

Randy Bell's UFO Photography

An Oregon MUFON Presentation

by

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and

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Introduction

- Randy's story. Why him?
- About his photography. Equipment and technique.
- Some UFO photographs.
- Some IFO photographs.
- Conclusion.
- References.

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Randy's Story

- Grew up in Tennessee. Has had psychic experiences. Became a chiropractor. Uses spiritual healing sometimes.
- August 2007, while walking with his wife in his Lake Oswego neighborhood, a low-level UFO buzzed him very closely. He saw “into” the UFO and was “dazed” a bit. This began his interest in UFO photography.
- Randy previously liked photography, so he became an avid UFO photographer, hunting this elusive “prey.”
- He started Portland UFO Network in March 2010, dedicated to gathering like-minded people to talk about and hopefully photograph UFOs.

Observational and Photo Techniques

- Uses mostly a Canon Rebel Ti with a 250 mm Canon lens.
- Uses binoculars (some 15 power ones lately).
- Scans the sky looking for UFOs. If he doesn't see anything, he then points at the sky where he has a (psychic) hunch they might show up.
- He shoots quickly, sometimes with a continuous shutter setting, sometimes just single shot with many shutter presses very quickly.
- Ends up with a couple of hundred or more photos in a single session of a half hour to a couple of hours at a formal PUFON sky watch.

General Comments on the UFO Photos

- Most of the UFOs are very small in pixel size (10 to 20), although some are much larger.
- The UFOs come in many shapes, colors, and configurations.
- Rarely, more odd “psychic” type swathes of color of amorphous shape appear.
- Most of the UFOs were photographed in the Portland metro area because that’s where Randy lives and works. (He has taken the same kinds of photos while on vacation in other states.)

UFOs: “Classic” UFOs #1 (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/27/10. Where are the UFOs? You can't see them here at full frame. They are indicated by the arrows. Let's enlarge the UFO images, taken near Randy's home, on the next slide.

UFOs: “Classic” UFOs #1 (2)

UFO #1



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

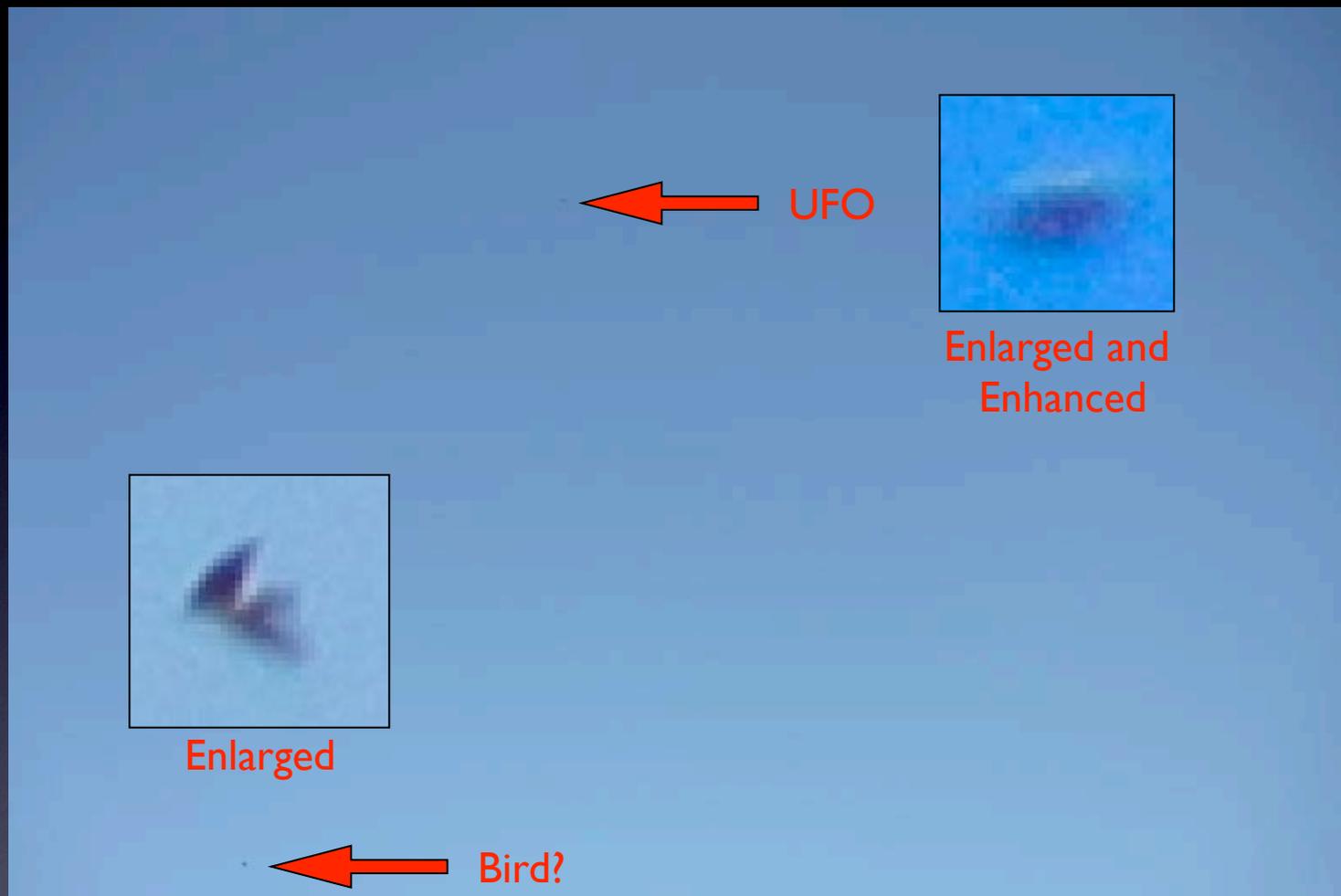
UFO #2



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

Both UFO #1 and #2 are enlarged four times with Photoshop’s bicubic resampling algorithm. Both are adjusted the same in brightness and contrast, otherwise unmanipulated. UFO #2 looks like a “classic” UFO. UFO #1 looks more amorphous. Randy saw UFO #2, but not UFO #1.

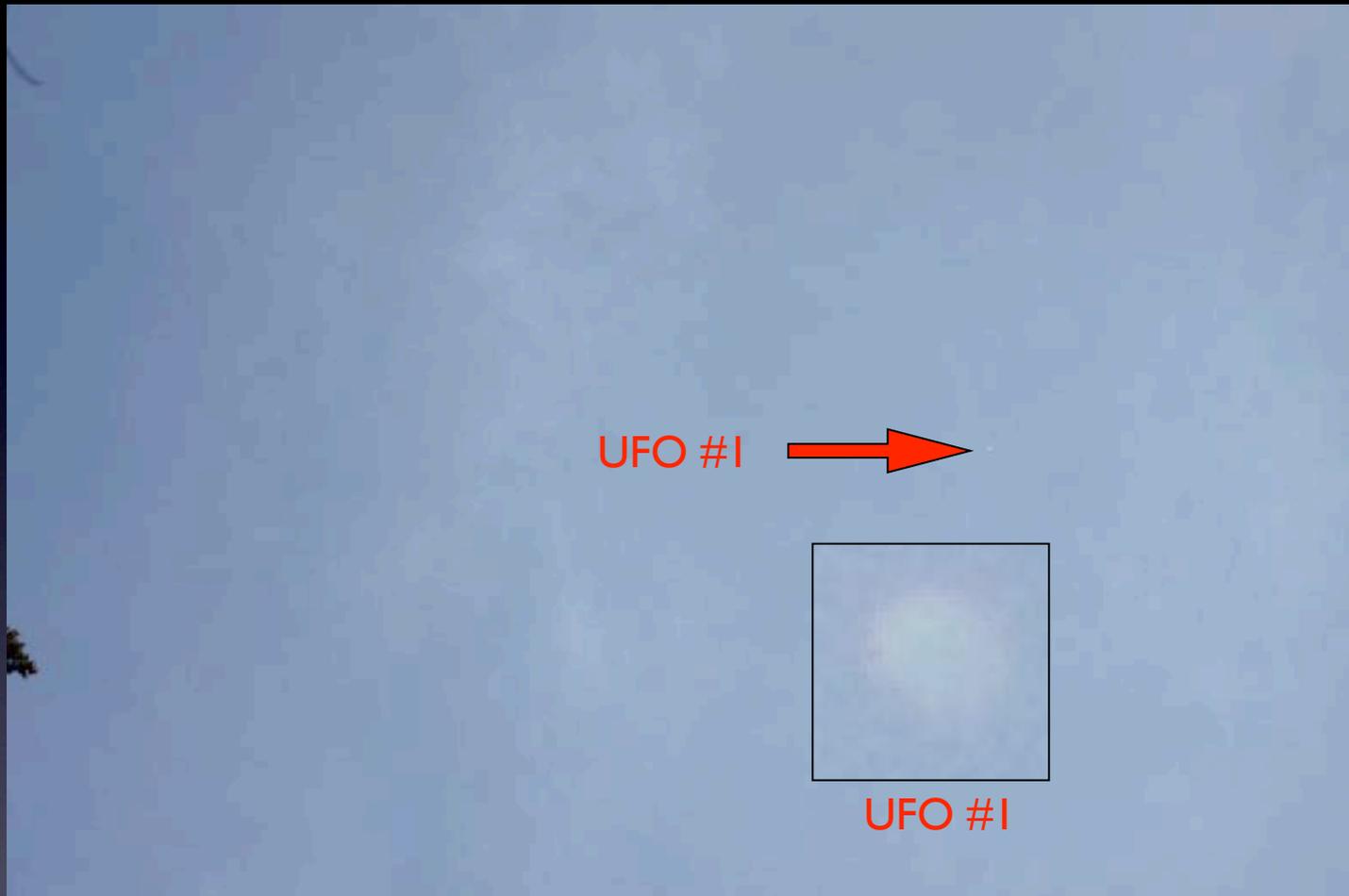
UFO: "Classic" UFO #2



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/26/10. The top image is a UFO. The bottom may be a bird. If UFO proof depended only on images from photos, the proof would be problematic. But add eyewitness testimony to images and you have proof beyond a reasonable doubt, if the images and testimony corroborate each other. Randy sees some of his UFOs, but not others.

UFOs: Whitish Blob UFO



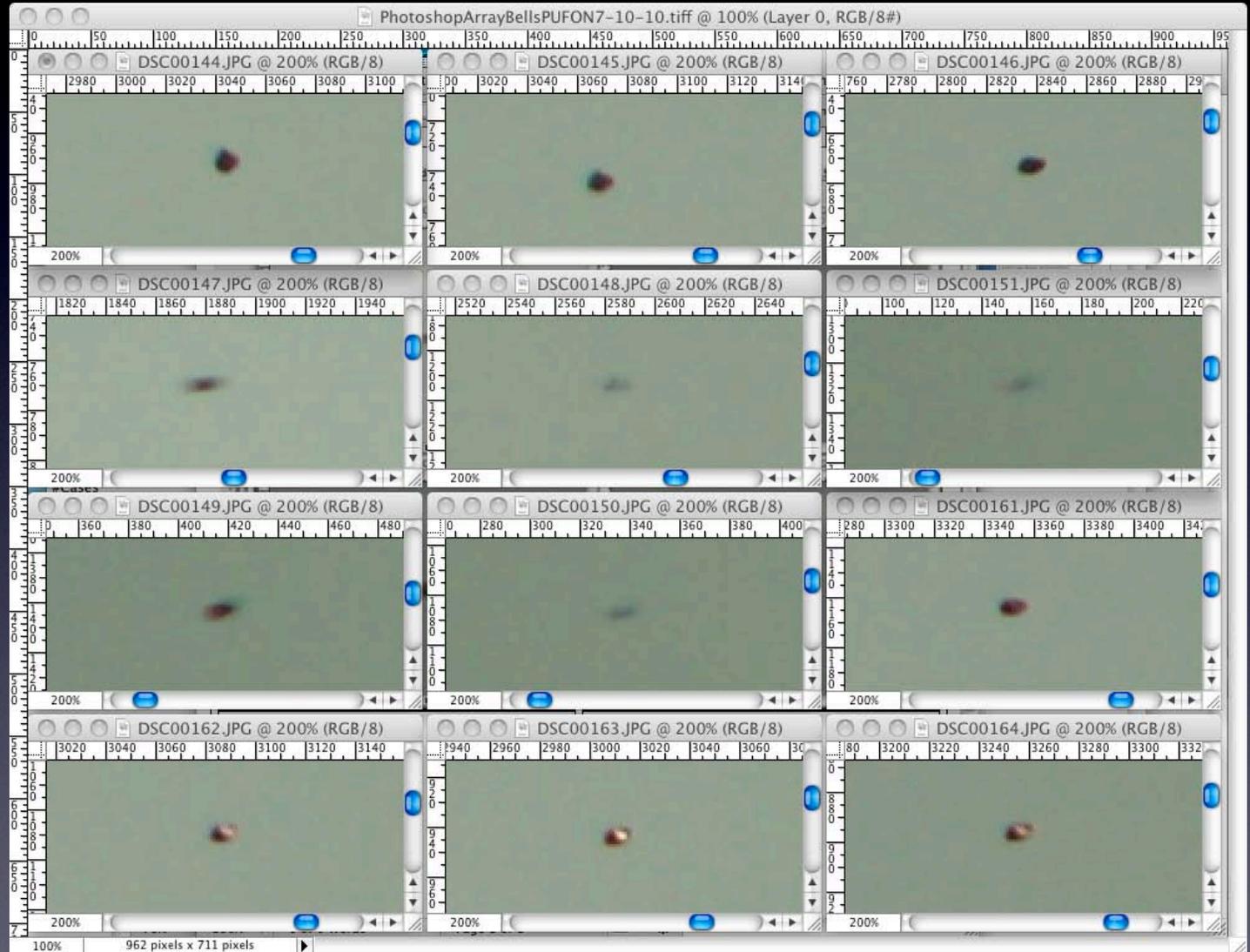
Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

4/14/10. One faint more or less circular UFO shows up in this photo. There is one other much smaller, much fainter UFO toward the upper middle of the photo; otherwise this photo is “clean.” Whitish, circular UFOs are very common in Oregon.

UFOs: Brown Shape-Shifter (I)

7/10/10, This array in chronological order shows how the UFO changed shape over time. Taken on a PUFON skywatch.

The UFOs are all shown at 200%. Pixel size averages 10 x 12, which is a very small angular size.



UFOs: Brown Shape-Shifter (2)

This shows the shape of the UFO a little better.

Image DSC00163 is enlarged 4 times by resampling with Photoshop's bicubic algorithm, otherwise it is unchanged. This is the bottom middle image of previous slide.



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

UFOs: Dark, Angular Object (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

3/7/09. Randy spotted this UFO and took 7 photos within 29 seconds. It is a dark, angular shape with some “highlighting” evident.

UFOs: Dark, Angular Object (2)



Sec 0



Sec 2



Sec 4



Sec 11



Sec 19



Sec 20



Sec 29

Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

Seven images of the same UFO in 7 photos. All photos taken with a Casio EX-Z850 at maximum telephoto. *Since focal length and Randy's position didn't change, the UFO either came closer or enlarged in size or both!* Randy says the UFO came closer. Images unmanipulated except to enlarge them to 400% in Photoshop. Largest pixel size is 33 X 30. Note odd highlight on lower right side in some images.

UFOs: Greenish Area (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

4/17/10. Five photos in 4 seconds all show an anomalous area of a greenish, “out of focus,” rounded shape. This is the first photo. Randy took another and then shifted to the left and slightly down. He did not see this at the time. Randy says he’s sure that no one was in front of him to cause this “out of focus” image of (perhaps) a hat.

UFOs: Greenish Area (2)



Source: Randy Bell

4/17/10. This is the third photo. Sometimes (rarely so far) Randy's photos show areas of anomalous patches, swirls, light effects, etc., of amorphous shape, such as here.

UFO: Strange Blue Streak



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

11/1/09. Large blue streak shows in lower left corner. Lens flare is immediate suspect, but lens flares from the sun are light-colored (whitish/yellowish like the sun) and “rainbowy” close up. Looks like “paranormal smearing” is a possibility here. Randy has a few other “paranormal smears.”

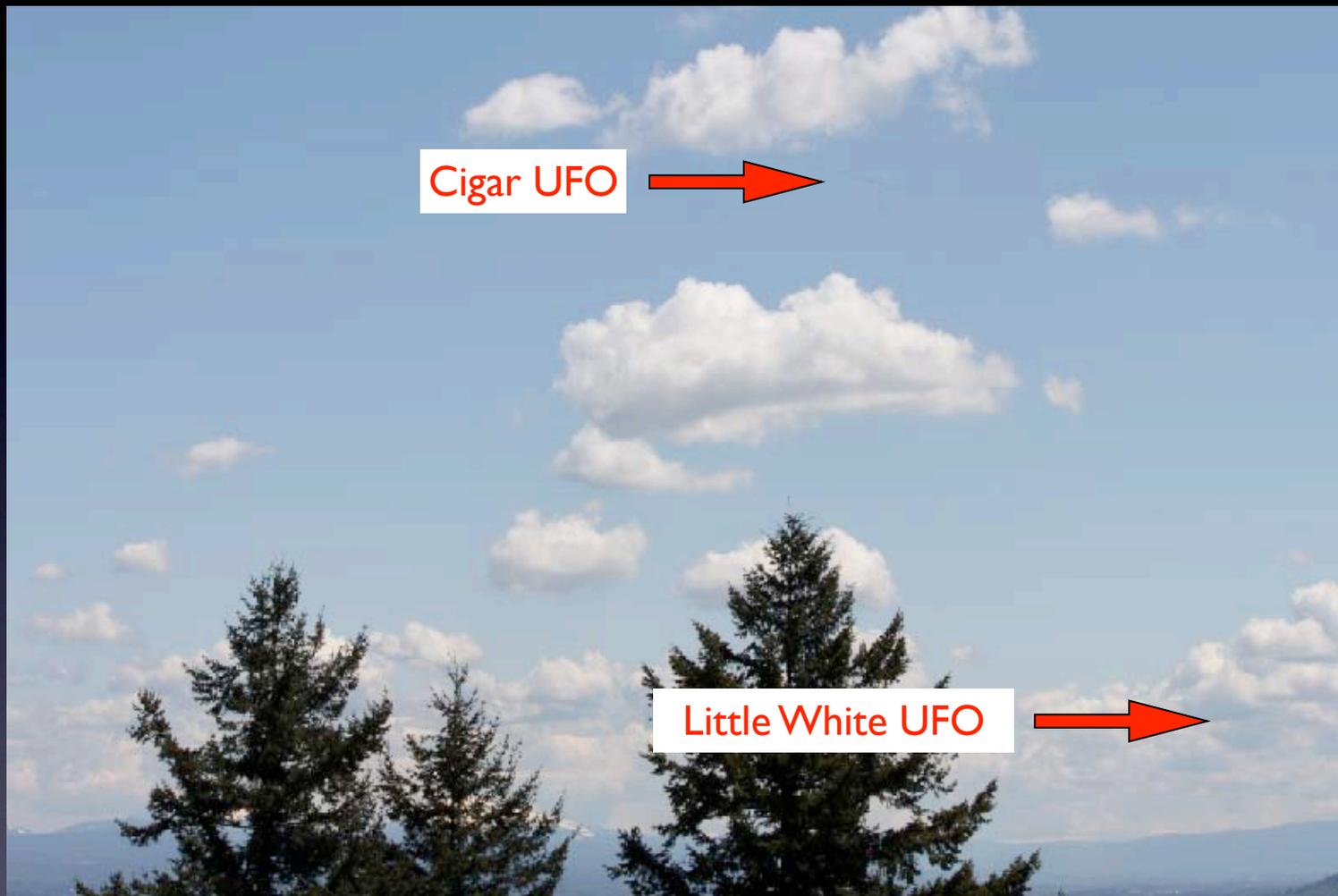
UFO: Elongated UFO



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

4/9/10. Possible sun(?) highlights on circular shape? Pixel size is large at 74X26. Note tonal change from one end to the other. Appears in front of clouds that are probably no more than ten miles away. Two photos were taken one second or less apart. UFO in both and virtually identical looking.

UFO: Cigar UFO (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

4/9/10. An elongated, cigar-shaped “UFO” might be a smeared, streaking UFO trace since shutter speed was only 1/100 sec. A second much smaller white UFO shows up, too. See next slide for a comparison.

UFO: Cigar UFO (2)

Cigar UFO

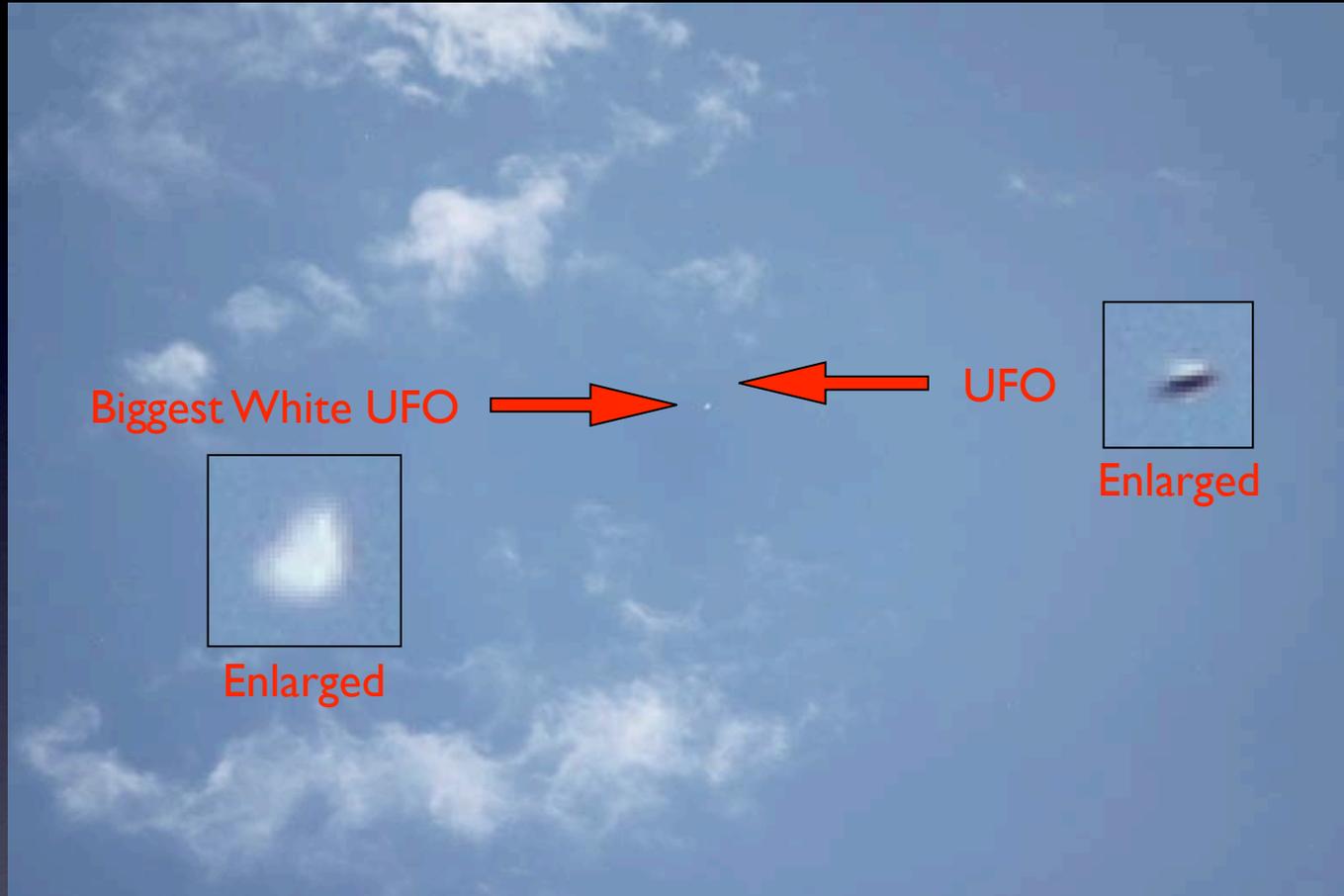


Little White UFO



Cigar UFO is contrast and brightness enhanced; otherwise unmanipulated. The circular, darkish spot is probably a dust mote on the camera sensor. The Little White UFO is unmanipulated. Both 200% in Photoshop so you can compare size.

UFO: UFO With White UFOs (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/5/10. Two photos taken 24 seconds apart, here's one. A "classic" UFO with lots of little white and darker UFOs showing up. Could the white ones be "tree or plant cotton"? Could the darker ones be birds? You be the judge in the next slide. Insets at same magnification.

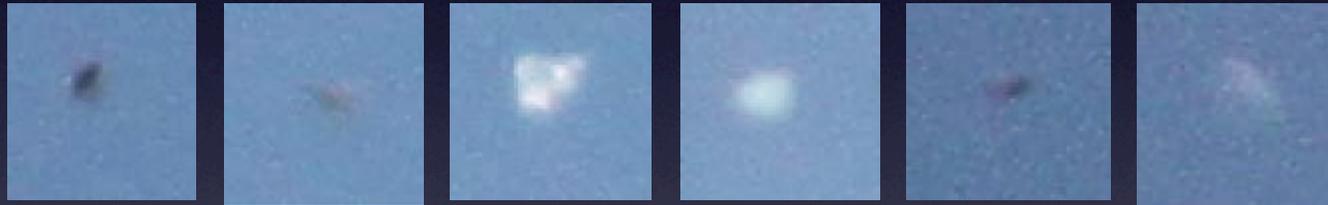
UFOs: UFO With White UFOs (2)

Some Other Objects in the Sky at the Time

From
Image
659



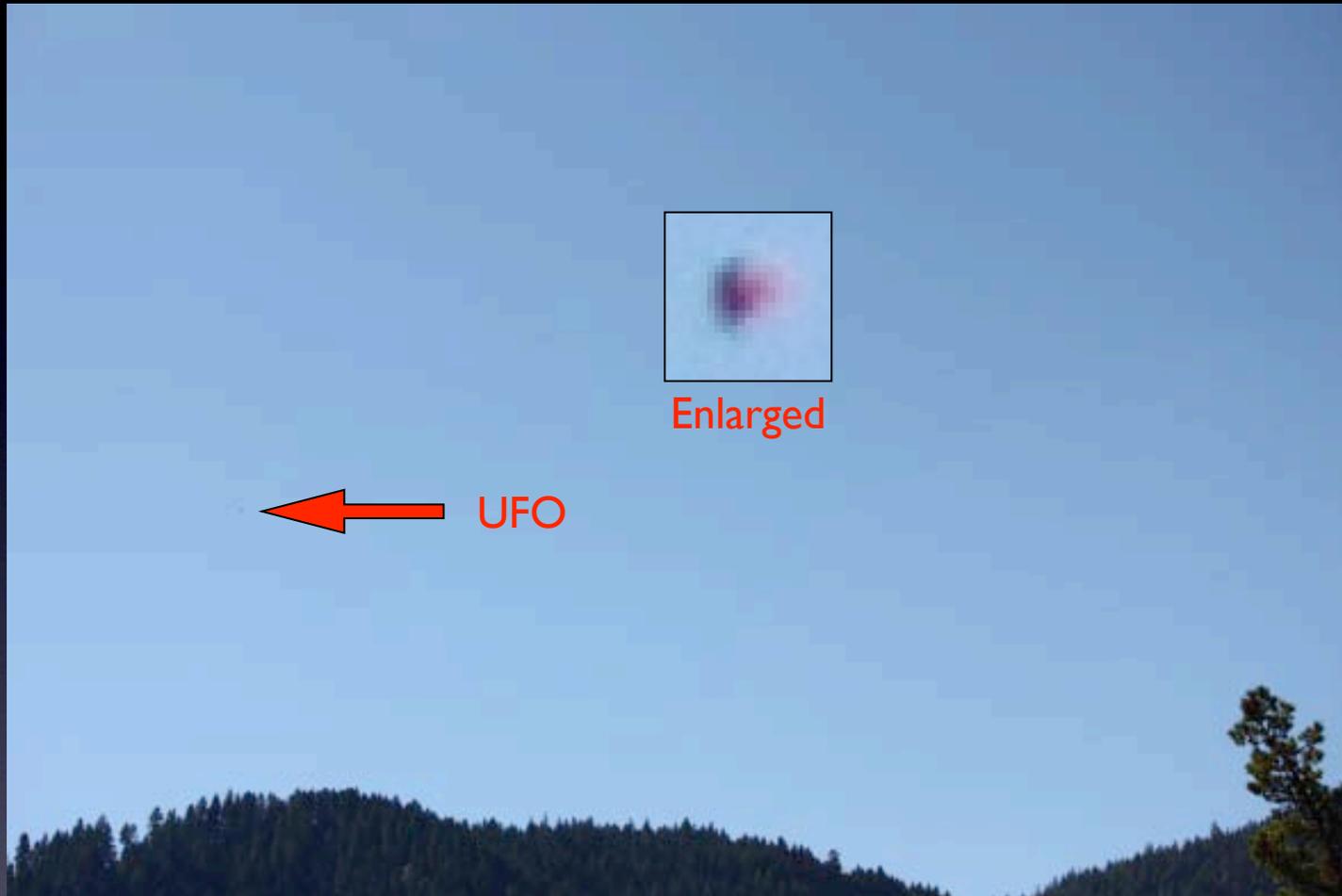
From
Image
677



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

All images magnified at 200%, unmanipulated. Time between 659 & 677 is 24 secs. About 72 objects total in image 659. About 16 objects total in image 677. More secondary UFO-like objects showing up with “main” larger objects. What is going on? This is not uncommon in Randy’s and other people’s UFO images. Could the white ones be “tree cotton”? Could the dark ones be birds or insects? Yes, . . . but not when a pattern of secondary UFOs starts showing up.

UFO: Object with “Thingies” (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

9/29/10. A single UFO is seen & photographed. But on inspection, the photo at high magnification shows much more: lots of bright white UFOs! A minor theme for Randy: one prominent UFO accompanied by a variety of oddball UFO “thingies.” Inset not manipulated.

UFO: Object with “Thingies” (2)

Main UFO



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

Secondary UFOs



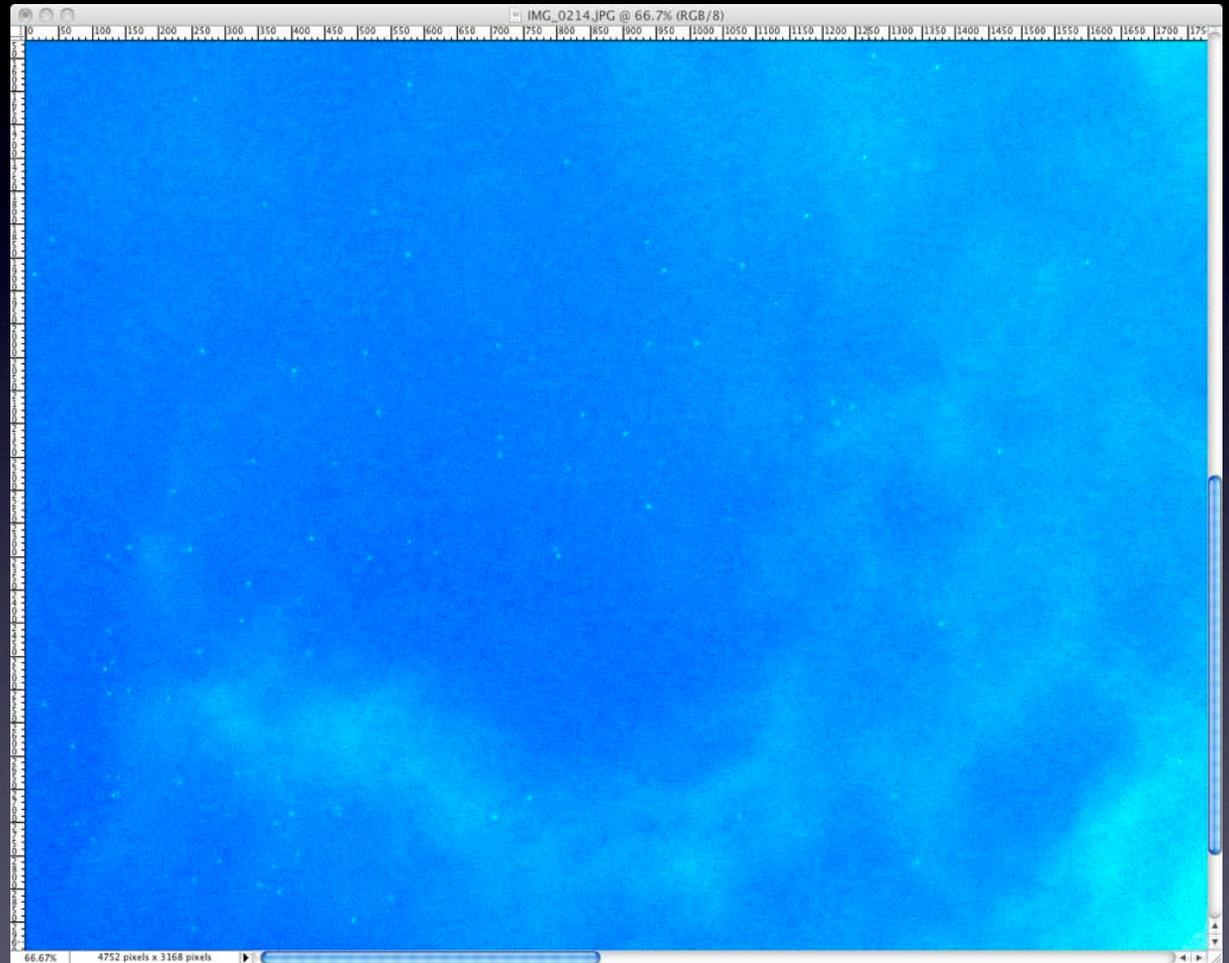
Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

Main UFO is enlarged 4 times with bicubic upsampling. Secondary UFOs are all the equivalent of 700% in Photoshop without upsampling. No other manipulations. These white “thingies” appear randomly distributed, mostly to the right side of the photo —not around the UFO. There are possibly more than shown.

UFOs: A “Flotilla” (I)

2/19/11. This appears to be a “flotilla” of over 150 white UFOs over Randy’s Lake Oswego home. This is reminiscent of some Mexican “flotilla” shots and two Oregon MUFON cases (one yet to be documented).

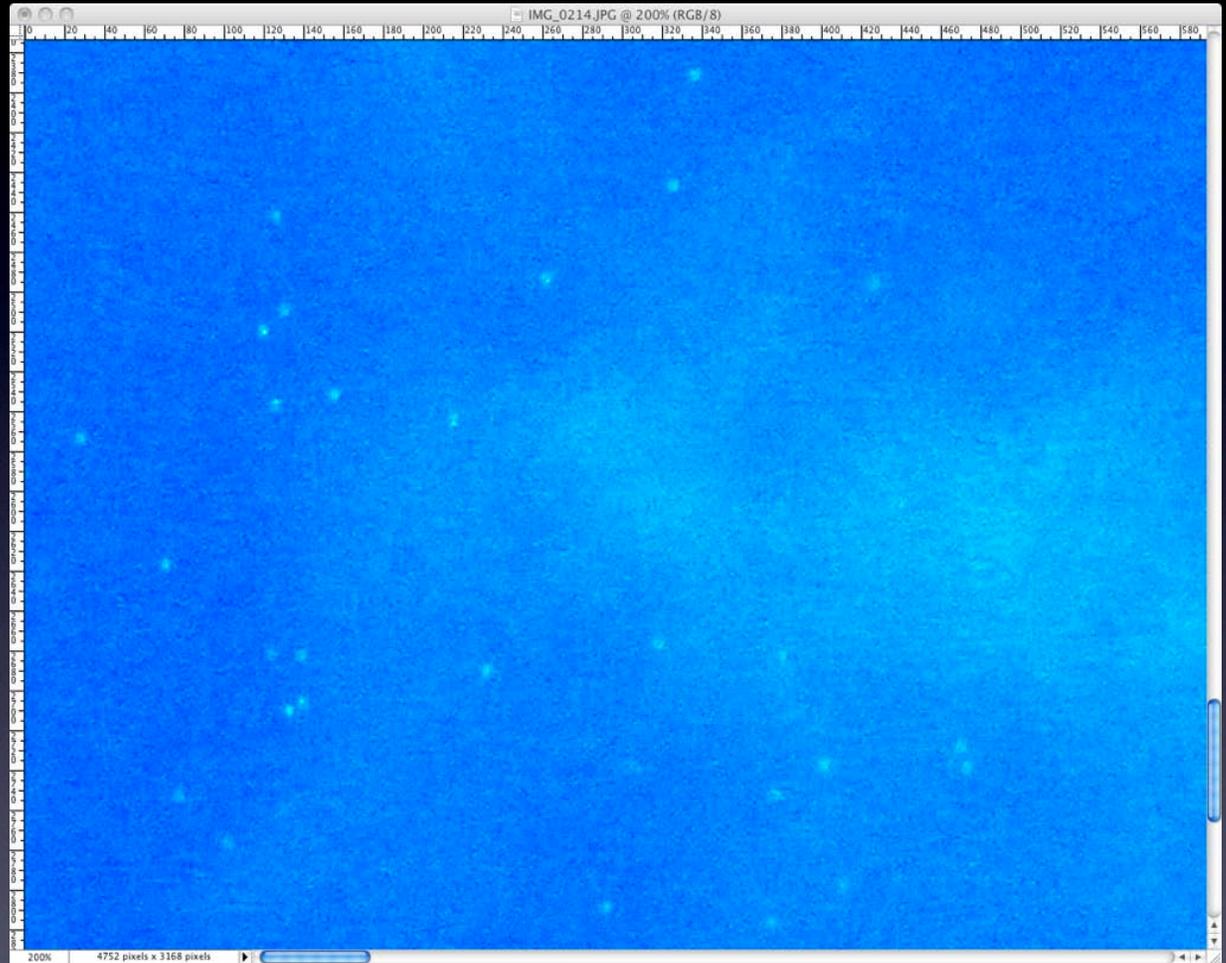
Processed in Photoshop with only Brightness and Contrast to bring out the very small angular size UFOs. A crop to about 1/3 of the frame.



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

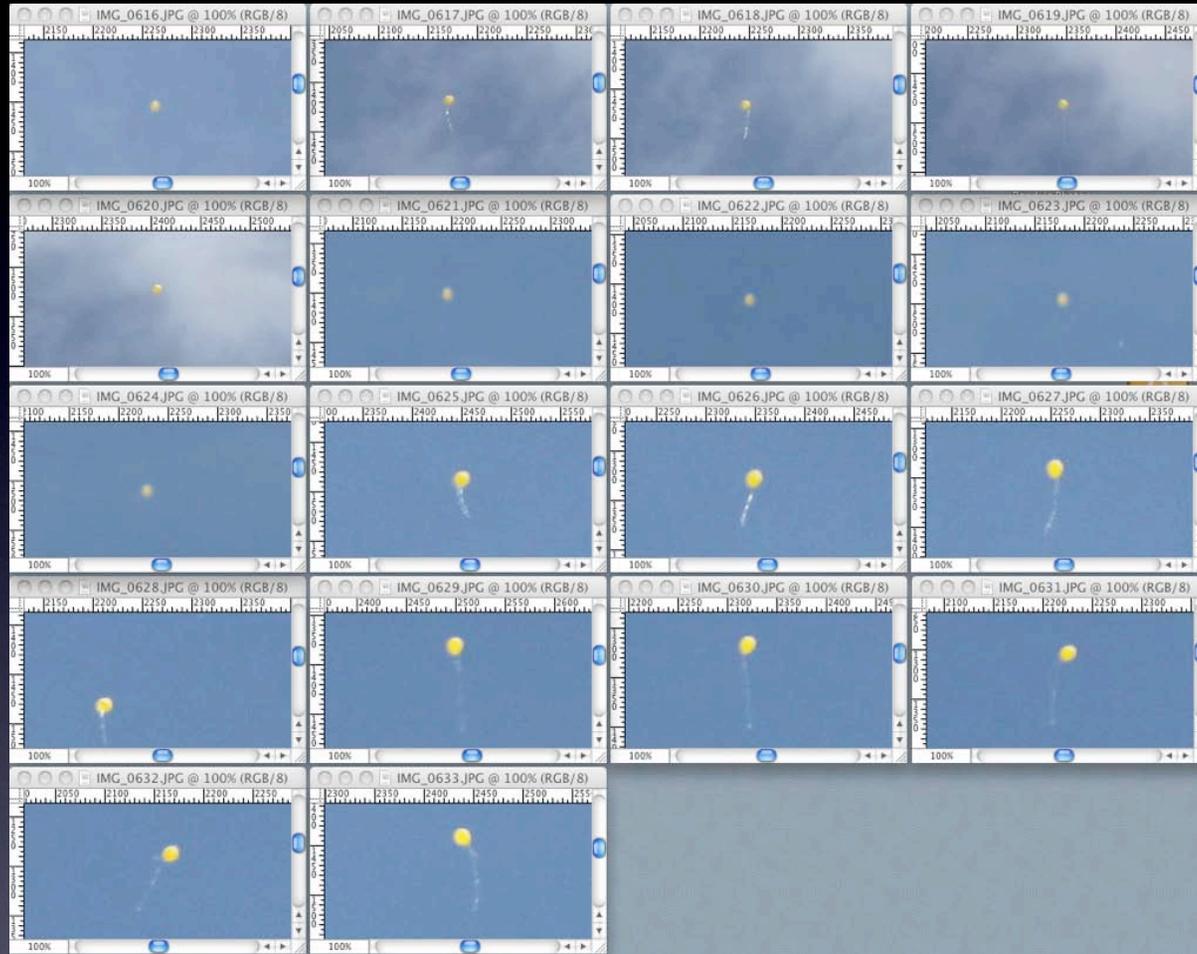
UFOs: A “Flotilla” (2)

A blowup to 200%.
The UFOs are around
5-7 pixels in size (very
small). Two photos,
taken less than a
second apart, show
radically different
patterns, indicating
extreme movement in
a short time.



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

UFOs: Balloon Mimic (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/5/10. Randy saw this “balloon” UFO and took 18 photos over 35 seconds. Balloon-mimicking UFOs are not uncommon, actually. Others are documented in Oregon. First photo has no clearly discernible “string.” The rest do.

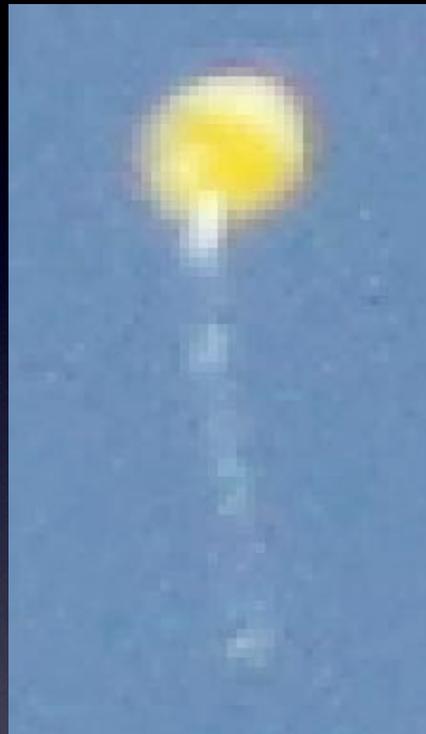
UFOs: Balloon Mimic (2)

Balloon Mimic UFO



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

First Photo



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

Later Photo

Party Balloons



Source: Keith Rowell

Note that first photo shows no sign of a “string,” only the remainder have a “string.” Balloon mimic UFOs are almost always low in contrast and seem to “glow.” In clear sunlight, party balloons have dark tones and sun highlights—high contrast. Lighting conditions were virtually the same. Magnification same for “First” and “Later” photos.

UFOs: Balloon Mimic (3)

Other Objects in the Sky at the Time

From
Image
616



From
Image
619



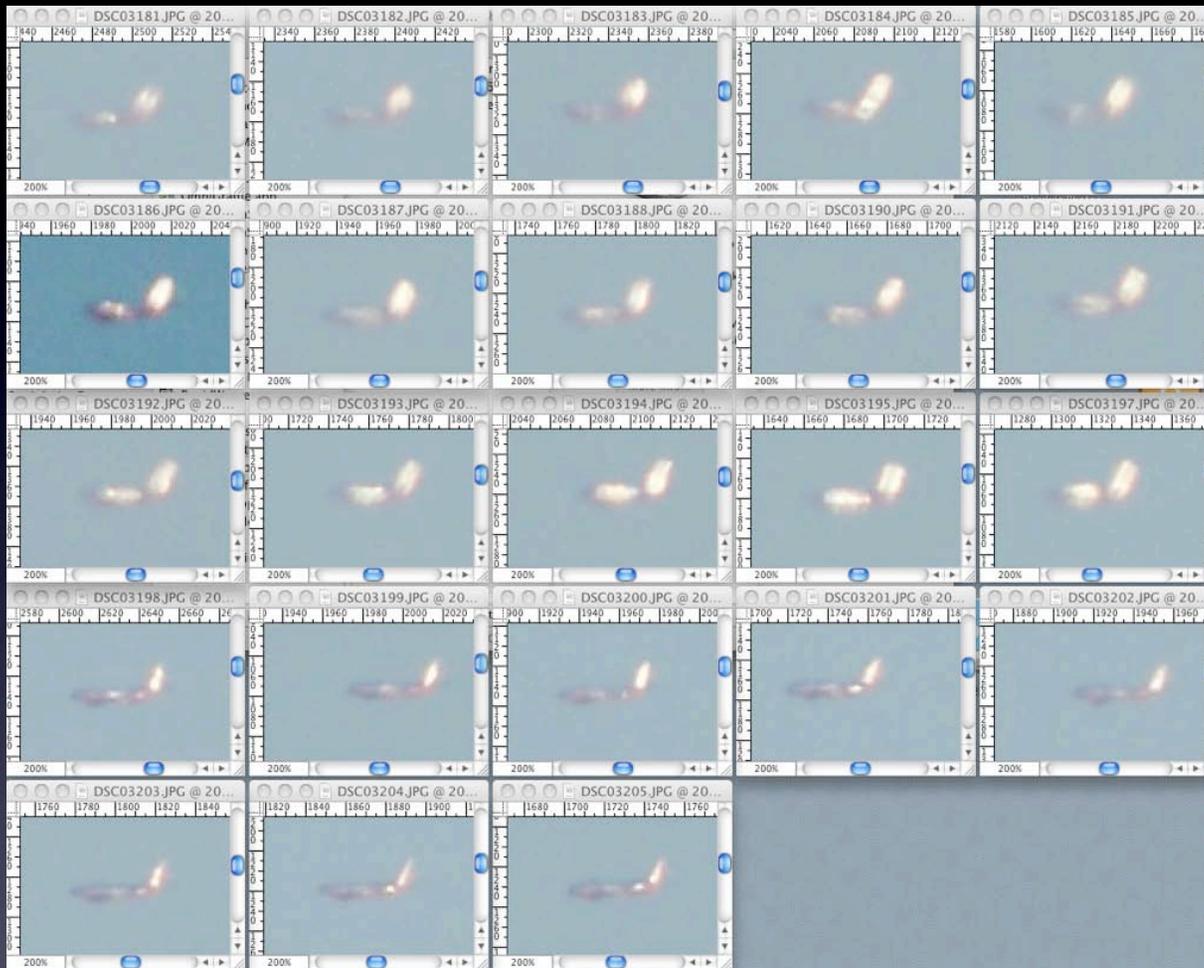
From
Image
624



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

All images at 200%, unmanipulated. Time between 616 & 619 is 4 secs. Between 619 & 624 is 19 secs. Some grayish smudges may be birds. White ones and grayish ones with highlights are not. Why are these objects found with a “balloon”? Only 4 are certainly birds or dust motes. Can you identify them?

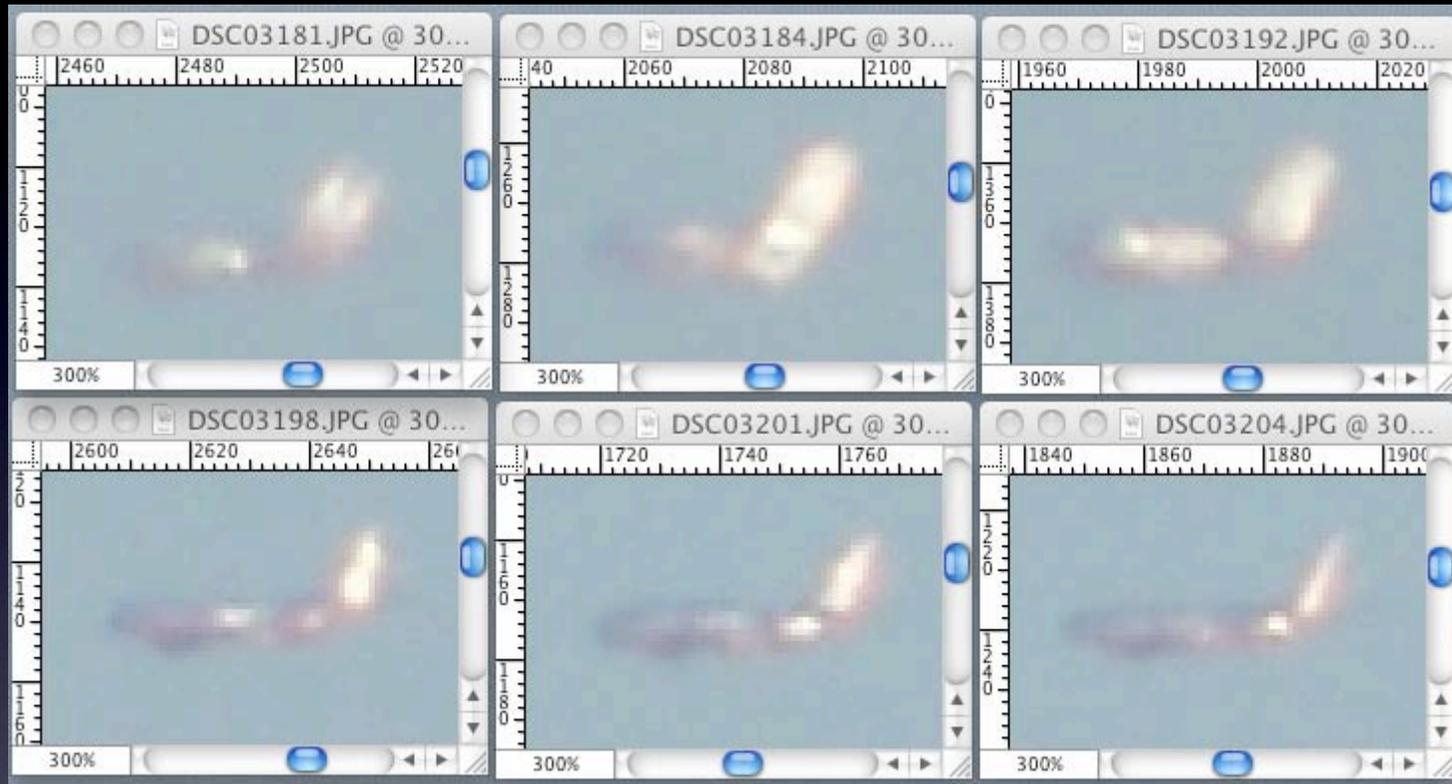
UFOs: Plane Mimic? (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

11/22/09. Randy saw this object moving at a good rate of speed. Is it a “Plane Mimic” UFO? He took 23 photos over 38 seconds. Basically, every second or two with a gap of 13 seconds between photo 15 and 16, where a shape change occurs. Photos are in chronological order. Or could it be a Balloon Mimic UFO?

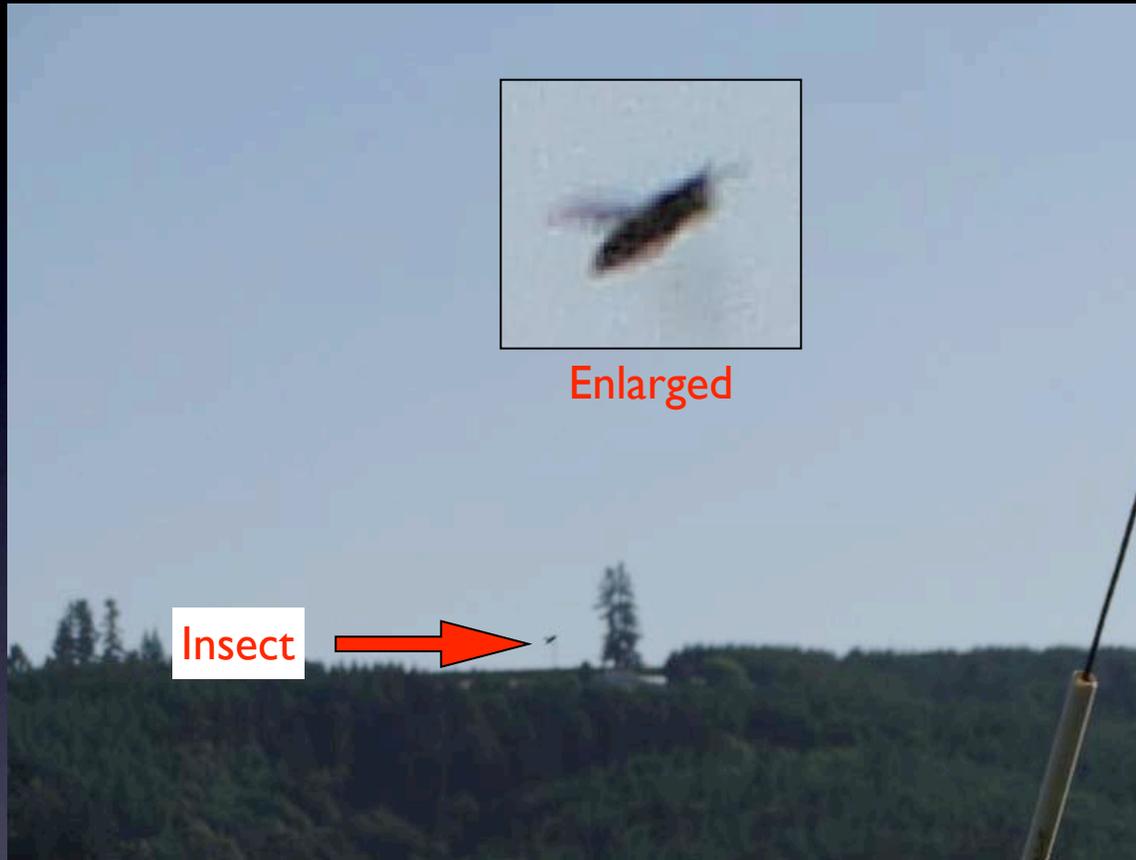
UFOs: Plane Mimic? (2)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

What do you think? Maybe these are actually mylar party balloons? Maybe not. Wind speed near the ground at 4:30 PM was 5 mph. Randy estimates a much higher rate of speed. Also, note shape change and changes in highlighting and shading. Orientation stays essentially the same for 38 seconds. Balloons usually rotate in the wind, slowly. No smaller UFOs appear with this Plane (or Balloon) Mimic UFO, however. UFO or IFO? UFOs do shape-shift. Is this a UFO?

IFOs: An Insect



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

8/16/09. An insect caught while hunting for UFOs. The date and shape help identify the image. It's summertime. Insects are practically more rare than UFOs for Randy! Insects don't fly much over about a couple of 100 feet above the terrain. (No "secondary" UFOs appear in this photo!)

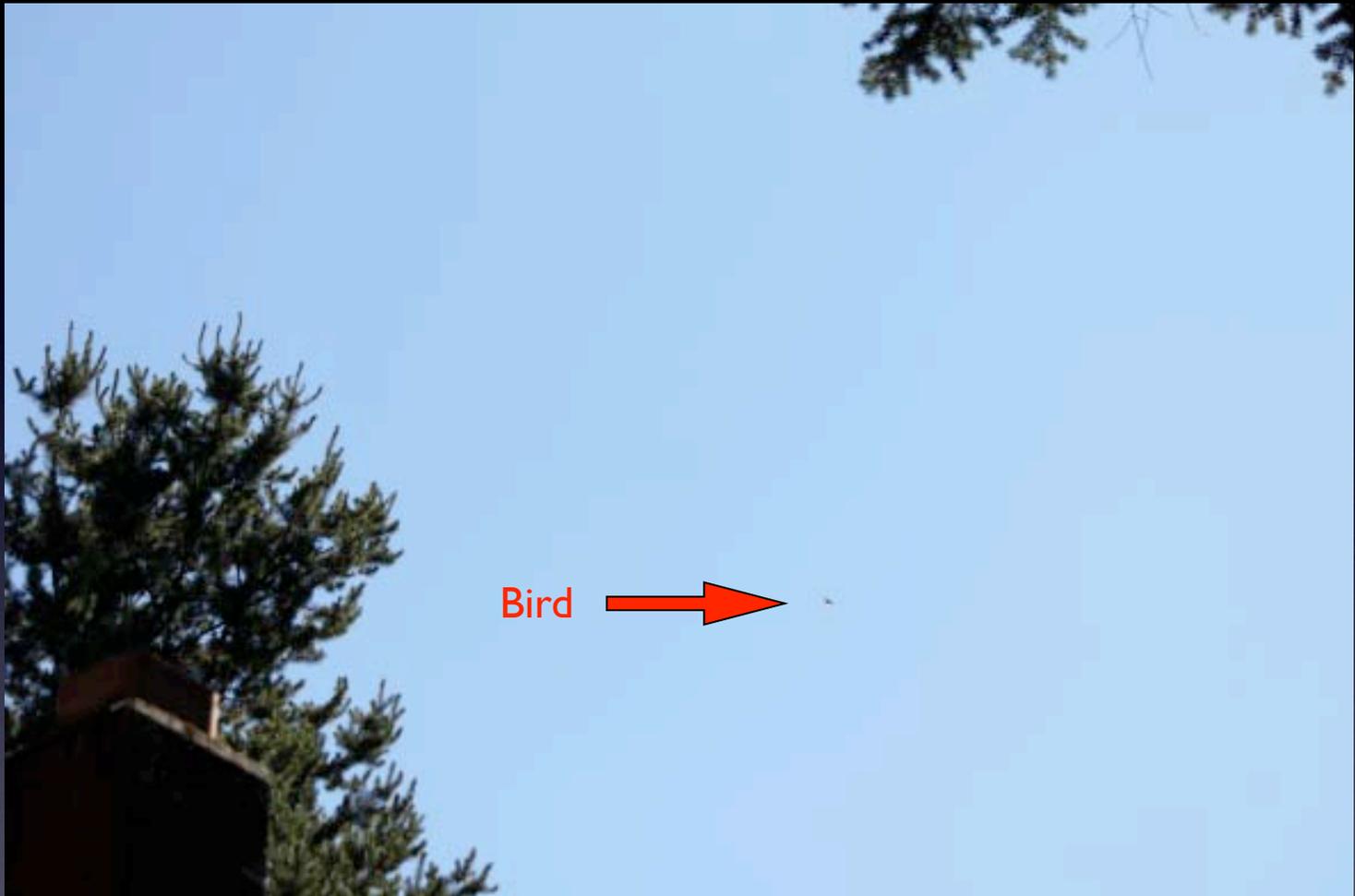
IFOs: Lens Flare



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/26/10. Lens flare. Note that a straight line can be drawn through the lens flare “object” centers. This is a give-away of lens flare objects along with position of a bright light source (sun at the top in this case), generally circular/oval shapes, and lighter tones with “rainbow” hues echoing the bright light.

IFOs: Bird (I)



Source: Randy Bell and Keith Rowell

6/26/10. *This is a bird* taken near Randy's home. Randy takes photos of known objects sometimes to compare to his UFOs. See close-up in next slide.

IFOs: Bird (2)



Source: Randy Bell

This is the bird from the previous slide close up and cropped. The bird is perhaps 500 or more feet away.

Pixel size of bird is 50 X 40. Shape is clearly recognizable without knowledge of the context. However, some birds of smaller pixel size can be difficult to recognize at times. Practice helps with discrimination. If in doubt, it is a bird, insect, tree “cotton,” airplane, balloon, etc. Many times IFOs are IDed without any doubt as this bird is.

Conclusion

- Randy has had many psychic experiences extending back into childhood.
- Randy takes lots of photos. Perhaps one or two percent have UFOs in them.
- People who associate with Randy may increase their own probability of taking UFO photos.
- UFOs remain elusive even for people like Randy who have an affinity for taking UFO photos.
- More study by photoanalysis experts needs to be done.
- Randy is working on a book featuring many more of his UFO photos.

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