

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,400

Alaska, a vast remote wilderness twice the size of Texas.

2

00:00:07,400 --> 00:00:11,680

There are dangerous, unpredictable forces at work here.

3

00:00:11,680 --> 00:00:14,380

In one of the most mysterious corners of the globe.

4

00:00:14,380 --> 00:00:19,040

A lot of things that kill you out here without even trying.

5

00:00:19,040 --> 00:00:21,920

This is a place hundreds of times more deadly

6

00:00:21,920 --> 00:00:23,920

than the Bermuda Triangle.

7

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:24,960

Oh my god.

8

00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:27,460

Stories of alien abductions.

9

00:00:27,460 --> 00:00:30,260

I believe it was a UFO.

10

00:00:30,260 --> 00:00:34,260

The paranormal, vanishing airplanes, and strange beasts.

11

00:00:34,260 --> 00:00:37,060

The Alaskan Bigfoot, he can rip you in half.

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00:00:37,060 --> 00:00:39,700

These accounts are really widespread.

13

00:00:39,700 --> 00:00:41,540

It peaked out of the tree right there.

14

00:00:41,540 --> 00:00:45,740

Have hunted those who dare set foot here.

15

00:00:45,740 --> 00:00:49,140

In the last 30 years, 16,000 people

16

00:00:49,140 --> 00:00:51,540

have disappeared without a trace.

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00:00:51,540 --> 00:00:54,620

More people have disappeared than the Bermuda Triangle.

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00:00:54,620 --> 00:00:56,380

Two to three times the amount.

19

00:00:57,380 --> 00:01:00,380

Witnesses tell us their shocking stories.

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00:01:00,380 --> 00:01:01,740

I was petrified.

21

00:01:01,740 --> 00:01:04,340

And we've gathered some of the world's leading experts

22

00:01:04,340 --> 00:01:05,380

in their field.

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00:01:05,380 --> 00:01:08,180

I'm always after scientific evidence

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00:01:08,180 --> 00:01:10,620

that can be independently corroborated.

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00:01:10,620 --> 00:01:15,460

To try and unlock the mystery of the Alaska Triangle.

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00:01:15,460 --> 00:01:16,460

Alaska.

27

00:01:23,460 --> 00:01:25,460

Alaska.

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00:01:25,460 --> 00:01:29,460

Thousands of people have mysteriously vanished here.

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00:01:31,460 --> 00:01:35,460

Is something otherworldly causing these disappearances?

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00:01:38,460 --> 00:01:42,460

When we look at the triangle, the presence we find of UFOs

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00:01:42,460 --> 00:01:46,460

is a sign that something very strange could be happening there.

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00:01:46,460 --> 00:01:52,460

Could UFOs be the cause of the many unexplained events in Alaska?

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00:01:56,460 --> 00:01:58,460

In the last 60 years,

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00:01:58,460 --> 00:02:02,460

over 9,000 planes have mysteriously crashed here.

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00:02:02,460 --> 00:02:06,460

But one near miss in 1986,

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00:02:06,460 --> 00:02:09,460

between a 747 and a UFO,

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00:02:09,460 --> 00:02:13,460

the size of an aircraft carrier made aviation history.

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00:02:13,460 --> 00:02:17,460

This is one of the most important and well-documented cases

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00:02:17,460 --> 00:02:19,460

of a UFO sighting in the world.

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00:02:19,460 --> 00:02:22,460

These people believed what they were seeing.

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00:02:22,460 --> 00:02:26,460

They saw something that scared them very, very badly.

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00:02:26,460 --> 00:02:28,460

This happened over Alaska.

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00:02:28,460 --> 00:02:30,460

But what makes this even more interesting,

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00:02:30,460 --> 00:02:32,460

it happened over the Alaska Triangle.

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00:02:32,460 --> 00:02:36,460

The triangle is a hotspot for extraterrestrial activity.

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00:02:36,460 --> 00:02:39,460

Since the early 1950s,

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00:02:39,460 --> 00:02:42,460

top secret U.S. government documents

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00:02:42,460 --> 00:02:45,460

have revealed UFO sightings across Alaska.

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00:02:47,460 --> 00:02:48,460

In some reports,

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00:02:48,460 --> 00:02:52,460

the first UFO sightings in Alaska were discovered

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00:02:52,460 --> 00:02:54,460

by the United States.

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00:02:54,460 --> 00:02:56,460

The first UFO sightings were discovered

53

00:02:56,460 --> 00:02:58,460

by the United States.

54

00:02:58,460 --> 00:03:01,460

This is the first UFO sightings in Alaska.

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00:03:01,460 --> 00:03:03,460

In some reports,

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00:03:03,460 --> 00:03:08,460

military planes have even been stalked by UFOs mid-flight.

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00:03:08,460 --> 00:03:13,460

Journalist Andrew Goff has been investigating this phenomenon.

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00:03:13,460 --> 00:03:18,460

There really are few places on Earth as isolated as Alaska.

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00:03:18,460 --> 00:03:23,460

So one can only infer that if there was extraterrestrial activity,

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00:03:23,460 --> 00:03:27,460

if there were UFOs, why wouldn't they go there?

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00:03:28,460 --> 00:03:33,460

As reports of unidentified flying objects continued into the 1980s,

62

00:03:33,460 --> 00:03:39,460

U.S. Air Force bases across Alaska upgraded their radar systems.

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00:03:39,460 --> 00:03:45,460

America's Cold War enemy, Russia, then called the USSR,

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00:03:45,460 --> 00:03:49,460

was just 56 miles from its doorstep.

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00:03:49,460 --> 00:03:52,460

The U.S. government understands the strategic importance

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00:03:52,460 --> 00:03:54,460

of the location of Alaska,

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00:03:54,460 --> 00:03:59,460

and as a result, it's beefed up the air force bases in that region.

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00:03:59,460 --> 00:04:03,460

This area is a highly-surveyed region.

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00:04:05,460 --> 00:04:09,460

But 1986 would see an invasion of Alaskan airspace

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00:04:09,460 --> 00:04:12,460

that many believe came from neither Russia

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00:04:12,460 --> 00:04:15,460

nor any other enemy on this planet.

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00:04:17,460 --> 00:04:20,460

Japan Airlines Flight 1628

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00:04:20,460 --> 00:04:23,460

would have a strange encounter with a UFO.

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00:04:23,460 --> 00:04:27,460

It would trouble the U.S. government for many years to come.

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00:04:29,460 --> 00:04:35,460

On November 7th, the 747 cargo plane, with no passengers on board,

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00:04:35,460 --> 00:04:42,460

entered the Alaska Triangle, 90 miles north of Fort Yukon, at 5.05 p.m.

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00:04:42,460 --> 00:04:46,460

It was en route from Paris to Tokyo.

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00:04:46,460 --> 00:04:50,460

Veteran U.S. Air Force pilot Dan Hampton

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00:04:50,460 --> 00:04:56,460

has retraced the jet's fateful encounter with an unidentified flying object.

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00:04:58,460 --> 00:05:02,460

This is the cargo version of Japan Airlines 747.

81

00:05:02,460 --> 00:05:05,460

Here in the cockpit would have been the first officer,

82

00:05:05,460 --> 00:05:08,460

and here was Captain Kenji Tarochi,

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00:05:08,460 --> 00:05:13,460

a 10,000 flight-hour veteran of the Air Force, ex-fighter pilot.

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00:05:14,460 --> 00:05:21,460

Captain Tarochi had 20 years' experience as a commercial airline pilot,

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00:05:21,460 --> 00:05:25,460

but as Flight 1628 flew deeper into the triangle,

86

00:05:25,460 --> 00:05:29,460

he would witness something never before seen.

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00:05:29,460 --> 00:05:33,460

At 5.11 p.m., the captain looks off to the left,

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00:05:33,460 --> 00:05:38,460

and about 2,000 feet below him are what he thinks are military aircraft,

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00:05:38,460 --> 00:05:41,460

because who else would be up here with him at 35,000 feet?

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00:05:41,460 --> 00:05:47,460

So Captain Tarochi radioed Anchorage air traffic control at 5.19 p.m.

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00:05:48,460 --> 00:05:53,460

What follows is the actual recording of communication from the cockpit.

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00:06:05,460 --> 00:06:09,460

Soon, air traffic control picked up a high-speed object,

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00:06:09,460 --> 00:06:11,460

tracking the 747.

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00:06:20,460 --> 00:06:25,460

Jim Derry was an investigator for the Federal Aviation Authority at the time.

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00:06:25,460 --> 00:06:28,460

At first they weren't too frightened when they saw the lights,

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00:06:28,460 --> 00:06:30,460

they thought it was another aircraft,

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00:06:30,460 --> 00:06:35,460

but our air traffic control people contacted the military.

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00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:42,460

A controller radioed the regional command center at the nearby U.S. Air Force base, Elmendorf,

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00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:46,460

to see if the mysterious aircraft belonged to them.

100

00:06:56,460 --> 00:06:58,460

The military had nothing in that sector.

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00:06:58,460 --> 00:07:04,460

Unable to identify these unknown aircraft, the air traffic controllers were troubled.

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00:07:04,460 --> 00:07:10,460

Could this be an incursion from Cold War foe Russia, or something more sinister?

103

00:07:12,460 --> 00:07:18,460

Our big concern was when you have something at 35,000 feet that's not under air traffic control,

104

00:07:18,460 --> 00:07:20,460

it is a major safety hazard.

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00:07:20,460 --> 00:07:27,460

But what happened next suggested these certainly weren't Soviet, and they were no ordinary planes.

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00:07:27,460 --> 00:07:32,460

They were about to perform a gravity-defying maneuver.

107

00:07:32,460 --> 00:07:34,460

Something impossible happens.

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00:07:38,460 --> 00:07:46,460

These two things instantly jumped from 2,000 feet below to shooting forward to a position in front of the aircraft.

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00:07:46,460 --> 00:07:52,460

Jets can move quite quickly, of course, but there's nothing that can do that.

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00:07:53,460 --> 00:08:00,460

The objects exhibited according to Captain Teruci a complete disregard to the limits of gravity.

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00:08:00,460 --> 00:08:04,460

It would start, it would stop, it would accelerate.

112

00:08:05,460 --> 00:08:07,460

Can you imagine what that must have been like?

113

00:08:07,460 --> 00:08:10,460

You've never seen anything like that in your life.

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00:08:11,460 --> 00:08:17,460

UFO investigator James Fox believes these were extraterrestrial.

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00:08:17,460 --> 00:08:24,460

UFOs have the ability to appear in one spot and literally blink out and appear in another location.

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00:08:24,460 --> 00:08:27,460

Conventional aircraft don't do that.

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00:08:27,460 --> 00:08:34,460

This was a bona fide UFO encounter that was documented on radar and had visual confirmation.

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00:08:35,460 --> 00:08:44,460

As the captain of an airliner, I'd be concerned that there's something flying that close to my airplane that nobody told me about.

119

00:08:44,460 --> 00:08:50,460

But I'd also be trying to figure out and correlate it with something maybe I've seen before, another type of aircraft.

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00:08:50,460 --> 00:08:54,460

And the captain can't do that because he's never seen anything like this before.

121

00:08:54,460 --> 00:09:00,460

So the captain is now very concerned and he's talking to Anchorage Air Traffic Control,

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00:09:00,460 --> 00:09:05,460

a station on the ground responsible for an entire area of airspace.

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00:09:05,460 --> 00:09:08,460

Every aircraft on an instrument flight plan has to talk to them.

124

00:09:08,460 --> 00:09:14,460

And they're either identified with radar or with transponder codes that all aircraft generate.

125

00:09:14,460 --> 00:09:20,460

And the captain is saying that these lights that he's seeing are yellow and white

126

00:09:20,460 --> 00:09:24,460

and they are not standard aircraft lights which are always red, blue and green.

127

00:09:24,460 --> 00:09:26,460

So he doesn't really know what they are.

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00:09:26,460 --> 00:09:29,460

All he knows is that this is an unidentified flying object.

129

00:09:29,460 --> 00:09:33,460

He can't tell what it is and he doesn't know what it is not.

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00:09:33,460 --> 00:09:41,460

Now, just 500 feet ahead, the unidentified aircraft started closing in on the 747.

131

00:09:41,460 --> 00:09:45,460

Captain Terucci was terrified of a mid-air collision.

132

00:09:45,460 --> 00:09:50,460

The captain is saying these lights are unlike anything he's ever seen before.

133

00:09:50,460 --> 00:09:58,460

No wings or real fuselage in the conventional sense that we would think of and he still can't identify what these things are.

134

00:09:58,460 --> 00:10:03,460

The unidentified flying objects continued to close in.

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00:10:03,460 --> 00:10:11,460

The lights become so bright, they fill up the cockpit and then the aircraft began to shake.

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00:10:11,460 --> 00:10:20,460

If this is an otherworldly type of flying object, then these could quite possibly be some types of scan.

137

00:10:20,460 --> 00:10:27,460

Maybe infrared, heat-based initially, and then ultrasonics could account for the aircraft shaking.

138

00:10:27,460 --> 00:10:36,460

But so incredible was this encounter that the captain said he could feel the heat on his face from the craft next to him.

139

00:10:36,460 --> 00:10:45,460

And at that point, of course, he's very, very concerned because what is this thing or things and why are they so close to his aircraft?

140

00:10:45,460 --> 00:10:55,460

The captain later reported that the craft activated sort of a reverse thrust and that its lights became exceedingly bright.

141

00:10:55,460 --> 00:11:02,460

So what Captain Terucci is seeing right now are two like exhaust ports, the flame shooting out of the back.

142

00:11:02,460 --> 00:11:08,460

That's how he described it. And it points as the flames are shooting, the ports are obscured.

143

00:11:08,460 --> 00:11:17,460

So it's almost like these objects, as mysterious objects, are adding power and taking away power to stay in formation with the airliner.

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00:11:17,460 --> 00:11:24,460

And at that point, of course, he's very, very concerned because what is this thing or things and why are they so close to his aircraft?

145

00:11:24,460 --> 00:11:30,460

So the captain finally gets to the point where he realizes, I've got a camera in my bag.

146

00:11:30,460 --> 00:11:35,460

I'm going to take a picture of what I see because how else, what better way to describe this?

147

00:11:35,460 --> 00:11:43,460

So the bag is behind the first officer's seat. He gets the camera out and he tries to take a picture, but it won't work.

148

00:11:43,460 --> 00:11:50,460

It keeps defocusing. It won't, on automatic, it won't, it won't register and it won't take a picture of what he's seeing.

149

00:11:50,460 --> 00:11:56,460

And by the time he fiddles with it, puts it on manual and tries to take a picture, the objects have disappeared.

150

00:11:56,460 --> 00:12:17,460

With the calm of the Alaskan night skies around him, Captain Terucci and his crew assumed this terrifying UFO encounter was over.

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00:12:17,460 --> 00:12:22,460

But the triangle had something even more petrifying in store.

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00:12:27,460 --> 00:12:34,460

The Alaska Triangle, a place that's infamous for the strange and paranormal.

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00:12:37,460 --> 00:12:43,460

The triangle also has many reports of UFOs stalking the Alaskan skies.

154

00:12:43,460 --> 00:12:45,460

Oh, my God!

155

00:12:47,460 --> 00:12:54,460

We find this incredible amount of UFO sightings, which really makes us ask the question,

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00:12:54,460 --> 00:13:00,460

is there something going on here which defies conventional explanations?

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00:13:00,460 --> 00:13:09,460

One of the most well-documented UFO cases in aviation history took place near Ford Yukon in the north of the triangle.

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00:13:09,460 --> 00:13:18,460

Japan Airlines Flight 1628 was en route to Tokyo when it was stalked by gravity-defying aircraft.

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00:13:19,460 --> 00:13:26,460

The evidence was seen on radar by Anchorage Air Traffic Control.

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00:13:26,460 --> 00:13:38,460

So fast they disappear off into the sunset, only when they come back, they are flying in formation alongside of a third object.

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00:13:38,460 --> 00:13:47,460

Captain Terucci and his crew said they watched in terror as another huge UFO approached their 747.

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00:13:47,460 --> 00:13:53,460

Its size and scale left the seasoned pilot awestruck.

163

00:13:53,460 --> 00:14:11,460

What came back was the mothership, the size of an aircraft carrier, only walnut shaped and could only have been a UFO.

164

00:14:11,460 --> 00:14:19,460

8 to 10 times as big as his aircraft in height and width, and he is astonished.

165

00:14:20,460 --> 00:14:26,460

Anchorage Air Traffic Control alerted the nearby US Air Force Base, Elmendorf.

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00:14:26,460 --> 00:14:34,460

Amazingly, they too had picked up the hostile, unidentified aircraft on radar.

167

00:14:34,460 --> 00:14:43,460

It was a large aircraft of some kind.

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00:14:43,460 --> 00:14:50,460

The radar dots that were picked up had moved very rapidly, and the military people said,

169

00:14:50,460 --> 00:14:58,460

we checked out our primary target with another piece of equipment we have here, and it also detected it.

170

00:14:58,460 --> 00:15:08,460

The fact that it's correlated now between not only a civilian control agency on the ground, but the regional operations center at Elmendorf,

171

00:15:08,460 --> 00:15:12,460

to me means this is something we have to take very seriously.

172

00:15:12,460 --> 00:15:18,460

Air Traffic Control were so concerned, they hatched a plan of emergency.

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00:15:18,460 --> 00:15:24,460

In a rare move, they advised the 747 to make a drastic maneuver.

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00:15:28,460 --> 00:15:38,460

Remember, a 747 is not a fighter jet.

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00:15:38,460 --> 00:15:44,460

It takes about five minutes at that altitude and airspeed to turn a 747 360 degrees,

176

00:15:44,460 --> 00:15:51,460

and you're talking about trying to get away from unidentified objects that have been bouncing back and forth between the horizon and you.

177

00:15:51,460 --> 00:15:57,460

So he really doesn't have any type of evasive or escape maneuver.

178

00:15:57,460 --> 00:16:13,460

With few options left, Flight 1628 descended to 31,000 feet and started its 360 degree turn.

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00:16:13,460 --> 00:16:23,460

The UFOs continued to stalk the airliner.

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00:16:23,460 --> 00:16:37,460

Air Traffic Control had one last choice, military action.

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00:16:37,460 --> 00:16:43,460

The air traffic controller says, would you like our military to send some fighter jets up to have a look?

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00:16:43,460 --> 00:16:48,460

And he says, negative, negative. Not just once, but twice. He's very emphatic about this.

183

00:16:48,460 --> 00:16:54,460

The captain refused a fighter jet because he feared it could provoke a hostile response,

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00:16:54,460 --> 00:17:03,460

as it's believed happened in the infamous Mantell incident of 1948.

185

00:17:03,460 --> 00:17:14,460

That year, National Guard pilot Thomas Mantell was sent in hot pursuit of a UFO, seen at 10,000 feet over a Kentucky airbase.

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00:17:14,460 --> 00:17:25,460

Thomas Mantell was chasing a UFO when his plane just dismantled and fell violently to the earth and to his death.

187

00:17:25,460 --> 00:17:38,460

Conspiracy theorists believe that the evidence points to the nuts and bolts of its plane being undone somehow by the UFO technology alongside it,

188

00:17:38,460 --> 00:17:41,460

and that's why he plummeted to his death.

189

00:17:41,460 --> 00:17:47,460

The captain knew about this incident, so he had to wear with all to say, I'm not going to have that again.

190

00:17:47,460 --> 00:17:50,460

I'm better off just dealing with this by myself.

191

00:17:50,460 --> 00:17:56,460

Whatever these things are, haven't hurt him yet, and he doesn't want to run the risk of that or provoking them.

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00:17:56,460 --> 00:18:01,460

It must have been a very, very nerve-wracking situation.

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00:18:02,460 --> 00:18:12,460

When Captain Teruci refused military assistance, air traffic control radioed a civilian jet flying just south of Fairbanks.

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00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:21,460

They asked United Airlines Flight 69 to approach the Japanese 747 and investigate.

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00:18:32,460 --> 00:18:47,460

But the UFO disappeared off the radar as the United Airlines pilot closed in.

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00:18:47,460 --> 00:18:53,460

He gets close enough, he asks the JAL flight to turn on its lights.

197

00:18:53,460 --> 00:18:57,460

The United Captain sees the JAL flight, but nothing else.

198

00:18:57,460 --> 00:19:02,460

So whatever it was that was following the JAL flight has vanished by that point.

199

00:19:02,460 --> 00:19:10,460

After 42 long minutes, Captain Teruci's reported UFO encounter was finally over.

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00:19:10,460 --> 00:19:18,460

One of the most significant UFO incidents ever in the Alaska Triangle was now on record,

201

00:19:18,460 --> 00:19:26,460

and witnessed by air traffic controllers, military radar, and three professional crew members.

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00:19:26,460 --> 00:19:30,460

Flight 1628 was requested to land at Anchorage.

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00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:41,460

There, U.S. government agencies were set to swoop in, and all records of this UFO incident were to mysteriously disappear.

204

00:19:49,460 --> 00:20:04,460

Whatever happened at Japan Airlines 1628, it is now the most documented and thus most famous UFO incident in modern aviation history.

205

00:20:04,460 --> 00:20:12,460

This UFO incident is probably one of the most credible cases in history of ufology.

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00:20:13,460 --> 00:20:16,460

But there were many outstanding questions.

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00:20:16,460 --> 00:20:22,460

Why would alien life forms want to target a commercial cargo plane?

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00:20:22,460 --> 00:20:32,460

Even if it's believed these UFOs were extraterrestrial, they may not have had malevolent intent, according to researcher Johnny Enoch.

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00:20:32,460 --> 00:20:36,460

There's all kinds of reasons why they could have been there.

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00:20:36,460 --> 00:20:39,460

The plane itself could have been in danger.

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00:20:39,460 --> 00:20:42,460

They could have been stopping it from entering a portal.

212

00:20:42,460 --> 00:20:50,460

But my guess is it would have been some sort of scientific work, some sort of scientific analysis they were doing.

213

00:20:50,460 --> 00:21:00,460

Whatever the reason for the encounter, when Flight 1628 landed in Anchorage, investigators were keen to talk to the crew.

214

00:21:00,460 --> 00:21:06,460

Federal Aviation Authority agent Jim Derry was asked to attend.

215

00:21:07,460 --> 00:21:17,460

I got a call from our operation center saying we've had some strange incidents with an aircraft coming in over the poles.

216

00:21:17,460 --> 00:21:20,460

So this made us pretty interested.

217

00:21:22,460 --> 00:21:26,460

My first thought was that we had a Russian intruder.

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00:21:26,460 --> 00:21:32,460

During that period in the late 80s while the Cold War was still going on, Russians would come over and want to intrude.

219

00:21:32,460 --> 00:21:37,460

But the military usually sensed it right away and responded.

220

00:21:37,460 --> 00:21:44,460

But the military detected no one out in that area, so we were doubly interested.

221

00:21:45,460 --> 00:21:54,460

At Anchorage Airport, Jim Derry met Captain Terucci and his crew within hours of their reported UFO encounter.

222

00:21:55,460 --> 00:22:03,460

I found it interesting when I shook hands and I met them, their palms were very sweaty, people were very dilated.

223

00:22:03,460 --> 00:22:07,460

They saw something that scared them very, very badly.

224

00:22:08,460 --> 00:22:15,460

These people believed what they were saying. They were very sincere and they were very, very believable.

225

00:22:16,460 --> 00:22:24,460

But when Captain Terucci described the mothership and sketched it for investigators, they were shocked by what they saw.

226

00:22:27,460 --> 00:22:31,460

This is the captain's original drawing of the UFO.

227

00:22:32,460 --> 00:22:36,460

What I've got here on the screen are the drawings by the Japan Airlines captain.

228

00:22:36,460 --> 00:22:39,460

And the size of this object flew everybody's mind.

229

00:22:39,460 --> 00:22:48,460

He's putting his aircraft here in proportion to the size of the overall object, which as he said, it looked like a flying aircraft carrier.

230

00:22:50,460 --> 00:22:57,460

This is like comparing a 747 to a 6,000 passenger cruise ship in size, massive.

231

00:22:58,460 --> 00:23:01,460

There's nothing that size that flies that we know of.

232

00:23:02,460 --> 00:23:08,460

The other investigator and I rolled our eyes at the time when we saw the sketches because it seemed really way out.

233

00:23:08,460 --> 00:23:13,460

But after we saw that it showed up on radar, we weren't quite as skeptical about it.

234

00:23:16,460 --> 00:23:19,460

This is the original radar data.

235

00:23:20,460 --> 00:23:24,460

These lines show the flight path of JAL 1628.

236

00:23:25,460 --> 00:23:29,460

Then the UFO appears on screen.

237

00:23:32,460 --> 00:23:43,460

It comes and goes as it tracks the 747 at over 500 miles per hour, before it mysteriously vanishes altogether.

238

00:23:44,460 --> 00:23:47,460

No known aircraft can perform such maneuvers.

239

00:23:49,460 --> 00:23:55,460

Soon, this data was sent to the Federal Aviation Authority headquarters in Washington.

240

00:23:55,460 --> 00:24:02,460

A senior investigator, John Callahan, would prepare a file about the case for the CIA.

241

00:24:02,460 --> 00:24:09,460

But the file would be buried in what some believe was the start of a major government cover-up.

242

00:24:15,460 --> 00:24:22,460

On November 7th, 1986, one of the most infamous UFO encounters occurred in Alaska.

243

00:24:26,460 --> 00:24:35,460

Once safely on the ground at Anchorage Airport, the case of Flight 1628 was investigated by the Federal Aviation Authority.

244

00:24:36,460 --> 00:24:46,460

This is a remarkable case because this isn't some reported sighting in some back country area where someone could be making something up.

245

00:24:46,460 --> 00:24:55,460

These are professional, career-focused pilots that are telling us that they had a sighting in the sky and it startled them.

246

00:24:56,460 --> 00:25:05,460

The FAA's senior investigator, John Callahan, prepared a file on Flight 1628's near miss with the UFO.

247

00:25:07,460 --> 00:25:11,460

He then briefed the FAA about his shocking conclusions.

248

00:25:12,460 --> 00:25:18,460

John Callahan was blown away by the amount of data that they actually had.

249

00:25:18,460 --> 00:25:26,460

UFO data, not just seconds, over 30 minutes of data to comb through radar data, coupled with the voice cockpit recordings.

250

00:25:32,460 --> 00:25:39,460

If you listen to the cockpit recordings, you'll hear Captain Teruuchi extremely concerned about what he's looking at.

251

00:25:41,460 --> 00:25:48,460

He's looking at something five, six times bigger than a 747, and he's unable to identify this thing, and you can hear it in his voice.

252

00:25:48,460 --> 00:25:50,460

The guy's freaking out.

253

00:25:56,460 --> 00:26:05,460

John Callahan did not believe in UFO encounters prior to this incident, and after reviewing the evidence was convinced that UFOs existed.

254

00:26:06,460 --> 00:26:15,460

An urgent meeting was convened with the CIA the next day, where John Callahan presented his disturbing findings.

255

00:26:17,460 --> 00:26:29,460

They reviewed the evidence, they reviewed the cockpit recording tapes, and they were all silenced and told that this matter was classified top secret and not to ever speak about the incident.

256

00:26:30,460 --> 00:26:40,460

John Callahan said that when they briefed it at the national level, there was a person from the intelligence community there who collected all the paperwork afterwards that this is classified.

257

00:26:42,460 --> 00:26:53,460

The CIA officials said, we're going to confiscate all the radar data that you guys have, and told him, I was never here. This meeting never took place.

258

00:26:54,460 --> 00:27:05,460

But word did get out. Captain Teruuchi told his story to reporters and recreated his initial sketches for the world's media, as seen in this photo.

259

00:27:08,460 --> 00:27:16,460

Under pressure of the media spot might, the federal aviation authority went public four months after the event.

260

00:27:16,460 --> 00:27:29,460

The FAA held a press conference denying that there was proof of any unidentified flying objects that were captured using radar. They attributed this to an illusion called a split radar image.

261

00:27:30,460 --> 00:27:48,460

The federal aviation authority claimed the blip seen tracking Flight 1628 was no UFO, but a shadow created by the Japanese airliner itself. Former FAA investigator Jim Derry questions this explanation.

262

00:27:49,460 --> 00:28:03,460

The FAA even produced a rather elongated report telling how this kind of shadowing takes place, but any radar specialist that I have talked to before or since denies that that was any kind of a radar shadow.

263

00:28:04,460 --> 00:28:25,460

So how did Flight 1628 become one of the most well documented cases of a UFO incident in US history? It's thanks to John Callahan, who in 2001 went public with the cockpit recordings and radar data contradicting the FAA statement.

264

00:28:26,460 --> 00:28:42,460

He had made copies of the cockpit recordings, of the radar confirmation, every bit of investigation that took place with the FAA. John Callahan had kept copies at his desk because they tried to cover this incident up.

265

00:28:42,460 --> 00:28:47,460

So if it wasn't for John Callahan, no one would probably know about the details of this incident.

266

00:28:48,460 --> 00:29:01,460

As a result of the publicity, Japan Airlines grounded Captain Teruichi for two years, but pilot Dan Hampton believes the evidence revealed later by John Callahan vindicates him.

267

00:29:01,460 --> 00:29:14,460

As a pilot, I am always skeptical of non-pilots, even other pilots that say they've seen something strange. But Captain Teruichi is a professional commercial airline pilot.

268

00:29:14,460 --> 00:29:26,460

He's an ex-military aviator with over 10,000 hours of flying time, and he knew very well that by saying anything about this, it would impact his career, and it did.

269

00:29:26,460 --> 00:29:36,460

But I have to say, in all honesty, after looking at all the evidence, reading the transcripts and analyzing it from my standpoint, I believe him.

270

00:29:42,460 --> 00:29:51,460

Flight 1628 also opened Jim Derry's eyes to the many reports of UFOs in the skies above Alaska.

271

00:29:52,460 --> 00:29:59,460

I haven't seen any UFOs, but I have interviewed people, a lot of people who have seen them, to include many pilots.

272

00:30:00,460 --> 00:30:09,460

Considering the size of the universe, for us to think that we are the only life form out there is extremely egotistical of us, we don't know what's out there.

273

00:30:11,460 --> 00:30:14,460

Indeed, what else is out there?

274

00:30:14,460 --> 00:30:25,460

Are there other mysteries waiting to be discovered? And what might the US government know about them?

275

00:30:27,460 --> 00:30:39,460

The JAL incident had a lasting impact on all involved, and no one more so than Captain Teruichi. Now in retirement, he's withdrawn from the public eye.

276

00:30:40,460 --> 00:30:55,460

But in the skies of the triangle, it's not only UFOs that have caused panic and confusion. There

have been reports of a giant flying creature, big enough to prey upon moose and even whales.

277

00:30:56,460 --> 00:31:05,460

Can such a creature really exist? Could a monstrous bird be behind the numerous disappearances of the Alaska Triangle?

278

00:31:06,460 --> 00:31:17,460

If there's one place on the planet where strange and mysterious creatures could exist under the radar, it could only be in the Alaska Triangle.

279

00:31:18,460 --> 00:31:29,460

Here, native legends tell of terrifying beasts that roam the lands and stalk the skies, the most frightening of all, the giant Thunderbird.

280

00:31:30,460 --> 00:31:41,460

Thunderbirds are reported to be really huge raptors, much bigger than the 7-8 foot wingspan of a stellar sea eagle, more approximating the wingspan of a small plane.

281

00:31:41,460 --> 00:31:47,460

But there have been reports of this gigantic flying predator, right up to present day.

282

00:31:47,460 --> 00:31:54,460

That was just flabbergasted by its wingspan that was so huge, a human would have been like a midday snack.

283

00:32:00,460 --> 00:32:10,460

In Alaska, the legends of the giant Thunderbird have been passed down through the generations.

284

00:32:10,460 --> 00:32:18,460

Ketuviduak Lichard is a native shaman who was brought up on stories of this fearsome creature.

285

00:32:18,460 --> 00:32:26,460

Thunderbirds have always been part of our native history. Stories of them go back, as far back as native stories go back.

286

00:32:27,460 --> 00:32:32,460

And they've always been a terrifying presence to native people.

287

00:32:32,460 --> 00:32:45,460

Terrifying because of their massive size and unimaginable strength, elders warn their children to keep safe from this flying beast for fear of being plucked away from their parents.

288

00:32:45,460 --> 00:32:51,460

They are known to hunt everything from a moose, caribou to beluga and whales.

289

00:32:51,460 --> 00:32:55,460

Beluga get up to 3,000 pounds and they're able to lift a full grown beluga.

290

00:32:55,460 --> 00:33:00,460

So you got to think how big do these birds have to be in order to lift that much weight.

291

00:33:04,460 --> 00:33:08,460

People were terrified of the Thunderbird because it would swoop down and kill people.

292

00:33:08,460 --> 00:33:12,460

People were so terrified of it in fact that we wouldn't even attempt to hunt them.

293

00:33:12,460 --> 00:33:15,460

We didn't want to have anything to do with the Thunderbird.

294

00:33:15,460 --> 00:33:24,460

But for the Klingid people who inhabit the southeast of the Alaska Triangle, the Thunderbird is much more than a mere physical creature.

295

00:33:24,460 --> 00:33:29,460

Anna Brown Ellers is a fellow of their National Heritage Center.

296

00:33:29,460 --> 00:33:34,460

The Giant Thunderbird has always been a part of our native folklore.

297

00:33:34,460 --> 00:33:45,460

It is a spiritual being. It has thunderous wings and can control the weather, hazy rainstorms and floods.

298

00:33:45,460 --> 00:33:55,460

Anna is a weaver of traditional blankets. These carry the legends of her ancestors and the Thunderbird is a common motif.

299

00:33:55,460 --> 00:34:05,460

It's sacred to our society when we are wearing it on our blankets or if it's in our totem poles.

300

00:34:05,460 --> 00:34:10,460

It is a depiction of a powerful being.

301

00:34:12,460 --> 00:34:17,460

But stories of the Thunderbird aren't confined to native Alaskan legends.

302

00:34:17,460 --> 00:34:22,460

In modern times there have been numerous sightings of the airborne beast.

303

00:34:23,460 --> 00:34:35,460

In June 2005, Charles Gaines was on a road trip close to the Canadian border in the southeastern corner of the Alaska Triangle.

304

00:34:35,460 --> 00:34:40,460

On his way back north, Charles was looking out the window.

305

00:34:42,460 --> 00:34:51,460

I saw a giant bird down in a valley that had a wingspan, what I estimated to be 20 to 25 feet.

306

00:34:52,460 --> 00:34:57,460

Well the minute I saw the bird, I knew what it was.

307

00:34:57,460 --> 00:35:03,460

I knew that I was seeing the Thunderbird that I'd been reading about and hearing about and I was excited.

308

00:35:03,460 --> 00:35:06,460

I was glad that I'd gotten a chance to see it.

309

00:35:06,460 --> 00:35:19,460

Charles could tell that the trees on either side of the bird were about 40 feet apart and on both sides, each wing was less than 10 feet from these same trees.

310

00:35:19,460 --> 00:35:24,460

So I did the math, figured out a 20 to 25 foot wingspan.

311

00:35:24,460 --> 00:35:33,460

At this size, the bird would be twice as big as the California Condor, the largest known bird in North America.

312

00:35:35,460 --> 00:35:42,460

Charles was the only witness to this sighting, but there have been credible reports with multiple witnesses.

313

00:35:43,460 --> 00:35:56,460

In 2002, near Dillingham, in the west of the Triangle, the pilot and passengers of a local airplane came close to a huge bird, blinded at around 1,000 feet.

314

00:35:56,460 --> 00:36:01,460

Researcher Hugh Newman has been investigating the press reports.

315

00:36:01,460 --> 00:36:05,460

A remarkable eyewitness account of a Thunderbird was reported.

316

00:36:05,460 --> 00:36:13,460

They witnessed something they believed to be the same size as their plane, some kind of massive, unknown flying creature.

317

00:36:15,460 --> 00:36:23,460

The plane had a wingspan of 35 feet, making this creature larger than any bird on the planet.

318

00:36:23,460 --> 00:36:34,460

Crypto-Zoologist Lance Hightower has also been investigating these reports of a Thunderbird and found that a villager on the ground corroborated the sighting.

319

00:36:34,460 --> 00:36:37,460

It was huge, it was massive, it was the size of a small plane.

320

00:36:37,460 --> 00:36:50,460

Well, it bothered him so much that he radioed the next town over and he contacted the local authorities, who then told people to stay indoors, especially the children.

321

00:36:51,460 --> 00:36:57,460

This is remarkable and one of the most interesting sightings ever witnessed in Alaska.

322

00:36:57,460 --> 00:37:01,460

All these people, these eyewitnesses, they all can't be wrong.

323

00:37:03,460 --> 00:37:11,460

Since this sighting, there has been no official report from any pilot or passenger in the skies of the Triangle.

324

00:37:11,460 --> 00:37:18,460

But now, native Alaskan Ketuviduak Lichard is going in search of this elusive creature.

325

00:37:20,460 --> 00:37:27,460

This is a mountainous area. I'm going to see if I can find any nest or any evidence that they're around here.

326

00:37:27,460 --> 00:37:36,460

Ketuviduak will have to stay on his guard. For any creature that hunts moose and whales, he would make easy prey.

327

00:37:40,460 --> 00:37:44,460

Alaska is a strange and foreboding place.

328

00:37:44,460 --> 00:37:50,460

Some believe a mysterious airborne cryptid is hiding here, the giant thunderbird.

329

00:37:50,460 --> 00:37:57,460

But is this creature a forgotten relic from prehistoric times? And could it really exist?

330

00:37:57,460 --> 00:38:06,460

Thunderbirds most definitely still exist in Alaska. You think about it, we have 664,000 square miles and only 700,000 people.

331

00:38:06,460 --> 00:38:11,460

Most of the people live in two cities in Alaska and the rest of it is just fast wilderness.

332

00:38:11,460 --> 00:38:17,460

There's a lot of huge animals for them to hunt. There's a lot of open spaces for them to fly and never be seen.

333

00:38:17,460 --> 00:38:26,460

But today, Ketuviduak is on the trail of the thunderbird and his best chance to see it is from the air.

334

00:38:26,460 --> 00:38:31,460

I brought a drone with me. These drones can cover about 4 miles in diameter around me.

335

00:38:31,460 --> 00:38:41,460

It's hard to say how many thunderbirds could be out there. I want to see if I could find anything unusual that would indicate thunderbirds being in this area.

336

00:38:45,460 --> 00:38:47,460

There's a lot of trees here.

337

00:38:52,460 --> 00:38:58,460

I'm trying to look for an area to see if there's anything that would resemble a nesting site.

338

00:39:02,460 --> 00:39:09,460

If the creature is out there, one man who won't be surprised is Dr. Robert Alley.

339

00:39:09,460 --> 00:39:19,460

He's a former professor from the University of Alaska who's been studying the thunderbird phenomenon and has come to a truly radical conclusion.

340

00:39:20,460 --> 00:39:33,460

Newspaper reports of large birds being seen in Alaska could only be explained biologically by the possible continuing existence of relic populations of something like the Ice Age Territorns.

341

00:39:33,460 --> 00:39:42,460

The Territorn had an estimated 23-foot wingspan and it towered over humans at more than 6 feet tall.

342

00:39:42,460 --> 00:39:56,460

To discover a continuing living relic population, even an individual of a bird that was only known from fossils dating back to the Ice Age, it would be huge.

343

00:39:56,460 --> 00:40:14,460

Whereas an eagle can easily pick up a lamb from a mountain crag, a thunderbird such as a Territorn would easily be able to pick up something the size of a full-grown sheep or goat, perhaps even a human being.

344

00:40:15,460 --> 00:40:21,460

A Territorn would be an apex scavenger from hell.

345

00:40:21,460 --> 00:40:31,460

In 2018, there was an account of a young lady driving to the movie theater and as she was driving, she noticed she looked up and she noticed this huge bird flying.

346

00:40:31,460 --> 00:40:43,460

But it was so large, it really startled her. She noticed that the wingspan, she estimated close to 18-to-24 feet in width. It was the same width of the road.

347

00:40:43,460 --> 00:40:50,460

So when we look at the size of a thunderbird, the description of it is very much like Pelagornis. It's absolutely enormous.

348

00:40:50,460 --> 00:41:06,460

This bird had a wingspan of 24 feet. So enormous that the biggest flying birds today, the albatrosses, could have fitted on each of its wings. Absolutely enormous.

349

00:41:07,460 --> 00:41:16,460

This is a life-size model of the biggest prehistoric Territorn made for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

350

00:41:16,460 --> 00:41:24,460

This monster once ruled the skies of the Americas with the reported wingspan of up to 26 feet.

351

00:41:28,460 --> 00:41:34,460

But now, evidence has come to light that the thunderbird may be even bigger.

352

00:41:37,460 --> 00:41:45,460

This comes from a resident of Kakanak on the shores of Lake Iliamna, Gary Nielsen.

353

00:41:48,460 --> 00:41:52,460

There are stories passed down about these big birds. They all have the same vein.

354

00:41:52,460 --> 00:42:02,460

Man was out hunting, the family was blown by themselves. Either the woman was doing something away from the camp or away from the fire. He looks back. A bird is taking his wife.

355

00:42:03,460 --> 00:42:14,460

While hunting with a friend in 2004, Gary says he saw a thunderbird that dwarfs the size reported in other sightings.

356

00:42:17,460 --> 00:42:24,460

We were hunting rabbits and I stopped for a break. And my buddy asked, who's that standing on that hill?

357

00:42:26,460 --> 00:42:29,460

And when he looked I said, I don't think that's a man.

358

00:42:33,460 --> 00:42:40,460

I looked at it through my scope and it wasn't a man and it wasn't an animal. I couldn't figure out what it was.

359

00:42:43,460 --> 00:42:49,460

I mean, it was very tall and we were probably about a mile away, a mile and a half.

360

00:42:49,460 --> 00:42:57,460

So we took off straight toward it and we got within a half mile this thing that we thought was a very tall person.

361

00:42:58,460 --> 00:43:08,460

Spread out its wings and the wings engulfed both edges of the hill.

362

00:43:11,460 --> 00:43:13,460

And just a few flaps, it was airborne.

363

00:43:16,460 --> 00:43:23,460

We started spiraling up and we're just watching it. You know, what is it? We're seeing it but we weren't bleeding it. I mean, it was so huge.

364

00:43:24,460 --> 00:43:32,460

Gary has lived here all his life and knows all the birds of the area but he had never seen a wingspan like this.

365

00:43:32,460 --> 00:43:41,460

Even though I'm saying it sounds fantastic, but I would say 50 feet. I was just flabbergasted by his wingspan. It was so huge.

366

00:43:41,460 --> 00:43:47,460

A creature this size could pluck a moose or caribou from the mountain plains with ease.

367

00:43:48,460 --> 00:43:58,460

As it was flying over, we saw a caribou in a brush. It was there trying to get that caribou.

368

00:44:00,460 --> 00:44:06,460

But the caribou was inside a patch of cottonwoods and it would not come out.

369

00:44:07,460 --> 00:44:19,460

Something that size, a large moose would not have any problem. A human would have been. Nothing. Midday snack.

370

00:44:20,460 --> 00:44:28,460

The sight of that massive creature has haunted Gary ever since. He can't prove what he saw but he's in no doubt.

371

00:44:29,460 --> 00:44:36,460

For Kitu Vidiwak, capturing such a sight on camera would be the fulfillment of a lifelong wish.

372

00:44:37,460 --> 00:44:42,460

But in this landscape, the range of a drone is a drop in the ocean.

373

00:44:43,460 --> 00:44:52,460

This is a very vast landscape and I'm only covering a few square miles here. So they're still out

there. They're just avoiding us.

374

00:44:53,460 --> 00:45:00,460

If we're going to find thunderbirds in the future, I'm going to have to cover a lot more ground than this.

375

00:45:01,460 --> 00:45:06,460

But I believe it's only a matter of time before my investigation finds thunderbird.

376

00:45:10,460 --> 00:45:17,460

For now, it seems the giant thunderbird remains elusive. But it's a creature that's feared across Alaska.

377

00:45:18,460 --> 00:45:27,460

And it may not be alone. No one knows what else could be lurking in the hundreds of thousands of square miles of unexplored forest here.

378

00:45:28,460 --> 00:45:38,460

On land and in the air, the mysteries of the Alaska Triangle continue to defy explanation. The truth is out there.

379

00:45:39,460 --> 00:45:44,460

But for the moment, it remains beyond our grasp.