

The months of April and June 1960 show a fairly large percentage of astronomical sightings. These large percentages can be attributed to the maximum meteor activity in April and to the proximity of Jupiter in June. This is not so later than due to the nearness of the planet we probably had visitors. The fact is that its nearness resulted in an apparent brightness greater than that of a star of -2.0 magnitude and the planet also appeared unusually large.

When categorizing sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena the Air Force attempts to do so primarily by association to a responsible object. If the planet Venus was determined to have been the subject of a report the case is categorized as an astronomical sighting. It should be noted that in most instances the condition under which an object is seen is the real cause of the sighting and not the object itself. An example of this would be a star of planet seen low on the horizon with the associated refraction and diffraction patterns. This brings to point the secondary method of categorizing sightings. In some instances the evidence in a case will indicate the probable cause as a reflection, etc., but the responsible object may not be as traceable as a planet or star. In these instances the cases are categorized according to probable cause. A tertiary method is the categorizing of those cases which are determined to be illusions, probably resulting from over active imaginations. Usually these cases are not witness sightings and ultimately fall into the "insufficient evidence" category.

There are still many sightings which are due to the viewing of startling natural objects for the first time, i.e., fireball type meteors. In most of these instances the object itself, coupled with the relative inexperience of the witness, is the resulting cause of the sighting.

It is significant to note the adaptation of the public to the space age as evidenced by only one sighting being reported as an UFO during this period. The one satellite reported was the startling re-entry of the Bioscience VIII on 7 March 1960.

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