

1 Jan - 30 Jun 57

Total number of reports received - 210

Category	Number of Reports Rec'd	Percent of Total
Balloons	66	31.4
Aircraft	72	34.3
Astronomical	60	28.4
Other	16	7.4
Insignificant Data	36	17.1
Unknown	5	2.3

Categories of Identification

The following will explain the basis upon which the various sightings are categorized:

BALLOON: Approximately 400 balloons are released in the U.S. every day. There are two general types of balloons: weather balloons and upper-air research balloons. Balloons will vary from small types 4 feet in diameter to large types 360 feet in diameter. The majority released at night carry running lights which often contribute to weird or unusual appearances when observed at night. This also holds true when observed near dawn or sunset because of the effect of the slant rays of the sun upon the balloon surfaces. The large balloons, if caught in jet streams, may assume a near horizontal position when partially inflated, and move with speeds of over 200 MPH. Large types may be observed fastened on top. The effect of the latter two conditions can be startling even to experienced pilots.

AIRCRAFT: Many modern aircraft, particularly swept and delta wing types, under adverse weather and sighting conditions, are reported as unusual objects and "flying saucers". When observed at high altitudes, reflecting sunlight off their surfaces, or when only their jet exhausts are