

Another interesting aspect of these new tests is that there are only two large discrepancies in all of the groups. These are for the 11 or more groups in the classification by number of objects per sighting and for the over-400-nph and regular-like group for the classification by speed. The first was relatively unchanged by deletion of the astronomical sightings principally because of the concentration of sightings in the single-object category. The second was slightly increased by the removal of the astro/regular sightings from the astro-like classification. However, the main discrepancy, that of the excess of UNKNOWNNS in the over-400-nph class, was little changed.

The results of these tests are inconclusive since they neither confirm nor deny that the UNKNOWNNS are primarily unidentified KNOWNNS, although they do indicate that relatively few of the UNKNOWNNS are actually astronomical phenomena.

It was decided that this process would not be carried to its logical conclusion (that is, the determination of a linear combination of KNOWNNS that would give a negligible chi square when compared with the UNKNOWNNS), since it was felt that the inaccuracies in the reports would give a distorted and meaningless result.

The "Flying Saucer" Model

The importance of the problem dictated a second approach, should the statistical results prove inconclusive. It was decided that an attempt would be made to describe the physical appearance, flight characteristics, and other attributes (that is, construct a model) of a class or classes of "flying saucers".

Preparatory to this attempt, a re-evaluation of the UNKNOWNNS was necessary. This reevaluation was accomplished by a panel composed only of persons previously associated with the work. Using all the UNKNOWNNS reports available at AFM, the panel made a careful study of the reports for the UNKNOWN SIGHTINGS in angle-of-elevation Groups 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 - those groups for which the sun was either above the horizon or less than 10° in elevation below the horizon.

This study had two purposes. The first was to determine, with additional information such as the angle of elevation of the sun, how many of the UNKNOWNNS might be ascribed to known phenomena. The second was to obtain those UNKNOWNNS which were described in sufficient detail that they might be used to construct a model or models of "flying saucers".

It was decided to put any of the UNKNOWNNS which might be known phenomena into a "possible KNOWN" category to denote the slightly lower confidence level which could be ascribed to these new evaluations. The