

UFOs AND MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

PART I: THE ANIMAL DEATHS IN PUERTO RICO

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Our contributor is an engineer who lives in Puerto Rico. He sent the text and photographs to Gordon Creighton, who had already commenced translating the version that appeared in the Spanish magazine *Stendek*, No.22, December 1975. The second part was published in *Stendek* No.23 of May 1976.

FREQUENT attempts have been made to correlate the appearance of UFOs with the mysterious deaths or disappearances of animals in certain regions of the world.

A famous case is that of "Snippy", the horse found mutilated at Alamosa in the State of Colorado, USA, in November 1965, and whose mysterious fate has been linked by various investigators with UFO happenings in that part of the country.

The year 1973 saw, both in the USA and in the whole of Latin America, what was possibly the most important UFO Wave of recent times. During the following year, 1974, it was the turn of Europe to have abundant UFO sightings.

Following a similar pattern, mysterious deaths of animals began to be reported, from January 1974 onwards, from various American States, notably Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Minnesota. (See *APRO Bulletin* Vol. 23, No.4, January-February 1975. Also Jerome Clark's article "The Strange Case of the Cattle Killings," in *Fate* for August 1974.)

More recently, on March 4, 1975, the influential newspaper *The New York Times* reported "numerous mutilations of animals in the northern part of Texas and in Oklahoma", and stated that Governor David Boren of Oklahoma had launched an enquiry into the question of mysterious deaths of animals.

In many of the cases the dead animals have been found to lack an organ (an ear, the tongue, the nose, the tail, or the reproductive organs) and the mutilations have been carried out "with the skill of a professional." Such, in fact, was the conclusion of professors of Medicine in the University of Minnesota after they had performed numerous autopsies on the carcasses of such animals (see *Replica*, Miami, Florida, March 19, 1975). Furthermore, it was noted that the dead animals all appeared to be "completely without blood" as though the body had been drained by a needle."

Here in Puerto Rico, between February and July of 1975, numerous cases occurred of deaths of animals in almost identical circumstances and coincidentally with the occurrence, in the selfsame geographical region as dozens of UFO cases and of cases of other phenomena held to be related to UFOs.

In the course of our enquiries we have conducted scores of interviews, made many laboratory studies, and spent months of time on analyses and sifting the material. What follows below is, in concentrated

form, the gist of our work, which may well throw an entirely new light upon the UFO phenomenon.

The Mystery Killings

The first deaths took place before February 25, 1975.

Then, from that date onwards, innumerable strange killings of animals began to be reported from the area around the town of Moca in the North-western corner of the Island of Puerto Rico. Then, at the end of March 1975 there came the first report from nearby Aguadilla, and cases began appearing gradually in other areas too.

Already in March the term "The Vampire of Moca" had been coined and was current among the people, this being the alleged cause of the strange animal killings. These reports were headlined in the chief daily papers. One journal, *El Vocero*, which gave extensive publicity to the killings, called upon the Government, in an editorial on March 15, to investigate the enigma, and reverted to the same theme in its editorial of March 21.

As a possible explanation for the deaths that had occurred up to then consideration was at first given to snakes. Dr. Juan A. Rivero, the herpetologist at the University of Puerto Rico, investigated the cases and stated on March 22 that the deaths of cows, goats, and birds "definitely were not caused by any snake." On the same date, Saturday, March 22, Senator Miguel A. Deynes Soto, President of the Agricultural Commission of the Puerto Rico Senate, visited the Moca district, together with Attorney-



Case from Moca, February, 1975

General, Victor Calderon, and the Police Commandant for the Western Region, Colonel Samuel Lopez. The theory that snakes might have been the possible cause having been ruled out, the authorities now began to think that the "Vampire of Moca" was some mentally unbalanced human. And so public promises were made that he would speedily be captured and brought to justice. So far as we know however, up to the present time no charges have been brought against anyone . . .

On the following day, March 23, veterinarian Mariano Santiago, of the Federal Department of Agriculture, said of his investigations that he had come to the conclusion that he was unable to explain the causes of the "strange wounds" found on the bodies of the animals. After that there arose a widespread popular belief that the mystery deaths were the work of "vampire bats." So once more Dr. Juan A. Rivero himself, author of various works on the zoology of the Caribbean Region, had to make it clear, in statements published on April 7, that that possibility was ruled out too.

Meanwhile, a few days previously, Police Superintendent Astol Calero Toledo had declared "I don't believe in vampires!" But he was quite unable to give the newspapermen an explanation for the dead animals.

On April 9, Sr. Felipe N. Rodríguez, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, stated that "the situation is preoccupying — and occupying all the time of — my Department." And another spokesman, Sr. Isaiás Fernández, Federal Meat Inspector, said that he "did not know the reason for the deaths of the animals."

Throughout the month of April further cases were occurring around the Metropolitan Area of San Juan itself, coinciding in time with various UFO sightings in different parts of the island. In July there were more cases of animal mutilation in the area where they had started, Moca. Up till today no official report whatsoever has been made giving any attempt to explain the mystery killings.

The Features Observed

The undermentioned observations are valid in all the cases that have occurred:

1. The animals are killed during the night, usually in the early morning hours.
2. In almost every case, the owner of the animals, even when he is sleeping quite near to them, perceives no noise or alarm among the animals themselves.
3. In some of the cases the owner is awakened by a "loud screech" or by what sounds like the flapping of the wings of a gigantic bird. In a few of the cases the owner states that he saw "a strange animal" fleeing immediately after the attack on his animals.
4. The animals give the appearance of having died as a result of the wounds received, although in certain other cases these do not look as though they are sufficiently serious to have caused death.
5. The wounds on the animals seem in many of the cases to follow a definite pattern. They look as

though they have been produced by a sort of *punch* or sharp pricking instrument which cuts through all organs or bones that it encounters in its path. The wounds seem to vary according to the size of the animal. In the case of birds, the diameter of the wounds is about one quarter of an inch; in cases of goats, the diameter is over an inch. The depth of penetration of the wound also varies in many cases. But what is above all particularly curious to note is that *there is never a drop of blood anywhere around the wound.* Furthermore, the wound remains open: that is to say, it is as though the instrument producing the wound has simultaneously extracted any flesh or organs which it encountered in its passage.

The positions of the wounds vary, but in the majority of the cases they occur near the neck of the animal or in its thorax.

6. In addition to the wounds, some of the animals also have their neck completely broken. And in a number of cases there is also mutilation of organs. The case that has been studied in this respect (Case No. 12) was handled by Dr. Angel de la Sierra, a biophysicist in the University of Puerto Rico. He reported that the cut inflicted on the ear of the piglet in question "is similar to what is done in experimental surgery for the purpose of investigating defects in hearing."

7. In various of the cases, the killings have been "selective." That is to say, in pens where there were other birds or animals, only one species has been killed. None of the other birds or animals show any sign of wound or attack.

8. The list of animals killed, and their percentages, is as follows:

Domestic fowls (hens, cocks, guineafowl, etc.)	182	57.8%
Ducks	40	12.70%
Goats	33	10.50%
Rabbits	20	6.38%
Geese	18	5.70%
Cows	8	2.55%
Sheep	5	1.59%
Pigs	3	0.96%
Dogs	3	0.96%
Cats	1	0.32%

As can be seen, the bulk of the victims are domestic fowls. If we consider ducks, rabbits, and geese also as domestic animals kept in pens, then the total amounts to 82.58%, which indicates that the marked preponderance of the mystery killings involve animals kept in pens and hutches.

9. The cases occurred in both rural and suburban areas.
10. In cases 7, 15, 22, 23, and 37, the owners of the animals say they saw "a strange animal, very hairy, running away..." Or they say they heard "a screech, as though from a gigantic bird," or "a loud hum," or "a deafening noise," or "a loud flapping noise." Case no. 7 was investigated in very great detail. Don Cecilio Hernández, aged 65, lost a total of 35 chickens over a period of several nights. On the last of these occasions he saw "what

looked like a woolly dog, ...with no legs or head... running off towards the hills silently." And he adds: "I have never in my life seen such a sight. It looked just like a mass of wool running along."

11. The following other cases are not directly linked with the deaths of animals, but they do all involve accounts of strange animals:

- a. María Acevedo, of the Barrio de María district in Moca, says that one night (12.30 a.m.) early in March she heard "a strange animal on the zinc roof of her house". She could hear it walking about and "pecking". Then it flew off with a "terrible screech."
- b. Pellín Marrero, of Rexville, Bayamón, told the press that he had seen a "whitish-coloured gigantic condor or vulture" flying around over the region. (March 25.)
- c. On March 26 the workman Juan Muñiz Feliciano, of Barrio Pueblo, La Sierra Sector, Moca, said that, when returning home at 10.00 p.m., he had been attacked "by a terrible greyish creature with lots of feathers, a long thick neck, bigger than a goose", which he reckoned to weigh about 50 lbs. When he called out to his neighbours and began throwing stones at it, it flew away.

On that same day, March 26, Olga Iris Rivera and Bárbara Pantoja, both of the Nemesio Canales housing complex, said they had seen "a gigantic bird flying around among the clouds."

12. The majority of these cases of mysterious animal deaths were the subject of Police investigations, but so far nothing has been published regarding the results of their investigations nor has any attempt been made to explain the cause of the mystery killings.

Some of the more enigmatic cases

1. The most mysterious and puzzling case in the Moca region, and the one that has been the subject of most investigation, both official and private, is the



Case from the farm of Senõr Héctor Vega, Moca, March 19, 1975 (goat)

one that occurred at the farm of Sr. Héctor Vega Rosado.

On the morning of March 18, Señor Vega found two of his goats dead, each with a wound from some sharp instrument under the thorax and on the upper part of the haunches. Next day, March 19, he discovered to his great surprise, that there had been a repetition, with ten goats dead, seven wounded, and ten missing. The report of this received great publicity.

Sr. Luis R. Urbina, Radiation Instructor with the local Civil Defence authorities, was quoted as having found evidence of radioactivity. This report caused much alarm. Some few days later, Señorita Mildred Cabán, a radiation technician, stated that she had found a count of 0.005 in the same area. Our own investigations on March 22 showed however that the radiation detected with a Geiger counter was normal for the region in question.

The farm of Sr. Héctor Vega Rosado, where these goats had been killed, is to all intents and purposes quite open, being separated merely by a wire fence from the small adjacent road which links the farm with Barrio Pueblo, a district of Moca. There is no electric lighting in the area. Anyone who studies the area will find it extremely difficult to comprehend how anybody, even with the assistance of others, could catch ten goats there in the open field in the middle of the night and kill them with some sharp stabbing weapon and wound seven more and carry off a further ten. The wounds on the goats all lie around the thorax and are almost an inch deep. In some of the animals the wound goes right through the body, and yet there is no sign of any blood around the wounds.

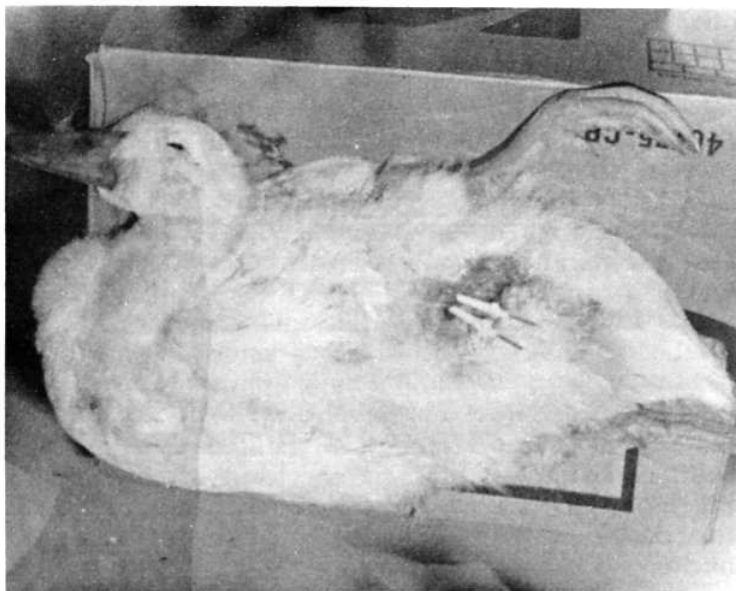
Although Sr. Vega himself thinks it possible that some unbalanced maniacal person might have caused the deaths, our own view is that, considering all the circumstances, the solution is not so simple as that. The Police, for their part, have published no conclusions about the case.

2. Before going to bed, Señor Buenaventura Bello was in the habit of going out to feed the geese which as a pastime, he kept in the back-yard of his home in Los Angeles, Carolina (part of the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, Puerto Rico). And so, as usual, he went out to the geese at 12.30 a.m. on April 5, though he noted at the time that one of his dogs, who always went with him, this time preferred to remain at a distance, "barking insistently at something or other."

Later that morning, at about 8.30, Sr. Bello found his ten geese and three pullets all dead and scattered in a circle. When the bodies of the geese were examined, it was found that each of them had a deep stab wound one-quarter of an inch in diameter, from which the feathers had been removed.

One of the dead geese was found in the back-yard of the neighbouring house, which was unoccupied at the time. This goose, unlike the rest, had had the upper part of its body cut right off "as though with a very sharp instrument."

Sr. Bello immediately informed the Police, who in due course conducted an extensive investigation,



One of Senor Buenaventura Bello's mutilated geese, San Juan, April 5, 1975

as also did the Federal Department of Agriculture, who took away several of the dead geese for examination. Thereafter, Sr. Bello's dogs "refused to go out into the yard, however much you tried to push them," and would not do so until several days had elapsed.

A curious point to note is that Sr. Bello's bedroom is right next to the yard where the geese were kept. Despite the fact that these birds are extremely prone to giving the alarm at the least sound, and are in fact used in many places as "watchmen", on the night in question Sr. Bello heard not the least noise, whereas he had always done so on previous occasions when attempts had been made to steal his geese.

On March 8, while in the kitchen preparing a meal, Sr. Bello heard, for a brief moment, a strange and "extremely penetrating" noise, which astounded him. Straight away, one of his two dogs started to bark frantically, "as though there was something in the room." The dog continued to bark in this fashion until the strange noise had stopped. The witness was



An X-ray of one of the mutilated geese

unable to give any explanation for the noise, any more than there is any explanation as to what or who could have killed his geese in so strange a fashion.

In the course of our investigations we managed to have one of the geese X-rayed and to have an autopsy performed on it by a well known pathologist who prefers to remain anonymous. The result of this examination shows that the bird received two stabbing wounds which penetrated to a depth of more than an inch and destroyed the adjacent organs, while at the same time in some fashion cicatrizing the wound so that no blood would flow from it. The wounds are a quarter of an inch in diameter and appear to converge inside the bird's body.

Neither the body of the goose which we had examined nor the site showed any radioactivity in excess of what is normal for the area, nor were any other traces found. It has been impossible to establish the cause of the wounds, though everything indicates that both wounds were inflicted on the bird simultaneously, causing instant death.

THE DAGENHAM PARANORMAL RESEARCH GROUP

The DPRG plans to undertake a 12-month intensive study programme of an important facet of UFO evidence – the UFO photograph. We have enlisted the aid of a number of photographic specialists whose analyses will be published in scientific papers and in a general release book. *Photos and films for this study are urgently required*; high prices will be paid to those deemed worthy of analysis.

The DPRG UFO film and photo library consists of approx. 800 photos from a possible maximum of 900 in existence. Although we do not have every single UFO photo, we do at least have the important ones. We offer a copying service to researchers for which the only charge is the cost of copying material by a reputable laboratory, plus postage. Photos are available in 35mm slides or 3½" x 5" enprints. Maximum quantity per order: 5 photos.

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