to that observed in print #1 but the object is less defined and more diffuse. However, a close inspection of all four 50x pictures using additional magnification, e.g. a Bausch and Lomb magnifying glass, shows that the object has a different shape in each instance.

Data Analysis

It is important to note that the general sequence in both events was (a) the suspicious object was spotted, (b) Mr. Fisher observed the object through his binoculars, (c) photos were taken while object was being observed through the binoculars (d) object disappeared while being photographed, and, (e) pictures of the object show it to be markedly different from that observed through the binoculars.

The length of the object from incident #1 at 1x enlargement on a 4 x 6 inch print is approximately 0.75mm. The length of the object from incident #2 under the same conditions is about 0.5mm. Since a 35mm negative is some 4.6 times smaller in width than a 1x print (including 5% for cropping) the length of each object in the negatives becomes 0.16mm and 0.11 mm respectively.

Using this information, the size of the object photographed during the April 3 sighting was estimated as follows: the length of the object (0.16mm) in negative #1 was divided by the focal length of the lens (200mm). The resultant value (0.0008) was then multiplied by the estimated distance to the object in feet. In this event, we guessed the object's farthest distance to be 1/2 mile or 2,640 feet. This yielded a length close to 2 feet, which seems unlikely. Applying this same formula to negative # 1 of the May 3 sighting, the object would be about 3 feet in length if it were 1 mile from our estimated observation point. Again, this seems unlikely.

Since we were unable to use any reference points or triangulate a distance to the object in either event, estimate of size cannot be done with any accuracy. For example, in order for the object to have a length in the range of 12 feet it would have had to be some 3 miles from our point of observation. It is clear that our estimate of distance in both events was an educated guess at best.

It is evident from Figure 1 that the object has a different shape in all five photos. What is most striking is that the object starts off as a distinct 3-ball shape as seen in a two-dimensional plane (Figure 1, Photo #1). Then, in the next photo, two of the 3 balls have merged into one while the remaining ball has expanded slightly in size. In Photo #3, all 3 balls have merged into a single

ovoid object. All of this took place within seconds. Photo #4 shows continued morphing without discernible segmentation, while Photo #5 suggests the object is beginning to segment again. One second later it blinked out. The entire sequence of shape-change lasted 5-7 seconds.

It is more difficult to determine quality and degree of shape-change in the second set of photographs because the object is not as clearly defined. However, two observations can be made with some degree of confidence: (1) the first print is the only one to exhibit a 3-ball configuration similar to the object in the first event, and (2) the shape of the object in each of the four photos appears to be different.

As mentioned previously, print #1 from the April 3 event and print #1 from the May 3 event exhibited a 3-ball type configuration. Interestingly, when one orients these two prints in the same way (left/right and up/down) both objects exhibit a short, "wispy, cloud-like tail" at the right/rear of its structure.

Finally, a comparison of the first photos from each incident (Figures 1 and 2) shows that both objects appear to be similar. Equally intriguing is that during each photographic event the object starts off as a well-defined, 3-balled structure. Then, a short period of morphing occurs, followed by blinking out. When one compares both incidents, the morphological data, the overall pattern of behavior, and the time that transpired prior to blinking out (5-7 seconds), this suggests that it may have been the same object in both instances.

The aura or corona around the object during the April 3 sighting was quite visible and changed shape as did the object. In the 50x color prints, the aura has a white color in Photo 1. However, as the object begins to merge into itself in Photo 2 the periphery of the object starts to change to a magenta color which extends into the filamentous corona itself. In Photo 3 the object is mostly an intense white, while the periphery/filamentous aura is now mostly magenta. This holds true for Photos 4 and 5 as well just before the object disappears. The changes in the shape of the corona for both objects can be seen at the URL addresses cited below.

While photographing both events, I kept the object centered as well as possible in the camera lens, and no panning was required to accomplish that. In other words, I did not have to compensate for any sideways movement because the object was hovering in place.

This observation is supported by all nine 1x prints which show that the object is generally centered in the middle of each picture.

Mr. Fisher, who has excellent eyesight and perceptive abilities, sketched what he observed in his binoculars during both incidents. In the first case the object he drew was clearly an ovoid disc, while his de-

scription of the object from the second incident shows it to be a small airplane with wings and a tail section connected to a cigar-shaped body. (Figure 2, bottom)

Overall, the evidence suggests that the object did not resemble, nor did it behave like, a conventional plane, helicopter, weather balloon, or blimp.

Discussion

The experience of witnessing and photographing an unidentified object on two separate occasions thirty days apart, in the same state, during cloudless days, had three compelling elements to it: (1) the object morphed just prior to blinking out, (2) the object appeared to be similar in both instances, and, (3) in both events, what was observed by one witness through binoculars was not the same as that which later appeared in developed photographs.

The morphing phenomenon observed herein has occurred before with unidentified flying object sightings, although it is more the exception than the rule. Scanning through prior issues of *The UFO Newsclipping Service* (1995-96) the following observations were made by witnesses:

(a) "...each one the size of a small dinner plate, flying through the sky... As they approached they appeared to change into a triangular shape."

(b) "It had three lights and stayed in one place... it changed to a half moon shape ... it came in close and changed shape again."

(c) "...when it (bright white object) approached the horizon, he said it flared up about 20 times its original size, turned into an oval shape and stopped dead."

(d) "As the UFO moved across the sky, it repeatedly changed color and shape and winked in and out."

(e) "I saw a small yellow object... I watched it slowly change into a triangular shape, then suddenly it disappeared."

In addition, morphing/merging is mentioned in a *MUFON 1994 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* paper presented by Dr. Richard Haines. In this article he refers to "a gaseous plasma-like constitution, which can appear to merge into another one," and "a round translucent object (like a balloon) seemed to approach and then merge into a cylindrical object." In that same study he also points out that fragmentation or shape change is described by witnesses 45/230 times, a frequency of almost 20%. In addition, the author also reports a smaller percentage of cases in which sudden appearance/disappearance occurs as happened during our April 3 event.

In 1995, in this same MUFON Symposium format, Dr. Francisco Lewels says, "UFOs have been reported to split in two or to merge together, to appear and disappear, as if going to and from another dimension."

All of the above support the contention that UFOs

can morph and change their shape. When examining the physical changes taking place with the object in Figures 1 and 2, it would appear that this same phenomenon is taking place. This is more apparent when one digitizes and computer enhances these same photographs (see <http://home.earthlink.net/~fromthestars/page21.html> for the original photographs and [page20.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~fromthestars/page20.html) for the enhanced versions).

After enhancement one can readily see that the denser part of the object undergoes dynamic morphological contortions while a pronounced, corona-type envelope surrounds it. As one views these images in sequence it seems as though a lot of "energy" is being expended prior to blinking out. It may be that this type of intense morphing is a prelude to rapid acceleration (see below), "shape-shifting" into another dimension, or transitioning from the range of visible light.

This exceptional pattern of behavior and the short length of time required to shift from a well-defined, 3-balled structure to the point of blinking out was common to both events. It may be that the two sets of photographs shown herein are the only ones published to date which capture this unusual phenomenon.

Morphing crafts may indeed have the ability to dematerialize into another dimension as Dr. Lewel suggests. If an advanced intelligence were behind the object's existence, it is possible that it may have mastered the technology of materialization and dematerialization into another dimension or within our own.

Regarding the colored corona evident during the April 3 event, a reference to a colored, aura-shaped shroud surrounding an object was made in an article published in the *MUFON UFO Journal* (February, 1997). The author, Dr. Roger K. Leir, described an investigation of a self-luminous disc which "appears to have a gaseous shroud surrounding its core."

This was based upon evidence obtained from an in-depth analysis of both still and video photographs. He further stated that the object appeared to be ovoid, and that computerization enhancement showed "multiple colored bands surrounding the periphery of the object." Interestingly, the photographic analysis suggests that at one point the object "had no mass and appeared to be gaseous or cloudlike." The size of the object was estimated to be 19 feet in length and was classified as "unidentified" by SVP Digital Systems (Studio City, CA), who did the photographic analysis.

It may also be possible that the phenomenon of "halation" was occurring, with the photos exhibiting an aura, especially during the April 3 event. The production of a halo around a brightly-lit object can cause a sideways light leakage into the film and can make it appear as if an object has a halo around it.

The instantaneous disappearance of the object in both events may alternatively be explained by the phe-

nomenon of "rapid acceleration." In an article titled "Acceleration," by Dr. Bruce Maccabee (<http://www.accessnv.com/nids/whatelse.shtml>), the author makes the point that the human eye can only integrate and detect movement up to a certain point, after which an object in motion becomes "invisible."

He cites the example of a transparent gun barrel in which the bullet can be seen prior to firing but becomes invisible when the bullet is discharged due to its rapid acceleration. In that same article, Dr. Maccabee offers evidence that UFOs can move fast enough for this same phenomenon to occur not only when they are viewed with the naked eye, but within actual video footage evidence wherein an object is present in one frame but absent in the next.

Regarding the shape similarities of the object during both occasions, we will let the readers judge for themselves when comparing the photos and the behavior patterns from the two different events. Needless to say, if the objects were the same in both events it raises some very provocative questions, not the least of which are (a) was the object following us?, (b) whose object is it?, (c) what intelligence was behind the object?, and, (d) was the object trying to tell us something?

As far as one observer seeing one thing through binoculars and the photos showing something significantly different, we are at a loss to explain what happened. In both instances, I am quite certain that what I photographed was the same object that Mr. Fisher was observing. There simply wasn't any other object visible in that section of the sky at that time. However, the anomaly of Mr. Fisher observing one thing and the photographic evidence showing something else remains a mystery.

In conclusion, one must finally ask a very fundamental question, "Is the craft from both sightings an unidentified flying object?" It would seem so given the available photographic, behavioral, and eyewitness evidence, and suggests that the object be classified as "unidentified" at this time.

We would like to thank Dr. Bruce Maccabee (Research Physicist at the Naval Surface Weapons Center, Maryland), Doug Rogers (U.S. Coordinator for the Centre for Crop Circle Studies), Tony Rullan (Texas State Section Director for El Paso and Hudspeth County) and Retired Army Major Bruce Tilden (field investigator for Connecticut MUFON) for their time and valuable contributions in reviewing this article.

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