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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,500

On this episode of Destination Truth, Josh travels to the rainforests of Brazil,

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00:00:05,500 --> 00:00:09,300

trailing recent sightings of a giant sloth monster.

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00:00:10,800 --> 00:00:12,300

We're definitely not alone.

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00:00:12,300 --> 00:00:13,800

Josh, what's going on?

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00:00:13,800 --> 00:00:15,800

Josh, you copy us?

6

00:00:15,800 --> 00:00:16,800

Whoa!

7

00:00:16,800 --> 00:00:21,500

Next, the crew travels to Africa in search of a flying dinosaur

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00:00:21,500 --> 00:00:25,200

that has reportedly been harassing the locals from overhead.

9

00:00:25,200 --> 00:00:27,000

He's a very dangerous person.

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00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:28,500

Holy s\*\*\*!

11

00:00:28,500 --> 00:00:29,300

What is that?

12

00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:29,800

Yeah!

13

00:00:29,800 --> 00:00:30,300

S\*\*\*!

14

00:00:30,300 --> 00:00:31,800

Right there! Right there!

15

00:00:31,800 --> 00:00:35,300

Does Josh uncover a beast in the overgrown jungle?

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00:00:35,300 --> 00:00:37,600

Or is this just an overgrown tail?

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00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:40,800

Just something big, just whipped right over on top of us.

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00:00:42,800 --> 00:00:44,300

I'm Josh Gates.

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00:00:44,300 --> 00:00:47,300

In my travels, I've seen some unexplainable things

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00:00:47,300 --> 00:00:49,800

which have raised strange questions.

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00:00:49,800 --> 00:00:53,100

Now I've pulled together a team armed with the latest technology

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00:00:53,100 --> 00:00:54,800

in the search for answers.

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00:00:54,800 --> 00:00:56,800

I'm not sure what's out there waiting for me,

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00:00:56,800 --> 00:00:58,300

but I know what I'm looking for.

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00:00:58,300 --> 00:00:59,300

The truth.

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00:01:02,800 --> 00:01:05,800

When you think of Brazil, you probably think of stunning people,

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00:01:05,800 --> 00:01:07,800

beautiful beaches and endless parties.

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00:01:07,800 --> 00:01:09,300

Well, here's something you can add to the list.

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00:01:09,300 --> 00:01:11,300

A big, hairy monster.

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00:01:11,300 --> 00:01:13,800

Only this guy isn't at an all-night rave in Rio.

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00:01:13,800 --> 00:01:15,800

No, the Mopinguari, as he's known in Brazil,

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00:01:15,800 --> 00:01:17,800

is said to live deep in the Amazon jungle,

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00:01:17,800 --> 00:01:21,300

where according to hundreds, if not thousands of eyewitness reports,

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00:01:21,300 --> 00:01:23,300

he ferociously defends his territory

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00:01:23,300 --> 00:01:25,300

and sends shivers down the spines of locals

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00:01:25,300 --> 00:01:26,800

at the mere mention of his name.

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00:01:26,800 --> 00:01:28,800

In fact, the Mopinguari is so notorious

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00:01:28,800 --> 00:01:31,800

that the New York Times ran a piece on the elusive creature last year.

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00:01:31,800 --> 00:01:35,300

It doesn't get any bigger than a full-page spread in a newspaper of record,

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00:01:35,300 --> 00:01:36,800

so I decided to see for myself

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00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:40,800

what exactly was scaring the bejesus out of the good people of the Amazon.

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00:01:40,800 --> 00:01:43,800

We packed up our investigation gear and some extra suntan lotion

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00:01:43,800 --> 00:01:46,800

and headed to Brazil in search of the truth behind the Mopinguari.

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00:01:49,800 --> 00:01:53,300

My journey began with a flight that took us from Los Angeles to São Paulo,

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00:01:53,300 --> 00:01:54,800

the capital of Brazil.

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00:01:54,800 --> 00:01:56,800

Tales of the Mopinguari are pervasive.

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00:01:56,800 --> 00:01:59,800

People throughout the Amazon report run-ins with the creature.

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00:01:59,800 --> 00:02:02,300

It is said to be a six-foot-tall, sloth-like animal

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00:02:02,300 --> 00:02:04,800

with a reddish fur that can stand on two legs.

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00:02:04,800 --> 00:02:07,800

Some descriptions add that he has a mouth in the center of his belly

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00:02:07,800 --> 00:02:09,800

and a single eye in the middle of his head.

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00:02:09,800 --> 00:02:12,800

What everyone agrees on, though, is that he stinks to high hell,

53

00:02:12,800 --> 00:02:15,800

emitting a strong pungent odor when he's in the vicinity.

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00:02:15,800 --> 00:02:17,800

Kind of like my crew by the end of our trip.

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00:02:19,300 --> 00:02:23,300

The New York Times article quoted a respected scientist named Dr. David Orin,

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00:02:23,300 --> 00:02:26,300

the former director of research at the prominent Galdi Institute in Brazil

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00:02:26,300 --> 00:02:28,300

and a firm believer in the creature.

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00:02:28,300 --> 00:02:32,300

He lives in São Paulo and was my first stop before continuing into the Amazon jungle.

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00:02:32,300 --> 00:02:35,300

His extensive research could help me sort out facts from fiction

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00:02:35,300 --> 00:02:38,300

and give me a better idea of where to begin my search.

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00:02:38,300 --> 00:02:43,300

The stories come from far-flung, very remote parts of the Amazon,

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00:02:43,300 --> 00:02:47,300

and people essentially describe exactly the same creature.

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00:02:47,300 --> 00:02:51,300

They are describing a creature that's approximately six feet tall

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00:02:51,300 --> 00:02:55,300

when it is standing bipedally.

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00:02:55,300 --> 00:02:57,300

It's very, very hairy.

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00:02:57,300 --> 00:03:01,300

It has huge claws and four huge teeth.

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00:03:01,300 --> 00:03:05,300

That description is very real-world.

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00:03:05,300 --> 00:03:08,300

It sounds like that's a description of maybe a plausible creature.

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00:03:08,300 --> 00:03:11,300

Dr. Orin went on to tell me that he does in fact think

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00:03:11,300 --> 00:03:14,300

that there is a mysterious creature lurking around in the Amazon

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00:03:14,300 --> 00:03:16,300

that fits the Mopunguari description.

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00:03:16,300 --> 00:03:18,300

He believes it is a giant ground sloth.

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00:03:18,300 --> 00:03:21,300

The only problem is that the rest of the scientific community

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00:03:21,300 --> 00:03:25,300

will tell you the giant sloth when extinct about 10,000 years ago.

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00:03:25,300 --> 00:03:30,300

If it is a remnant of giant ground sloths, what do we think it might feed on?

76

00:03:30,300 --> 00:03:33,300

It will twist very strong palm trees to the ground

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00:03:33,300 --> 00:03:35,300

to get to the heart of palm and to the berries.

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00:03:35,300 --> 00:03:37,300

This is one of the things that intimidates people

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00:03:37,300 --> 00:03:40,300

because if you see one of these bakaba palm trees twisted to the ground

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00:03:40,300 --> 00:03:43,300

and then it's heart of palm eaten,

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00:03:43,300 --> 00:03:46,300

you have a notion of the strength that would be necessary to actually have done that.

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00:03:46,300 --> 00:03:49,300

And that's an animal you don't necessarily want to come face to face with.

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00:03:49,300 --> 00:03:53,300

So as a scientist though, you think that there is a real possibility

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00:03:53,300 --> 00:03:57,300

that either living now or living more recently than 10,000 years ago,

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00:03:57,300 --> 00:04:00,300

there may be a population of giant ground sloths out there

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00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:01,300

that that is a possibility.

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00:04:01,300 --> 00:04:03,300

That's definitely a possibility.

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00:04:03,300 --> 00:04:05,300

Dr. Orin is a respected scientist

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00:04:05,300 --> 00:04:08,300

and I was impressed with his confidence in the tales of the Mopunguari.

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00:04:08,300 --> 00:04:12,300

Whether what's out there is a giant ground sloth who survived extinction,

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00:04:12,300 --> 00:04:15,300

a Cyclops monster is described by the indigenous people

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00:04:15,300 --> 00:04:18,300

and a more pure legend, he believed it was well worth investigating.

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00:04:18,300 --> 00:04:20,300

And so did I.

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00:04:20,300 --> 00:04:23,300

Since nearly all Mopunguari sightings have taken place in the Amazon,

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00:04:23,300 --> 00:04:26,300

I knew I had to get to the heart of the country to continue my search.

96

00:04:26,300 --> 00:04:28,300

We boarded a plane bound for Rio Branco,

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00:04:28,300 --> 00:04:32,300

a city in the interior of Brazil known for its vast frontier of Amazon forests

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00:04:32,300 --> 00:04:34,300

and hot girls.

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00:04:36,300 --> 00:04:39,300

My next stop was to the Federal University to meet with Jonas Souza,

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00:04:39,300 --> 00:04:42,300

Professor of Paleontology and Amateur Mopunguari impersonator.

101

00:04:42,300 --> 00:04:44,300

With his extensive knowledge of the animals in the Amazon,

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00:04:44,300 --> 00:04:48,300

I wanted to know if he shared Dr. Orin's theory that the giant ground sloth

103

00:04:48,300 --> 00:04:49,300

might still be roaming the Earth.

104

00:04:49,300 --> 00:04:51,300

My interpreter Beto translated.

105

00:04:51,300 --> 00:04:55,300

Is there any possibility that there is a real world animal

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00:04:55,300 --> 00:04:58,300

that people are seeing, like a giant ground sloth?

107

00:04:58,300 --> 00:05:00,300

If not, what is happening?

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00:05:00,300 --> 00:05:02,300

How do people today look like?

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00:05:02,300 --> 00:05:05,300

We need to have better discussions.

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00:05:05,300 --> 00:05:07,300

In the Amazon there's a lot of legends.

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00:05:07,300 --> 00:05:09,300

Mopunguari is one of the legends of this group.

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00:05:09,300 --> 00:05:14,300

But there's no scientific proof of the existence of Mopunguari.

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00:05:14,300 --> 00:05:17,300

Where does this legend persist most seriously?

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00:05:17,300 --> 00:05:20,300

There's a lot of Indian tribes that believe in that.

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00:05:20,300 --> 00:05:25,300

People in general use the myth of Mopunguari

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00:05:25,300 --> 00:05:28,300

to justify some fears that they have in the forest.

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00:05:28,300 --> 00:05:33,300

Imagine that one of the big problems in the forest is to find a jaguar.

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00:05:33,300 --> 00:05:36,300

If you find a jaguar and get home saying that,

119

00:05:36,300 --> 00:05:40,300

oh, I was scared because I saw a jaguar, he has a problem.

120

00:05:40,300 --> 00:05:43,300

But if he says, I wasn't scared because I saw him up in Guari,

121

00:05:43,300 --> 00:05:45,300

he doesn't have a problem.

122

00:05:45,300 --> 00:05:47,300

People don't respect you if you're scared of a jaguar?

123

00:05:47,300 --> 00:05:48,300

Probably not.

124

00:05:48,300 --> 00:05:50,300

I think it's a decent excuse.

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00:05:50,300 --> 00:05:52,300

If I come home and I say I saw a jaguar,

126

00:05:52,300 --> 00:05:55,300

I don't think anybody should be giving me f\*\*\* for that.

127

00:05:55,300 --> 00:05:57,300

It was time to talk to eyewitnesses.

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00:05:57,300 --> 00:05:59,300

The only problem is that people who see the Mopunguari

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00:05:59,300 --> 00:06:01,300

are almost as hard to find as the creature itself.

130

00:06:01,300 --> 00:06:04,300

The majority of eyewitnesses are either Indigenous Indians

131

00:06:04,300 --> 00:06:07,300

living in remote tribes or rubber tree workers

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00:06:07,300 --> 00:06:09,300

who toil deep in the forests.

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00:06:09,300 --> 00:06:11,300

We would need to fly even further into the Amazon

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00:06:11,300 --> 00:06:13,300

to the area where many of the sightings had occurred.

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00:06:13,300 --> 00:06:16,300

On the way to the airport, we stopped in a local park

136

00:06:16,300 --> 00:06:18,300

where I'd heard about a Mopunguari statue.

137

00:06:18,300 --> 00:06:20,300

This I had to see.

138

00:06:20,300 --> 00:06:22,300

Don't let anyone tell you the Amazon doesn't have

139

00:06:22,300 --> 00:06:25,300

the coolest trash cans on the planet because they do.

140

00:06:27,300 --> 00:06:30,300

So these are the guys I don't want to run into in the jungle.

141

00:06:30,300 --> 00:06:33,300

Today we'll rip my face off.

142

00:06:33,300 --> 00:06:39,300

This is a statue of the Mopunguari that they erected here.

143

00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:42,300

As you can see, it is extremely plausible looking.

144

00:06:42,300 --> 00:06:44,300

Cyclops, one eye.

145

00:06:44,300 --> 00:06:47,300

A lot of descriptions have it as kind of reddish brown fur,

146

00:06:47,300 --> 00:06:50,300

big claws, and sort of a mouth on its stomach.

147

00:06:50,300 --> 00:06:52,300

This guy's a little goofy looking.

148

00:06:52,300 --> 00:06:54,300

So there he is, the Mopunguari. I found him.

149

00:06:54,300 --> 00:06:56,300

Episode over.

150

00:06:56,300 --> 00:06:58,300

The statue may have looked cartoonish to me,

151

00:06:58,300 --> 00:07:00,300

but it was actually a reminder of how serious

152

00:07:00,300 --> 00:07:02,300

locals take this legendary creature.

153

00:07:02,300 --> 00:07:04,300

As we strolled the park, we met dozens of people

154

00:07:04,300 --> 00:07:08,300

who told us that the Mopunguari is very real and very dangerous.

155

00:07:08,300 --> 00:07:10,300

Now that we had our first look at the Mopunguari,

156

00:07:10,300 --> 00:07:12,300

we continued on to our flight.

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00:07:12,300 --> 00:07:15,300

We arrived at the airport where we flew from Rio Branco to Porto Velo,

158

00:07:15,300 --> 00:07:18,300

a pioneer town where many of the Mopunguari stories originate,

159

00:07:18,300 --> 00:07:21,300

and where we were told we could find our eyewitnesses.

160

00:07:21,300 --> 00:07:23,300

Our first stop was to talk with a rubber tree worker

161

00:07:23,300 --> 00:07:25,300

who had worked in these rainforests for years

162

00:07:25,300 --> 00:07:28,300

and knew several people who had encounters with the Mopunguari.

163

00:07:28,300 --> 00:07:30,300

The man had some interesting advice for me.

164

00:07:30,300 --> 00:07:32,300

Unfortunately, he didn't know who he was talking to.

165

00:07:32,300 --> 00:07:34,300

Is there something you're not supposed to do

166

00:07:34,300 --> 00:07:36,300

when you go into the jungle?

167

00:07:36,300 --> 00:07:38,300

When I heard a loud scream, a unknown scream,

168

00:07:38,300 --> 00:07:40,300

he got scared.

169

00:07:40,300 --> 00:07:42,300

But that scream...

170

00:07:42,300 --> 00:07:45,300

Try not to make any noise.

171

00:07:45,300 --> 00:07:47,300

It won't know that...

172

00:07:47,300 --> 00:07:49,300

So if I make a lot of noise, though, it will come out?

173

00:07:49,300 --> 00:07:51,300

It will come out.

174

00:07:51,300 --> 00:07:53,300

That's like my specialty. That's what I'm best at,

175

00:07:53,300 --> 00:07:55,300

is making a lot of noise in the jungle.

176

00:07:55,300 --> 00:07:57,300

I've built a show on that.

177

00:07:57,300 --> 00:07:59,300

The man pointed us in the direction of a distant village

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00:07:59,300 --> 00:08:01,300

where we found a forest storage.

179

00:08:01,300 --> 00:08:04,300

After hours on nearly non-existent roads,

180

00:08:04,300 --> 00:08:06,300

we finally arrived in the village

181

00:08:06,300 --> 00:08:09,300

where we found a less-than-warm welcome mat.

182

00:08:09,300 --> 00:08:12,300

This looks like a very welcoming house.

183

00:08:12,300 --> 00:08:15,300

Just, you know, decorating for the holidays.

184

00:08:15,300 --> 00:08:17,300

It's nice to be festive.

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00:08:17,300 --> 00:08:19,300

Luckily, the natives were friendlier than their front porches,

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00:08:19,300 --> 00:08:21,300

and we found several people who claimed

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00:08:21,300 --> 00:08:24,300

to have recently come face-to-face with the Mopunguari.

188

00:08:24,300 --> 00:08:27,300

I wanted to kill a pig.

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00:08:27,300 --> 00:08:32,300

I went to the forest to hunt a pig,

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00:08:32,300 --> 00:08:35,300

and then suddenly when I was sitting down,

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00:08:35,300 --> 00:08:37,300

what I could see was some kind of prey

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00:08:37,300 --> 00:08:41,300

that was big, five, six meters from me.

193

00:08:41,300 --> 00:08:43,300

And then I shot him.

194

00:08:43,300 --> 00:08:45,300

When I shot, he started running after me.

195

00:08:45,300 --> 00:08:47,300

He jumped and didn't catch me, and he started running off.

196

00:08:47,300 --> 00:08:50,300

Another villager had a similar run-in with the creature.

197

00:08:50,300 --> 00:08:52,300

He went to hunt in the first animal that he saw,

198

00:08:52,300 --> 00:08:56,300

and he thought it was, well, maybe it's an ant, either.

199

00:08:56,300 --> 00:08:58,300

He has the same claws and stuff,

200

00:08:58,300 --> 00:09:00,300

but then suddenly the animal stands up,

201

00:09:00,300 --> 00:09:03,300

and he thought the animal was like that big.

202

00:09:03,300 --> 00:09:05,300

When he saw the creature and it stood up

203

00:09:05,300 --> 00:09:08,300

and it was this enormous creature, did he run?

204

00:09:08,300 --> 00:09:10,300

I started running, and he started running after me.

205

00:09:10,300 --> 00:09:11,300

It chased him?

206

00:09:11,300 --> 00:09:12,300

Yeah.

207

00:09:12,300 --> 00:09:14,300

He thought he would die.

208

00:09:14,300 --> 00:09:17,300

I threw myself under a big trunk,

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00:09:17,300 --> 00:09:19,300

and he grabbed the trunk and started...

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00:09:19,300 --> 00:09:20,300

Clawing at it.

211

00:09:20,300 --> 00:09:21,300

...crawling at it.

212

00:09:21,300 --> 00:09:23,300

I escaped, and, yeah.

213

00:09:23,300 --> 00:09:25,300

How far away from here was this?

214

00:09:25,300 --> 00:09:26,300

Where was it?

215

00:09:26,300 --> 00:09:30,300

It was around three hours from here.

216

00:09:30,300 --> 00:09:32,300

Break-up bug spray?

217

00:09:32,300 --> 00:09:35,300

Tell you something about the Amazon, people.

218

00:09:35,300 --> 00:09:37,300

Very buggy.

219

00:09:37,300 --> 00:09:41,300

With the reports that the Mapanguari was still in the area,

220

00:09:41,300 --> 00:09:43,300

the locals set to work on drawing us a map

221

00:09:43,300 --> 00:09:45,300

to the hunting grounds where the sightings took place.

222

00:09:45,300 --> 00:09:47,300

And since I didn't bring a boat with me,

223

00:09:47,300 --> 00:09:49,300

the locals were nice enough to sell me one of theirs

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00:09:49,300 --> 00:09:51,300

for the bargain price of an iPod, a pack of gum,

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00:09:51,300 --> 00:09:53,300

and one of our assistants.

226

00:09:53,300 --> 00:09:56,300

As we headed to the hunting grounds where the creature had been seen,

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00:09:56,300 --> 00:09:59,300

we became acutely aware of how isolated we were from civilization.

228

00:09:59,300 --> 00:10:02,300

Not only were we hailed on the trail of the Mapanguari,

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00:10:02,300 --> 00:10:06,300

but also it seemed in the midst of our personal production of Apocalypse Now.

230

00:10:11,300 --> 00:10:13,300

The most important thing tonight is safety.

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00:10:13,300 --> 00:10:16,300

Hundreds of people a year die on the Amazon from snake bites.

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00:10:16,300 --> 00:10:18,300

There's no end of spiders out here that are poisonous.

233

00:10:18,300 --> 00:10:19,300

There are crocodiles.

234

00:10:19,300 --> 00:10:21,300

We're not that far from the riverbank.

235

00:10:21,300 --> 00:10:22,300

There are jaguars.

236

00:10:22,300 --> 00:10:24,300

So everyone really needs to be on their toes tonight

237

00:10:24,300 --> 00:10:28,300

when we're going around, both on the investigations and here at Base Camp.

238

00:10:28,300 --> 00:10:30,300

And all the people we've talked to about this creature

239

00:10:30,300 --> 00:10:33,300

are universal in telling us that it is aggressive.

240

00:10:33,300 --> 00:10:34,300

There's no fear tonight.

241

00:10:34,300 --> 00:10:35,300

We're going to scare this thing off.

242

00:10:35,300 --> 00:10:37,300

Our presence here, our lights, our cameras,

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00:10:37,300 --> 00:10:40,300

according to our eyewitnesses are going to attract this thing.

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00:10:40,300 --> 00:10:43,300

So first order of business is to get Base Camp set up.

245

00:10:43,300 --> 00:10:46,300

We need to try to cover as much ground visually as we can with the infrareds.

246

00:10:46,300 --> 00:10:49,300

So probably just cartil directions off the Base Camp.

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00:10:49,300 --> 00:10:52,300

Pondch, we might want to use some of the wireless mics

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00:10:52,300 --> 00:10:55,300

and just place them in various points where we know this thing has been spotted

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00:10:55,300 --> 00:10:57,300

and see if we pick anything up on the microphones.

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00:10:57,300 --> 00:10:58,300

Absolutely.

251

00:10:58,300 --> 00:10:59,300

Perfect.

252

00:10:59,300 --> 00:11:00,300

Let's get set up, guys.

253

00:11:00,300 --> 00:11:25,300

For me, the problem with Mapanguari is that it's like right at the crossroads between

254

00:11:25,300 --> 00:11:29,300

something that sounds reasonable in terms of cryptozoological animal

255

00:11:29,300 --> 00:11:32,300

and totally mythological.

256

00:11:32,300 --> 00:11:35,300

Certainly I think the idea of something that's super aggressive that comes after people

257

00:11:35,300 --> 00:11:40,300

and yet no one's ever really found it is a little troubling, right?

258

00:11:40,300 --> 00:11:44,300

I mean, I get that so much of the Amazon still hasn't been cataloged scientifically,

259

00:11:44,300 --> 00:11:48,300

but as to whether or not something that large could be living here,

260

00:11:48,300 --> 00:11:51,300

I don't know, on the fence.

261

00:11:56,300 --> 00:11:58,300

Hold on. You guys will see that.

262

00:12:00,300 --> 00:12:03,300

Bradford Josh.

263

00:12:03,300 --> 00:12:04,300

This is Josh.

264

00:12:04,300 --> 00:12:09,300

We heard some, like, some trees breaking or some heavy, heavy limbs breaking out.

265

00:12:09,300 --> 00:12:12,300

Are you guys anywhere near Base Camp right now?

266

00:12:15,300 --> 00:12:17,300

I thought I saw something.

267

00:12:18,300 --> 00:12:20,300

You hear that? Right there?

268

00:12:29,300 --> 00:12:32,300

Josh, just heard it again. You guys close?

269

00:12:32,300 --> 00:12:35,300

Let's go back fast and check in on them to make sure they're okay.

270

00:12:35,300 --> 00:12:37,300

Josh, come in.

271

00:12:37,300 --> 00:12:40,300

Yeah, we're headed back to you guys right now, Brad. We're on our way.

272

00:12:40,300 --> 00:12:44,300

Yeah, you guys should get over here or whatever's bumping around out there.

273

00:12:44,300 --> 00:12:48,300

Not too far from Base Camp.

274

00:12:48,300 --> 00:12:50,300

I'm going to go back to the other side.

275

00:12:50,300 --> 00:12:55,300

Not too far from Base Camp.

276

00:12:59,300 --> 00:13:01,300

Brad, are you guys okay? Did you see it?

277

00:13:01,300 --> 00:13:05,300

We never actually saw it. Whatever it was, I think it's gone because we're not hearing it anymore.

278

00:13:05,300 --> 00:13:06,300

So tell me what happened.

279

00:13:06,300 --> 00:13:13,300

We probably heard, you know, a series of three, four heavy, heavy limb breaks, you know,

280

00:13:13,300 --> 00:13:17,300

not like a small, like, twig, but like a crack.

281

00:13:18,300 --> 00:13:23,300

Okay, so let's move quick. I want to try to find what Brad and Araceli saw before it gets too far.

282

00:13:24,300 --> 00:13:27,300

You hear that? That was big.

283

00:13:27,300 --> 00:13:30,300

That sounded like a big tree cracking.

284

00:13:33,300 --> 00:13:35,300

What way did it come from?

285

00:13:35,300 --> 00:13:37,300

Right over there.

286

00:13:37,300 --> 00:13:49,300

Josh, do Base come in over?

287

00:13:49,300 --> 00:13:51,300

Yeah, go ahead, Josh.

288

00:13:51,300 --> 00:13:53,300

Something moving around out here.

289

00:13:53,300 --> 00:13:55,300

Some big noise is not too far away from us.

290

00:13:55,300 --> 00:13:58,300

So keep an eye on those cameras. We're definitely hearing something out here.

291

00:13:58,300 --> 00:14:00,300

Alright, copy that.

292

00:14:01,300 --> 00:14:04,300

Thermal Stark, whatever it was.

293

00:14:08,300 --> 00:14:14,300

Brad, for Josh, would you start something?

294

00:14:14,300 --> 00:14:19,300

Massive tree cracking again. Stand by over here to see if we're here to catch.

295

00:14:19,300 --> 00:14:25,300

Each camera is maybe 19 yards from us and they're seeing...

296

00:14:25,300 --> 00:14:27,300

There it goes again.

297

00:14:30,300 --> 00:14:35,300

Alright, Josh, we're definitely hearing something cracking back there. Nothing on the camera, so...

298

00:14:38,300 --> 00:14:40,300

What is that?

299

00:14:41,300 --> 00:14:43,300

Big noise there.

300

00:14:44,300 --> 00:14:46,300

Is she going in for a while?

301

00:14:49,300 --> 00:14:51,300

Where's that mag right?

302

00:14:53,300 --> 00:14:55,300

Sorry.

303

00:14:55,300 --> 00:14:56,300

What?

304

00:14:56,300 --> 00:14:59,300

Something falling out of this tree up in here.

305

00:15:02,300 --> 00:15:04,300

I think I see something.

306

00:15:08,300 --> 00:15:10,300

I see that big tree right there.

307

00:15:10,300 --> 00:15:13,300

I think I saw something that moved right back there there.

308

00:15:13,300 --> 00:15:15,300

Let's try to get a little closer.

309

00:15:18,300 --> 00:15:20,300

I'll see anything now.

310

00:15:38,300 --> 00:15:40,300

What is that?

311

00:15:40,300 --> 00:15:41,300

What?

312

00:15:42,300 --> 00:15:44,300

Josh, you guys copy us?

313

00:15:46,300 --> 00:15:48,300

Yeah, I copy you.

314

00:15:55,300 --> 00:15:58,300

Okay, that noise is getting a little closer, guys.

315

00:15:58,300 --> 00:16:03,300

That heavy, heavy, heavy branch is smacking now.

316

00:16:03,300 --> 00:16:08,300

We heard something else out here, too. Not sure what it is. Just keep a close eye on those cameras.

317

00:16:08,300 --> 00:16:13,300

We're going to swing back around you guys eventually. We're just going a little bit further first.

318

00:16:13,300 --> 00:16:19,300

What moves around in this jungle that's got that kind of size that can move those kinds of limbs around?

319

00:16:19,300 --> 00:16:23,300

Banging them. Either limbs banging together or snapping.

320

00:16:23,300 --> 00:16:26,300

Well, it's not us because we're hearing it, too.

321

00:16:28,300 --> 00:16:30,300

What is that?

322

00:16:30,300 --> 00:16:32,300

Did you hear that?

323

00:16:33,300 --> 00:16:35,300

What is that?

324

00:16:36,300 --> 00:16:38,300

What is that?

325

00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:41,300

Josh, we just heard a crazy animal sound.

326

00:16:45,300 --> 00:16:47,300

Josh, what's going on?

327

00:16:47,300 --> 00:16:49,300

Josh, you copy us?

328

00:16:55,300 --> 00:16:57,300

What is that?

329

00:16:57,300 --> 00:16:59,300

Did you hear that?

330

00:17:00,300 --> 00:17:02,300

What is that?

331

00:17:03,300 --> 00:17:05,300

What is that?

332

00:17:05,300 --> 00:17:08,300

Josh, we just heard a crazy animal sound.

333

00:17:11,300 --> 00:17:13,300

Josh, what's going on?

334

00:17:14,300 --> 00:17:16,300

Josh, you copy us?

335

00:17:16,300 --> 00:17:19,300

We're trying to check it out. I'll let you know if we hear anything or if we see anything.

336

00:17:19,300 --> 00:17:21,300

We don't know what that was.

337

00:17:21,300 --> 00:17:25,300

It was definitely an animal of some sort. I have never heard anything like that before.

338

00:17:25,300 --> 00:17:27,300

Be careful out there, you guys.

339

00:17:33,300 --> 00:17:36,300

We don't want too far or something's out there and it's very close.

340

00:17:41,300 --> 00:17:43,300

Hey, Josh.

341

00:17:43,300 --> 00:17:45,300

Yeah, what's up, Kase?

342

00:17:45,300 --> 00:17:47,300

Hey, can you see my light over here?

343

00:17:47,300 --> 00:17:49,300

Yeah, I got you. What's going on?

344

00:17:49,300 --> 00:17:52,300

They are down, home front, all over the place back here.

345

00:17:56,300 --> 00:17:58,300

What do you got?

346

00:17:58,300 --> 00:18:00,300

Look at this one.

347

00:18:00,300 --> 00:18:02,300

Split open.

348

00:18:03,300 --> 00:18:07,300

There's no documented animal in this area picking up the upper trees like this.

349

00:18:12,300 --> 00:18:14,300

You hear that?

350

00:18:17,300 --> 00:18:19,300

Something went around.

351

00:18:33,300 --> 00:18:36,300

Right there behind you over there. Something definitely moving around over there.

352

00:18:41,300 --> 00:18:43,300

Come in, base camp?

353

00:18:43,300 --> 00:18:45,300

Yeah, go ahead, Josh.

354

00:18:45,300 --> 00:18:49,300

We're in this area where it looks like something big came through here.

355

00:18:49,300 --> 00:18:51,300

A lot of palm trees are trashed out.

356

00:18:51,300 --> 00:18:54,300

Looks like they've been ripped open.

357

00:18:56,300 --> 00:18:59,300

Just like something big ripped through here.

358

00:19:00,300 --> 00:19:04,300

You guys checking for any kind of tracks on the ground?

359

00:19:06,300 --> 00:19:08,300

It's almost impossible to see tracks out here.

360

00:19:08,300 --> 00:19:11,300

I mean, it's just the way that the ground is so sponged out.

361

00:19:16,300 --> 00:19:19,300

Stand by, Brad. We got something moving around right near us.

362

00:19:23,300 --> 00:19:25,300

Keep that machete up.

363

00:19:30,300 --> 00:19:33,300

Brad, this is Josh for sure. We got something moving around out here.

364

00:19:33,300 --> 00:19:35,300

We're definitely not alone.

365

00:19:43,300 --> 00:19:45,300

It sounds like we're being circled.

366

00:19:45,300 --> 00:19:47,300

Whatever it is, I think it knows we're here.

367

00:19:49,300 --> 00:19:52,300

You using the thermal? Are you picking up anything on that thing?

368

00:19:52,300 --> 00:19:54,300

I got nothing on the thermal yet.

369

00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:58,300

It's so hard to image on this thing though beyond about 10, 15 feet fully.

370

00:19:58,300 --> 00:20:00,300

It just gets too thick.

371

00:20:16,300 --> 00:20:18,300

Whatever it was, I think it's gone now.

372

00:20:18,300 --> 00:20:20,300

Why don't we head over to Brad and check it out and see if it went over there?

373

00:20:20,300 --> 00:20:24,300

But, eyes and ears open because there's definitely something rustling around out here.

374

00:20:28,300 --> 00:20:31,300

Hey, we had an antel out there near us for sure.

375

00:20:31,300 --> 00:20:33,300

It's just so dense out there.

376

00:20:33,300 --> 00:20:36,300

It's almost impossible to see anything with it with the thermal.

377

00:20:36,300 --> 00:20:41,300

We also definitely saw this area where it looked like something had just horned through there.

378

00:20:41,300 --> 00:20:44,300

All these palms had been ripped open.

379

00:20:44,300 --> 00:20:46,300

Something was definitely feeding off them.

380

00:20:46,300 --> 00:20:47,300

Right.

381

00:20:47,300 --> 00:20:50,300

But that's about it. No visual encounter.

382

00:20:50,300 --> 00:20:53,300

We're just going to go through the area and see if we can get it out.

383

00:20:53,300 --> 00:20:58,300

So, you know, automatically there's a sense of, I mean, danger or there's something big out here that I can't see.

384

00:20:58,300 --> 00:21:00,300

I think that's a lot of what's propelling the story along.

385

00:21:00,300 --> 00:21:06,300

It's just this environment. This is a, you know, this is a really, really scary environment.

386

00:21:06,300 --> 00:21:10,300

Our search for the Mopanguari was an exhausting and exhilarating experience.

387

00:21:10,300 --> 00:21:12,300

Though we didn't turn up any video evidence to analyze,

388

00:21:12,300 --> 00:21:15,300

I wanted to have an expert listen to the sound of the animal going through the area.

389

00:21:15,300 --> 00:21:17,300

I think that's a good thing.

390

00:21:17,300 --> 00:21:22,300

We caught the next flight back to LA where I sat down with Mike D, the former curator of the LA Zoo.

391

00:21:22,300 --> 00:21:26,300

I hoped he could decipher what spooked my team in the Amazon.

392

00:21:26,300 --> 00:21:30,300

Before we get into playing you this audio recording, let's just talk about a little bit, you know,

393

00:21:30,300 --> 00:21:34,300

what are some real world candidates for what we might have heard?

394

00:21:34,300 --> 00:21:37,300

One of the things would potentially be a taper.

395

00:21:37,300 --> 00:21:39,300

I think that's a good thing.

396

00:21:39,300 --> 00:21:41,300

I think that's a good thing.

397

00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:44,300

We're going to have real world candidates for what we might have heard.

398

00:21:44,300 --> 00:21:52,300

One of the things would potentially be a taper because they're the largest land mammal that is still living in South America that we know of.

399

00:21:52,300 --> 00:21:57,300

And would a taper be able to actually take down, you know, a full-size palm tree?

400

00:21:57,300 --> 00:22:00,300

I think that would be a little difficult for it to do.

401

00:22:00,300 --> 00:22:06,300

Let me play for you this sound that Brad and Araceli heard at base camp and see if you can make anything of it.

402

00:22:06,300 --> 00:22:10,300

What is that?

403

00:22:10,300 --> 00:22:13,300

Did you hear that?

404

00:22:13,300 --> 00:22:15,300

What is that?

405

00:22:15,300 --> 00:22:21,300

I mean it has some bass to it but it doesn't quite sound like a bird, doesn't quite sound like a mammal.

406

00:22:21,300 --> 00:22:23,300

I don't quite know what to make.

407

00:22:23,300 --> 00:22:28,300

You can share hair, the insects that are making that high pitched sound.

408

00:22:28,300 --> 00:22:32,300

But that's kind of a whoo, whoo.

409

00:22:32,300 --> 00:22:37,300

Right. When you hear that noise though it's not immediately characteristic of an animal that you kind of know.

410

00:22:37,300 --> 00:22:46,300

But there are people who believe that, you know, a giant ground sloth may have escaped extinction somehow and is living in the, you know, remote parts of the Amazon.

411

00:22:46,300 --> 00:22:49,300

Do you think that that's a plausible theory?

412

00:22:49,300 --> 00:22:53,300

Yes, I really do because we don't know what's out there.

413

00:22:53,300 --> 00:22:57,300

Almost daily someone describes a new species.

414

00:22:57,300 --> 00:23:03,300

There are competing theories as to the truth behind the Mop and Guari but perhaps the most interesting is the idea of ancestral memory.

415

00:23:03,300 --> 00:23:15,300

Since humans and giant sloths did coexist together thousands of years ago, it is possible that the stories of these massive creatures may have been passed down from one generation to another and fueled on by people getting into heebie-jeebies in the jungle.

416

00:23:15,300 --> 00:23:22,300

The Amazon is after all a place of shadow, full of elusive animals that are hard to see and buzzing with an endless stream of mysterious noises.

417

00:23:22,300 --> 00:23:29,300

My team and I certainly got close to something out there and the destroyed palm trees we discovered were undoubtedly the work of something hungry on the prowl.

418

00:23:29,300 --> 00:23:35,300

We found ourselves unable to say for sure what we experienced but felt lucky to have made it out of the jungles in one piece.

419

00:23:35,300 --> 00:23:45,300

As for the Mop and Guari, he seems to exist at the nexus of folklore and memory and with dense rainforest covering nearly 60% of this massive country, he might also just be real.

420

00:23:45,300 --> 00:23:51,300

From creatures on the ground to creatures in the sky, I turned my attention to another case on the other side of the world.

421

00:23:51,300 --> 00:24:00,300

If you've ever seen Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*, then you can imagine what it must be like for some villagers in southern Africa who say they're literally being hunted by a flying dinosaur.

422

00:24:00,300 --> 00:24:05,300

The locals call the suspect the Kongamado, which translates as Breaker of Votes.

423

00:24:05,300 --> 00:24:10,300

This big bird has been sporadically reported in Zambia, Angola and the Congo for hundreds of years.

424

00:24:10,300 --> 00:24:19,300

However, local news outlets in northern Zambia have reported a surge of recent run-ins with the Kongamado and I just had to see for myself what was going on.

425

00:24:19,300 --> 00:24:27,300

So my team and I geared up for a high-flying adventure half a world away and traveled from Los Angeles to Lusaka, Zambia.

426

00:24:27,300 --> 00:24:35,300

The Kongamado is described as a large reddish-colored creature with leathery wings spanning up to 10 feet and a nasty habit of devouring human flesh.

427

00:24:35,300 --> 00:24:44,300

Eyewitnesses have identified it through photos as looking exactly like a pterodactyl and say it has an unmistakable high-pitched cry that seems to fill the skies in all directions.

428

00:24:44,300 --> 00:24:51,300

And while there's no doubt that Africa is home to some of the world's most exotic creatures, could a flying dinosaur really be one of them?

429

00:24:51,300 --> 00:25:02,300

After touching down in the capital city of Lusaka, we went to meet with Michael Mumba, the most recent eyewitness who, according to local press, fled to the city after he and his friend came face-to-face with a flying dinosaur.

430

00:25:02,300 --> 00:25:08,300

Although his friend refused to go on camera stating fear of local ridicule, this man felt it important to heed us a warning.

431

00:25:08,300 --> 00:25:10,300

The creature attacked my friend.

432

00:25:10,300 --> 00:25:12,300

Was your friend badly injured?

433

00:25:12,300 --> 00:25:14,300

Yes, very badly injured.

434

00:25:14,300 --> 00:25:16,300

He sustained a dip.

435

00:25:16,300 --> 00:25:22,300

I think that is by the use of his claws or a tip.

436

00:25:22,300 --> 00:25:23,300

Claws, yeah?

437

00:25:23,300 --> 00:25:24,300

Yes.

438

00:25:24,300 --> 00:25:29,300

Then even here, as he tried to bite me on the face, he shot himself.

439

00:25:29,300 --> 00:25:33,300

And how big was the bird? How big was the creature?

440

00:25:33,300 --> 00:25:43,300

It was very big. With very long wings. The wings were way like, you know, more less like a... but now it was just too big.

441

00:25:43,300 --> 00:25:49,300

Now that I knew how the Kongamato might attack, next I wanted to get a better sense of the geography of the region where it's reported to live.

442

00:25:49,300 --> 00:25:53,300

Our next eyewitness gave us a better idea of exactly what we should expect.

443

00:25:53,300 --> 00:25:55,300

It is a very dangerous creature.

444

00:25:55,300 --> 00:25:58,300

Do you believe that there are many Kongamato?

445

00:25:58,300 --> 00:25:59,300

Yes.

446

00:25:59,300 --> 00:26:00,300

Living out of the swamps?

447

00:26:00,300 --> 00:26:01,300

Yes.

448

00:26:01,300 --> 00:26:03,300

And are there other dangerous animals which live there?

449

00:26:03,300 --> 00:26:06,300

We have croc dows and pox in the snacks.

450

00:26:06,300 --> 00:26:08,300

That sounds like a trip to Disney World.

451

00:26:08,300 --> 00:26:09,300

Yeah.

452

00:26:09,300 --> 00:26:10,300

Where should I start my search?

453

00:26:10,300 --> 00:26:15,300

It comes from... most of the pox is about 700.

454

00:26:15,300 --> 00:26:23,300

He went on to tell us the travel to a village near Lake Mauero, the closest populated area to the swamps and home to other eyewitnesses we'd read about in the news.

455

00:26:23,300 --> 00:26:25,300

We're going to roll straight up north towards the swamps.

456

00:26:25,300 --> 00:26:26,300

Right.

457

00:26:26,300 --> 00:26:31,300

We're already getting into some of the smaller villages, some of the swampy areas, the jungle areas.

458

00:26:31,300 --> 00:26:38,300

And we got one car with the hood up already, which we'll only assume means we'll be on the side of the road in 10 minutes.

459

00:26:38,300 --> 00:26:40,300

Pretty much par for the corks.

460

00:26:40,300 --> 00:26:44,300

Pretty much just part of the experience here on Destination Truth.

461

00:26:44,300 --> 00:26:49,300

Even though our jeep wasn't exactly purring like a kitten, we decided to drop the hood and take our chances.

462

00:26:49,300 --> 00:26:57,300

With our course now set for the nearly 10 hour journey to the wilds of northern Zambia, I was impressed that the roads were paved for about 3 miles.

463

00:27:04,300 --> 00:27:05,300

That's so cool.

464

00:27:05,300 --> 00:27:06,300

Yeah.

465

00:27:06,300 --> 00:27:07,300

It's like Jurassic Park out here.

466

00:27:07,300 --> 00:27:12,300

You get everything from big game, snakes to all sorts of beautiful birds out here.

467

00:27:12,300 --> 00:27:20,300

As day turned to night and as the rough terrain continued mile after mile, I began to wonder what was waiting for us in the dark jungles of northern Zambia.

468

00:27:24,300 --> 00:27:26,300

I thought I saw something.

469

00:27:27,300 --> 00:27:28,300

Hold on, hold on.

470

00:27:28,300 --> 00:27:29,300

Wow!

471

00:27:29,300 --> 00:27:30,300

Hey!

472

00:27:34,300 --> 00:27:39,300

After endless hours on primitive roads, we finally began to enter the most remote regions of the country.

473

00:27:39,300 --> 00:27:45,300

We stopped at a wildlife research station and sat down with a local game warden to find out what he thought people were seeing here.

474

00:27:45,300 --> 00:27:50,300

I think what they do see, which is close to Congomato, are bats.

475

00:27:50,300 --> 00:27:51,300

Are bats?

476

00:27:51,300 --> 00:27:52,300

Yeah.

477

00:27:52,300 --> 00:27:53,300

So there's a possibility that they're mistaking bats.

478

00:27:53,300 --> 00:27:54,300

Exactly.

479

00:27:54,300 --> 00:28:01,300

And are there other animals which live in the wild in Zambia that maybe people could mistake for the Congomato?

480

00:28:01,300 --> 00:28:05,300

Yeah, definitely like Psydubill Stork, Shubill.

481

00:28:05,300 --> 00:28:07,300

What is this guy that you have?

482

00:28:07,300 --> 00:28:08,300

This is a Shubill Stork.

483

00:28:08,300 --> 00:28:09,300

This is a Shubill Stork?

484

00:28:09,300 --> 00:28:10,300

Yeah.

485

00:28:10,300 --> 00:28:21,300

The Shubill is a very rare bird that makes its home in the swamps and marshes of this area, but with an appetite that leans toward fish, not humans, and certainly lacking a high-pitched battle cry that fills the skies in all directions,

486

00:28:21,300 --> 00:28:26,300

I wondered how it could be mistaken for the flesh-eating monster locals have described seeing.

487

00:28:26,300 --> 00:28:30,300

My team and I were pretty much winging at this point, and at first light we pressed onto the north.

488

00:28:33,300 --> 00:28:36,300

And by afternoon we finally arrived at the swamps.

489

00:28:36,300 --> 00:28:42,300

The swamps of northern Zambia are fed by 17 different rivers and are one of the most extensive wetlands on the planet.

490

00:28:42,300 --> 00:28:47,300

If we had a flying chance of finding a flying dinosaur here, we'd need to narrow down our search grid.

491

00:28:47,300 --> 00:28:53,300

We met a local fisherman who claimed he had a close encounter with the Kongamado and claimed to know where we might find it.

492

00:28:54,300 --> 00:28:56,300

Sorry for our fancy today.

493

00:28:56,300 --> 00:28:59,300

It was on the ground that dude was eating.

494

00:28:59,300 --> 00:29:00,300

He was eating on the ground?

495

00:29:00,300 --> 00:29:01,300

Yeah.

496

00:29:01,300 --> 00:29:02,300

Did it look like this?

497

00:29:02,300 --> 00:29:03,300

Chamonix coffee.

498

00:29:03,300 --> 00:29:04,300

Yes.

499

00:29:04,300 --> 00:29:10,300

Are you sure that what you saw was not a stork or a pelican or a heron?

500

00:29:10,300 --> 00:29:12,300

Yeah, he says it had a long cutty.

501

00:29:12,300 --> 00:29:14,300

Where does he think that this creature lives?

502

00:29:14,300 --> 00:29:18,300

He's seen it in the swamps and so on.

503

00:29:18,300 --> 00:29:21,300

And so does he think that it's a very dangerous creature?

504

00:29:21,300 --> 00:29:22,300

Charlie, but dangerous.

505

00:29:22,300 --> 00:29:27,300

He says it'll bite and it'll kill.

506

00:29:27,300 --> 00:29:28,300

Bite and kill?

507

00:29:28,300 --> 00:29:29,300

Yeah.

508

00:29:30,300 --> 00:29:36,300

We rented a banana boat so we could tour the swamps where the fisherman claimed he saw the Kongamado during the day.

509

00:29:38,300 --> 00:29:39,300

This is a stork.

510

00:29:39,300 --> 00:29:42,300

There's a number of different storks here in Zambia.

511

00:29:42,300 --> 00:29:47,300

And he may have seen these storks with these long beaks and mistaking them for something like the Kongamado.

512

00:29:52,300 --> 00:29:57,300

We continued to search throughout the afternoon and with evening approaching our quest to find the flying dinosaur

513

00:29:57,300 --> 00:30:01,300

hadn't yielded anything more than a few bug bites and a first degree sunburn.

514

00:30:01,300 --> 00:30:06,300

With night fast approaching, Brad, Araceli and I decided to walk the jungle perimeter of the swamp

515

00:30:06,300 --> 00:30:09,300

where eyewitnesses had also claimed they'd seen the creature.

516

00:30:09,300 --> 00:30:13,300

Based on eyewitness accounts in this area, this seems like our hotspot.

517

00:30:13,300 --> 00:30:15,300

Bad news is obviously we got some weather rolling in.

518

00:30:15,300 --> 00:30:17,300

I'll stay here and start getting gear set up while you guys head out.

519

00:30:17,300 --> 00:30:18,300

Great.

520

00:30:18,300 --> 00:30:19,300

All right, we'll see you guys in a few.

521

00:30:29,300 --> 00:30:31,300

Casey, we're about 300 yards in.

522

00:30:31,300 --> 00:30:33,300

We found a kind of rudimentary trail to follow.

523

00:30:33,300 --> 00:30:34,300

Really, really dark in here.

524

00:30:34,300 --> 00:30:36,300

A lot of thick canopy.

525

00:30:36,300 --> 00:30:37,300

I can hear something in here.

526

00:30:37,300 --> 00:30:39,300

I don't know what it is, but we're going to press on a little bit.

527

00:30:45,300 --> 00:30:47,300

Casey, we found a way up through the canopy.

528

00:30:47,300 --> 00:30:49,300

It's really, really dense down below.

529

00:30:49,300 --> 00:30:52,300

We found a way up on an old platform here.

530

00:30:52,300 --> 00:30:54,300

I'm picking up something enormous on the thermal.

531

00:30:54,300 --> 00:30:58,300

It's actually in the canopy and I'll tell you, there's an enormous amount of noise coming out of the canopy as well.

532

00:30:58,300 --> 00:31:02,300

I can see enormous black masses in the trees here all lumped together.

533

00:31:02,300 --> 00:31:05,300

On the thermal, it kind of reads like one large creature,

534

00:31:05,300 --> 00:31:09,300

but really, I think what we're seeing here is just enormous colonies of bats all together.

535

00:31:09,300 --> 00:31:12,300

I've got a few that are jumping up into the sky, but most of them are just,

536

00:31:12,300 --> 00:31:15,300

it looks like they're just still hanging out in the trees.

537

00:31:15,300 --> 00:31:18,300

This is back once the sun goes down, this show is going to get even bigger.

538

00:31:20,300 --> 00:31:21,300

Oh my God.

539

00:31:21,300 --> 00:31:22,300

Dude, they're going to go up.

540

00:31:22,300 --> 00:31:23,300

See how many there are?

541

00:31:23,300 --> 00:31:24,300

It's just thick.

542

00:31:24,300 --> 00:31:25,300

It's just dense black.

543

00:31:25,300 --> 00:31:27,300

All that dense black is bats.

544

00:31:30,300 --> 00:31:32,300

I think it's starting right now.

545

00:31:32,300 --> 00:31:33,300

They're going up.

546

00:31:33,300 --> 00:31:36,300

Casey is starting to look like these bats are mobilizing.

547

00:31:36,300 --> 00:31:38,300

They're really, really swarming now.

548

00:31:38,300 --> 00:31:40,300

Dude, look at it.

549

00:31:40,300 --> 00:31:42,300

Are we sure we want to stay up here?

550

00:31:44,300 --> 00:31:47,300

We're about to get swarmed by these freaking bats.

551

00:31:47,300 --> 00:31:50,300

Get your hoods up, holy cow.

552

00:31:50,300 --> 00:31:53,300

Casey, are you seeing this?

553

00:31:53,300 --> 00:31:57,300

Holy \*\*\*\*, it's bat sitting.

554

00:31:57,300 --> 00:31:59,300

Are we okay to be up here right now?

555

00:31:59,300 --> 00:32:01,300

I have no idea.

556

00:32:03,300 --> 00:32:05,300

I'm palace shot.

557

00:32:05,300 --> 00:32:07,300

I just attached the hands.

558

00:32:10,300 --> 00:32:11,300

The unusual here.

559

00:32:11,300 --> 00:32:22,300

Did you know this is a place where them■■low■.

560

00:32:22,300 --> 00:32:25,300

Yes, gentlemen, this has been I think when we look into this this is going to

561

00:32:25,300 --> 00:32:28,300

be a very strange place as keep being there right there.

562

00:32:29,300 --> 00:32:31,300

Nobody's ever been alive.

563

00:32:31,300 --> 00:32:35,300

Oh my God.

564

00:32:35,300 --> 00:32:43,300

Look out. Look at this. Just everywhere.

565

00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:47,300

Alright, it seems like these guys are up in a bout now and off to hunt.

566

00:32:47,300 --> 00:32:53,300

I mean, I think this could be a big piece of evidence for us in the sense that we know that the bat is one of the possible real-world culprits.

567

00:32:53,300 --> 00:32:54,300

Right.

568

00:32:54,300 --> 00:33:00,300

This creature, certainly having such an enormous concentration in them here in Zambia, probably means that at least some percentage of our eyewitnesses

569

00:33:00,300 --> 00:33:02,300

are misidentifying these.

570

00:33:02,300 --> 00:33:03,300

Right.

571

00:33:03,300 --> 00:33:06,300

Well, we still have a little bit of light though, which is trying to track back out of this jungle.

572

00:33:06,300 --> 00:33:07,300

It's super dense and dark down there.

573

00:33:07,300 --> 00:33:12,300

Let's make our way back out to the investigation site and see how those guys are coming along.

574

00:33:12,300 --> 00:33:18,300

The enormous swarms of bats circling our heads was a creepy experience and it had my crew on edge about investigating here at night.

575

00:33:18,300 --> 00:33:25,300

The game warden at the Wildlife Research Station theorized, among other things, that people are seeing bats, not dinosaurs, circling the skies.

576

00:33:25,300 --> 00:33:32,300

Having just witnessed enough bats to last me a lifetime, I found it difficult to accept that anyone could mistake a harmless bat for a prehistoric monster.

577

00:33:32,300 --> 00:33:34,300

My crew would have to buck up.

578

00:33:34,300 --> 00:33:36,300

This investigation was just getting started.

579

00:33:36,300 --> 00:33:45,300

With night upon us, our plan was to set up our investigation on the banks of the swamp where we were told the flying dinosaur comes out to feed on snakes, rodents, and sometimes people.

580

00:33:45,300 --> 00:33:49,300

Working among the food chain, we used a combination of equipment to maximize our search.

581

00:33:49,300 --> 00:33:54,300

First, a series of fixed infrared cameras were used to scan the swamps for any movement.

582

00:33:54,300 --> 00:34:00,300

To get a better look at the pitch black skies, we fired up our thermal imager, which would illuminate anything flying overhead.

583

00:34:00,300 --> 00:34:03,300

Alright, well listen, I'm going to take the thermal imager.

584

00:34:03,300 --> 00:34:07,300

I'm going to start scanning south of the bank a little bit.

585

00:34:07,300 --> 00:34:08,300

We'll be here.

586

00:34:08,300 --> 00:34:09,300

Alright, talk to you soon.

587

00:34:09,300 --> 00:34:10,300

Be careful.

588

00:34:10,300 --> 00:34:11,300

We'll do.

589

00:34:50,300 --> 00:34:53,300

Josh, do you have a base camp? Come in.

590

00:34:53,300 --> 00:34:54,300

Go ahead, Josh.

591

00:34:54,300 --> 00:34:57,300

I don't quite out here. It's pretty buggy.

592

00:34:57,300 --> 00:35:02,300

But, uh, no sign of anything out of the ordinary flying around.

593

00:35:02,300 --> 00:35:04,300

Yeah, probably that. Pretty quiet here too.

594

00:35:19,300 --> 00:35:20,300

What's that?

595

00:35:24,300 --> 00:35:25,300

What is that?

596

00:35:25,300 --> 00:35:27,300

It sounds like it's coming from all around me.

597

00:35:30,300 --> 00:35:33,300

I got something making a really weird noise out here.

598

00:35:34,300 --> 00:35:36,300

What kind of noise can you describe it?

599

00:35:36,300 --> 00:35:40,300

It's like a high-pitched chirping almost, but it's really loud.

600

00:35:40,300 --> 00:35:45,300

Yeah, it seems to have stopped for a moment, but we're going to press over there and see if we can hear it.

601

00:35:49,300 --> 00:36:02,300

I got a thermal hit in this tree. I can't get to it though.

602

00:36:07,300 --> 00:36:12,300

Alright guys, I'm going to employ a very scientific method over here to try to get a visual on this thing.

603

00:36:16,300 --> 00:36:17,300

Nope, still sitting there.

604

00:36:19,300 --> 00:36:21,300

Base to Josh. Come in, Josh.

605

00:36:21,300 --> 00:36:23,300

This is Josh. Come in.

606

00:36:23,300 --> 00:36:25,300

We're getting a lot of over here.

607

00:36:25,300 --> 00:36:27,300

They're flying all over us.

608

00:36:27,300 --> 00:36:28,300

What's going on over there?

609

00:36:28,300 --> 00:36:32,300

Uh, no more noises, but I'm picking up something on the thermal. Hold on.

610

00:36:36,300 --> 00:36:42,300

A couple of kind of strange hits on the thermal, but the stuff in the trees just kind of seems to come and go.

611

00:36:42,300 --> 00:36:45,300

It's probably just a bird or some small bat.

612

00:36:50,300 --> 00:37:01,300

Having traversed several miles in both directions of base camp with little or no evidence to show for my efforts, it was time for a new plan.

613

00:37:01,300 --> 00:37:05,300

I decided to take my investigation to the water on this small canoe.

614

00:37:05,300 --> 00:37:08,300

Oh, this canoe is such a piece.

615

00:37:08,300 --> 00:37:15,300

On one hand, I was hoping my lights and splashing would attract the Kongamado, turning me into a sort of human bait so I could get a first-hand encounter.

616

00:37:15,300 --> 00:37:19,300

On the other hand, I was hoping my canoe would sink to the bottom of the lake.

617

00:37:46,300 --> 00:37:48,300

You all right?

618

00:37:48,300 --> 00:37:54,300

Yeah, it's actually a little bit rough out here with all the wind on the lake, but tough to see much.

619

00:37:54,300 --> 00:38:01,300

A little bit of a sitting duck for crocs and hippos, but no sign of the Kongamado yet. Nothing really flying around out here.

620

00:38:16,300 --> 00:38:22,300

Guys, I've been out here for a couple of hours and it's not really turning anything up.

621

00:38:22,300 --> 00:38:27,300

I think I'm going to come back to shore and make another couple sweeps of the area and float with the thermal imager.

622

00:38:27,300 --> 00:38:29,300

Okay, copy.

623

00:38:46,300 --> 00:38:48,300

I thought I saw something.

624

00:38:48,300 --> 00:38:50,300

Josh, do bays come in bays?

625

00:38:50,300 --> 00:38:52,300

Yeah, go ahead, Josh.

626

00:38:52,300 --> 00:38:54,300

We're out here in kind of the dense part of the swamp.

627

00:38:54,300 --> 00:39:00,300

I thought I saw something on the thermal just buzzed by overhead, but not sure what it is.

628

00:39:00,300 --> 00:39:02,300

Copy. Do you hear anything with it?

629

00:39:02,300 --> 00:39:05,300

Nope. Just picked it up in the thermal for a split second.

630

00:39:05,300 --> 00:39:09,300

We're going to go in a bit deeper, see if we can figure it out.

631

00:39:09,300 --> 00:39:11,300

Hold on. Hold on.

632

00:39:11,300 --> 00:39:13,300

Whoa!

633

00:39:16,300 --> 00:39:18,300

I thought I saw something.

634

00:39:18,300 --> 00:39:20,300

Hold on. Hold on.

635

00:39:20,300 --> 00:39:21,300

Whoa!

636

00:39:21,300 --> 00:39:23,300

Josh to base camp, come in base camp.

637

00:39:23,300 --> 00:39:27,300

Something big buzzed over us and now we're hearing stuff on the ground right near us.

638

00:39:27,300 --> 00:39:29,300

I don't know quite what it is.

639

00:39:29,300 --> 00:39:34,300

It's not attacking, it's just something big with a big wingspan just whipped right over on top of us.

640

00:39:36,300 --> 00:39:38,300

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

641

00:39:38,300 --> 00:39:40,300

Yeah! Right there, right there!

642

00:39:40,300 --> 00:39:42,300

Guys, get over here.

643

00:39:42,300 --> 00:39:46,300

There is definitely something with a big wingspan whipping around here.

644

00:39:46,300 --> 00:39:49,300

Let's get a couple extra cameras down here to make sure we get a shot of this thing.

645

00:39:49,300 --> 00:39:51,300

Why don't we?

646

00:39:54,300 --> 00:39:58,300

I didn't get a very good look at it, but it seemed to be way too big to be a bat.

647

00:40:07,300 --> 00:40:09,300

What do you got?

648

00:40:09,300 --> 00:40:12,300

Whatever it was, it was big and it was moving fast.

649

00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:45,300

For the next two hours we searched the skies, but whatever buzzed by me never returned.

650

00:40:45,300 --> 00:40:48,300

To me it seemed too big to be a bat, but I couldn't be sure.

651

00:40:48,300 --> 00:40:52,300

We boarded our flight and headed back to our office in Los Angeles and sat down with Mike D,

652

00:40:52,300 --> 00:40:55,300

the former curator of the LA Zoo and wildlife expert.

653

00:40:55,300 --> 00:40:59,300

We hoped he could help us ID our mysterious flying friend.

654

00:40:59,300 --> 00:41:03,300

Here's a quick peek at what buzzes by us and hopefully you can ID it for us.

655

00:41:09,300 --> 00:41:11,300

Hold on, hold on.

656

00:41:11,300 --> 00:41:15,300

Josh to Base Camp, come in Base Camp, something big buzzed over us.

657

00:41:15,300 --> 00:41:19,300

One of the first things that comes to mind is it doesn't have a long beak.

658

00:41:21,300 --> 00:41:25,300

The thing that was startling about it in the moment is that it was quite large.

659

00:41:25,300 --> 00:41:29,300

It's not attacking, it's just something big wingspan just whipped right over on top of us.

660

00:41:29,300 --> 00:41:32,300

This was something that had a three or four foot wingspan on it.

661

00:41:32,300 --> 00:41:36,300

The other thing to think about is that neither Storks nor Shoebills

662

00:41:36,300 --> 00:41:39,300

normally would be flying at night time, that's not their M.O.

663

00:41:39,300 --> 00:41:42,300

And let me show you the thermal hit.

664

00:41:44,300 --> 00:41:45,300

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

665

00:41:45,300 --> 00:41:48,300

God! Right there, right there!

666

00:41:49,300 --> 00:41:51,300

So when you see that, your first impression is...

667

00:41:51,300 --> 00:41:54,300

Would be that it's probably some type of bat.

668

00:41:54,300 --> 00:41:56,300

Just the shape of the wings.

669

00:41:56,300 --> 00:41:59,300

It does sort of have that kind of classic bat shape.

670

00:41:59,300 --> 00:42:02,300

What do you kind of make of reports like this when you hear about people

671

00:42:02,300 --> 00:42:06,300

that really are cling to these beliefs that there is some sort of uncatalogged animal

672

00:42:06,300 --> 00:42:09,300

living out in their swamps? Do you think there's any possibility to those reports?

673

00:42:09,300 --> 00:42:16,300

I truly believe that they're based on something and whether it's something that was around at one

time

674

00:42:16,300 --> 00:42:19,300

or has been passed down through the ages.

675

00:42:19,300 --> 00:42:26,300

For me, there's no doubt in my mind that to some extent the locals who have a strong belief in this creature

676

00:42:26,300 --> 00:42:31,300

are seeing things like this and associating it with their belief system.

677

00:42:31,300 --> 00:42:33,300

With their belief system, I would agree with that.

678

00:42:33,300 --> 00:42:38,300

Michael's belief that our encounter was with a bat confirmed what we already suspected.

679

00:42:38,300 --> 00:42:41,300

The conga motto is often described as an enormous bat-like creature

680

00:42:41,300 --> 00:42:44,300

which should exclude normal sized bats from our list of suspects.

681

00:42:44,300 --> 00:42:46,300

That is unless they group together.

682

00:42:46,300 --> 00:42:50,300

The high-pitched sound that filled the skies from the massive groupings of fruit bats we encountered

683

00:42:50,300 --> 00:42:54,300

fit the eyewitnesses' description of the sound they attributed to the conga motto.

684

00:42:54,300 --> 00:42:58,300

Add to that the rarely seen but very real shoe bill stork which has a long beak,

685

00:42:58,300 --> 00:43:03,300

the hysteria that locals are experiencing here may well be the combination of a number of elements.

686

00:43:03,300 --> 00:43:08,300

On the other hand, my team and I were still at a loss to explain the physical attacks described by the witnesses.

687

00:43:08,300 --> 00:43:11,300

I had a plane fueled and ready to leave for another adventure,

688

00:43:11,300 --> 00:43:13,300

but with so many of these swamps so inaccessible,

689

00:43:13,300 --> 00:43:18,300

there are still thousands of square miles where something could still be hiding and waiting to be discovered.