

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

On this episode of Expedition X

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:07,000

Oh, I got something! Right there, right there!

3

00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:11,000

My team and I investigate sightings of a gigantic winged creature

4

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:14,000

said to be terrorizing the Midwest

5

00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000

Everybody sort of described a large, bat-like creature

6

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:21,000

I just thought, well, you know, I'm gonna die

7

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:22,000

Hang on!

8

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:24,000

According to witnesses

9

00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:27,000

You're not the only one who has seen something strange

10

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:29,000

The Mothman

11

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:30,000

Oh, wow!

12

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:31,000

That's huge!

13

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:32,000

It's back

14

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Holy...

15

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,000

What is that?

16

00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:40,000

My name is Josh Gates

17

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:45,000

In my travels, I've experienced strange things that defy logic

18

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:47,000

and made me question everything

19

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,000

Oh my God!

20

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:54,000

Now, I've put together a team to investigate the stranger side of the unknown

21

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:55,000

Let's go!

22

00:00:56,000 --> 00:01:00,000

Phil Torres is a scientist who hunts for rational explanations

23

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:03,000

This is a call for actually found stationery

24

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:08,000

Jessica Chobot's paranormal research has made her a true believer

25

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

There is a monster living in this forest

26

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Phil, Phil, Phil, I just saw something right across

27

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:15,000

Together, we're searching for answers

28

00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:17,000

What is that?

29

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

To the world's most extraordinary mysteries

30

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

This is Expedition X

31

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Alright, Phil and Jess, the case that we're dealing with today

32

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

is something that has actually been frightening a lot of people

33

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:37,000

It's a strange case, and frankly, it's pretty unsettling stuff

34

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:38,000

Well, you had me at frightening

35

00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:40,000

Yeah, what are we dealing with here?

36

00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:43,000

Well, it's not exactly an unidentified flying object

37

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:47,000

This case involves an unidentified flying creature

38

00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Now, before you run out of the room, Phil

39

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:50,000

I want to show you a video

40

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:52,000

Check this out

41

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:55,000

Whoa!

42

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

Maybe a bird?

43

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:01,000

Almost like a bat?

44

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:03,000

What is that?

45

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Looks like a dragon

46

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:06,000

Right?

47

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:08,000

I mean, those wings are huge

48

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:09,000

Wow

49

00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:10,000

It's a dragon

50

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:12,000

So whatever this is has not been identified

51

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

But it's one of a number of reports that people have come forward

52

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:19,000

with seeing flying, often humanoid looking creatures

53

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:21,000

And most of the people who see this stuff are terrified by it

54

00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Well, that makes sense

55

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:24,000

I think there's something very primal in us

56

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

about being afraid of giant predators in the sky

57

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

And there's also something just naturally menacing about

58

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

a dark, webbed winged, humanoid object flying through the sky

59

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:35,000

It's scary

60

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Well, that brings us to the case in question

61

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:40,000

People in two different parts of the country

62

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:44,000

are recently reporting encounters with

63

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:46,000

not just a flying creature

64

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

but the most famous flying cryptid of all time

65

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:51,000

Mothman

66

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Yes!

67

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:53,000

I was hoping you were going to say that

68

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:54,000

You love Mothman

69

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:55,000

I love Mothman

70

00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Phil?

71

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:57,000

I don't know about this one

72

00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:58,000

This is next level, Phil

73

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

Let's bring it to speed

74

00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:04,000

It's a story that begins in Point Pleasant, West Virginia

75

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:07,000

November 1966

76

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:11,000

That's when two young couples driving home after a double date

77

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:14,000

reported seeing a menacing winged, humanoid creature

78

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:16,000

on the edge of town

79

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:19,000

They said it had glowing red eyes

80

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:21,000

and it attacked them from the air

81

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:25,000

scratching the roof of their car as they tried to escape

82

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Mothman sightings around Point Pleasant

83

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:29,000

continued for the next year

84

00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:31,000

culminating with the creature being reported

85

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,000

on Point Pleasant's Silver Bridge

86

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

shortly before it collapsed

87

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:38,000

on December 15, 1967

88

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:40,000

46 people died

89

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:43,000

and many blamed Mothman

90

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:47,000

According to reports, he was spotted in Ohio in 1975

91

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:50,000

twice in 1981 in Pennsylvania

92

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,000

He was reportedly seen in Kentucky in 1986

93

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:56,000

then three more times in 1994

94

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:58,000

back in West Virginia

95

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

After that, things were relatively quiet

96

00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:03,000

until now

97

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

Over the last two years

98

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,000

there have been 87 sightings of Mothman

99

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

in and around Chicago

100

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,000

and in the Point Pleasant area

101

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:13,000

in the last three months alone

102

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:15,000

there have been nearly a dozen sightings

103

00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:17,000

So Jess, what do you make of this?

104

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,000

He's back, baby!

105

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,000

Yes, Mothman is back, I'm into it

106

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:23,000

I'm stoked for this

107

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Jess, why are you so into Mothman?

108

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:27,000

Well, I think it stems from when I was little

109

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:29,000

and I'd go to the library

110

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

and I'd sit there and read all these books

111

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

on the supernatural

112

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:35,000

and for some reason, you know, Mothman

113

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

as the cryptid really spoke to me

114

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:39,000

I found him super scary with the glowing red eyes

115

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:41,000

the fact that he was chasing these teenagers down

116

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:43,000

and he was still being seen today

117

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,000

I think he was kind of a harbinger of doom

118

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,000

they affected this entire town

119

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,000

and everybody said they saw something

120

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

Okay, so clearly you're in the believer column here

121

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:53,000

I'm in the believer column

122

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Now, Phil, I can guess that you're a little bit more skeptical here

123

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

and I think you and I are in the same column

124

00:04:57,000 --> 00:04:59,000

this is a really wild story, right?

125

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:01,000

But what we can't deny

126

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,000

is the sheer number of sightings

127

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:05,000

It is a lot of sightings

128

00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:07,000

and I can agree that these people are seeing something

129

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:09,000

but seeing what?

130

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:11,000

I mean, there's more drones flying around us now

131

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:13,000

than there are planes in the sky

132

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:15,000

But planes and drones don't flap their wings

133

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:17,000

and have glowing red eyes

134

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:19,000

and chase you

135

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

That is true

136

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

She's got you there, Phil

137

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:25,000

And look, this really is the heart of this mystery

138

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:27,000

you know, could so many people

139

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

that are so adamant about what they're seeing

140

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

be wrong?

141

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

Is it a case of an unidentified creature?

142

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:35,000

Is it misidentification? Is it hysteria?

143

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,000

Is it some sort of folklore

144

00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:39,000

just working on their imaginations

145

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:41,000

and that's what I want the two of you to find out

146

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

I think you've got to go to Chicago

147

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:45,000

but you've got to start in Point Pleasant

148

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,000

You've got to go to where the Mothman story began

149

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

and see if you can find some correlation

150

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

between those sightings

151

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,000

and the ones happening in Chicago

152

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:55,000

Sound good? Sounds good

153

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Sounds like a plan

154

00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:59,000

The team is traveling 540 miles southwest

155

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:01,000

to Point Pleasant, West Virginia

156

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:03,000

This place, I love it

157

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:05,000

It's fantastic

158

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:07,000

It is super crazy

159

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:09,000

It's really a weird vibe

160

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,000

It is steeped in Mothman lore

161

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:13,000

Point Pleasant is the epicenter

162

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:15,000

of Mothman mythology

163

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

While thousands come from all over the world

164

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:19,000

for the annual Mothman Festival

165

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:21,000

Many locals see the creature

166

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:23,000

as a genuine threat

167

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:25,000

and that's why they're obsessed with Mothman

168

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:27,000

and I do mean

169

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:29,000

obsessed

170

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:33,000

Jeff Wamsley is a researcher

171

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:35,000

who has spent decades gathering evidence

172

00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

about the Mothman phenomena

173

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:39,000

These are probably some of the rarest archives

174

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:41,000

we have in the museum

175

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:43,000

These are the handwritten police reports

176

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:45,000

of those original four witnesses

177

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

After they saw this thing

178

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

they went immediately to the Sheriff's Department

179

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

We're trying to wrap our heads around

180

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:53,000

that first incident and how it connects to all the other ones

181

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

even in Chicago

182

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

So can you break down the events of that evening for us?

183

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Sure

184

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:00,000

In November 15th, 1966

185

00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:02,000

we had the two young couples

186

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:04,000

They were just riding around

187

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

They were driving along a road that bordered

188

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

the southern edge of the West Virginia Ordinance Works

189

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:11,000

A former TNT plant

190

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

on the outskirts of town

191

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:15,000

That's where they encountered what they thought

192

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:17,000

was a man

193

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:19,000

But as they drove closer

194

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:21,000

they saw its 10-foot wingspan

195

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:23,000

and glowing red eyes

196

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Suddenly, it took off

197

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:28,000

flying over the top of the car

198

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Terrified

199

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:31,000

the driver tried to outrun the creature

200

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

but even at 75 miles an hour

201

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:35,000

he couldn't shake the talents

202

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

that were clawing at the top of the car

203

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:40,000

Once they got to the city limits

204

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:42,000

that veered off into a field

205

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:45,000

that was the first official local sighting here

206

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Minutes after they came into town

207

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:49,000

they were scared enough to go to the police department

208

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:51,000

They didn't want to, but they did

209

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:53,000

Did they sequester them all in different rooms?

210

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:54,000

Yes, they did

211

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:55,000

Got it

212

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:58,000

I have three of those four people's original reports right here

213

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:00,000

I saw, you know, this big

214

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:02,000

bird-looking thing

215

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:04,000

go over the top of my car

216

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:08,000

I could see it wasn't a man

217

00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:10,000

that it looked more like a bird

218

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:12,000

Instead of arms, they were like wings

219

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:14,000

I had a huge wingspan

220

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:16,000

that was at least 10 feet

221

00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:18,000

I was paralyzed

222

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:20,000

I just thought, well, you know, I'm gonna die

223

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

I had a huge wingspan

224

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:24,000

I was paralyzed

225

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:25,000

I was paralyzed

226

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:26,000

I was paralyzed

227

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:27,000

I'm gonna die

228

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:29,000

And how long did that activity

229

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,000

as far as the sightings go on for

230

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:33,000

before the Silver Bridge collapsed?

231

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

13 months to the day

232

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:36,000

that that original sighting

233

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:38,000

It's the worst bridge disaster in U.S. history

234

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Wow

235

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

46 people perished

236

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:43,000

I've talked to people who said they saw, you know,

237

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

a creature or a bird on top of the bridge

238

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,000

It has long been rumored that Mothman

239

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:50,000

was sighted atop the Silver Bridge

240

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:53,000

before it collapsed and killed 46 people

241

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:55,000

This event cemented Mothman's

242

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:57,000

sinister reputation

243

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

where he appears, tragedy follows

244

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

People claim that Mothman

245

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:03,000

popped up before the Chernobyl disaster

246

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:04,000

in 1986

247

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

and in Mexico during the swine flu epidemic

248

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:08,000

of 2009

249

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:10,000

and many say he's often

250

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:13,000

trailed by other mysterious figures

251

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:15,000

So I've often heard that when the Mothman

252

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:17,000

would show up that you would get some

253

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:18,000

men in black activity too

254

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:20,000

people coming in and knocking on doors

255

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:21,000

and asking questions

256

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:23,000

Did you see something like that?

257

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Yeah

258

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

The men in black were notorious for

259

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:28,000

just showing up unexpectedly

260

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,000

My own mother, she saw the men in black

261

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:34,000

Point-pleasant residents who claim to have seen Mothman

262

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000

reportedly received a visit from federal agents

263

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

It's unknown what the agents said

264

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:42,000

but after those visits

265

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

the witnesses never spoke of Mothman again

266

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:47,000

If the reports are true

267

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:49,000

what drew these so-called men in black

268

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:52,000

to this small West Virginia town?

269

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:54,000

Were they trying to cover up

270

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:56,000

a top-secret military project

271

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:58,000

or were they attempting to silence any talk

272

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:00,000

about a real life cryptid?

273

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,000

So is it possible for us to go there

274

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:05,000

to where it all began?

275

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Sure, yeah, the area is still accessible

276

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:10,000

Hearing about where the sightings happened

277

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:11,000

is one thing

278

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

but we want to see it for ourselves

279

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

Ground Zero for Mothman phenomena

280

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:19,000

The former West Virginia ordinance works

281

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

This is the area where there is a huge cluster of sights

282

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:24,000

and it's like sighting, sighting, sighting, sighting

283

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,000

all the way around the perimeter

284

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:29,000

so I figured this is the perfect place for us to poke around a little bit

285

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Over the years there have been dozens of credible witnesses

286

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:38,000

who describe seeing a winged human-like figure

287

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:42,000

either coming out of or disappearing into this area

288

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:45,000

and those sightings continue to this day

289

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Retired Air Force veteran and military police officer Dave Spinks

290

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

has investigated the Mothman phenomenon

291

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,000

for more than two decades

292

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:56,000

He has a unique theory about what these people are seeing

293

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:58,000

So it looks like an abandoned city

294

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:00,000

It was pretty much what it was

295

00:11:00,000 --> 00:11:03,000

You were standing in the heart of the West Virginia ordinance works

296

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

here in Point Pleasant, West Virginia

297

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:07,000

So when you say ordinance you mean explosives?

298

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:08,000

Yes, exactly

299

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:12,000

This eerie tract of land just outside of Point Pleasant

300

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:18,000

was an 8,000 acre facility that manufactured TNT during World War II

301

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:21,000

and stored it in 100 concrete bunkers

302

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:24,000

But rumors have swirled for decades

303

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

that there was more going on here than the military was admitting

304

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:33,000

They actually manufactured the explosives for the atomic bomb here

305

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Wow!

306

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

What's your personal take on the Mothman sightings in this area?

307

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

I believe it could be some type of military clandestine project

308

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:44,000

Though a military Mothman might sound like science fiction

309

00:11:44,000 --> 00:11:46,000

it's a fact that during the Cold War

310

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:50,000

the United States funded a number of highly unusual top secret programs

311

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:52,000

many with animals

312

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Project Pigeon deployed bombs

313

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:57,000

with pigeons acting as guidance mechanisms

314

00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:59,000

and Project Acoustic Kitty

315

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:02,000

intended to use cats to spy on the Kremlin

316

00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:05,000

The Bat Bomb was a plan to use bats

317

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:08,000

to deliver explosive devices into enemy cities

318

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:12,000

Some have suggested Mothman is actually the biological product

319

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:14,000

of similar top secret experiments

320

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:16,000

a genetically modified bird

321

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,000

or perhaps even a human

322

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:20,000

It's a wild theory

323

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:26,000

But what can't be ignored is that people have been seeing something lurking in these woods

324

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:27,000

Check this out

325

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:32,000

Dave has uncovered a once classified 1940s sight map for the ordnance works

326

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:34,000

So right out here what we have

327

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:39,000

is 300 acres of war department land other than the TNT area

328

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:45,000

My contacts told me that there was definitely clandestine activity going on out here

329

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:47,000

So out of those 8,000 acres

330

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:49,000

300 of them are this war department

331

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

Don't go in there, no trespassing

332

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Absolutely

333

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:56,000

It does seem possible that during the time of the original Mothman sightings

334

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:59,000

there could have been top secret military activity at this plant

335

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:03,000

We're following Dave's map to see if we can find any evidence

336

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:05,000

to support this theory

337

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

To get there we'll have to navigate a river of toxic sludge

338

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:11,000

that surrounds the entire abandoned facility

339

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:15,000

Some say it's a man made barrier meant to keep people out

340

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:18,000

Have you ever brought a boat down this way before?

341

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:19,000

No we haven't

342

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:21,000

What do you think about this water? Special stuff?

343

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:22,000

Yes

344

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:25,000

On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the worst

345

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:27,000

How crazy are we for doing this?

346

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Probably a 10

347

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Oh it's good, I always wanted to be an overachiever

348

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:34,000

After securing a boat to navigate the swamp

349

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:36,000

we travel down to the water's edge

350

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Ready?

351

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:39,000

Yeah

352

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Okay, going in

353

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:53,000

I mean this area out here, this is next to the level habitat

354

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:55,000

This is where a lot of the sightings happened

355

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:57,000

This is where the government was active

356

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:00,000

This was his like default go to spot

357

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:02,000

This is where it all went down

358

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:05,000

There we go

359

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:10,000

After paddling through the muck

360

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:13,000

we eventually come ashore and set out on foot

361

00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:16,000

Finally we make it to the area on the map

362

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,000

where some believe the government conducted

363

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:21,000

a secret military project that can explain the Mothman sightings

364

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:24,000

I think I see something

365

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Here we go

366

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

This thing is completely covered by earth

367

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:30,000

Look at this

368

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Yeah

369

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

It is like part of the landscape here

370

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:37,000

This thing hasn't been opened in decades

371

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Okay, ready?

372

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Alright, one more, ready?

373

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:52,000

Set

374

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Oh, what is that?

375

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Okay

376

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:09,000

Our Mothman investigation has led to the innermost area

377

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:11,000

of the West Virginia Ordinance Plant

378

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:13,000

Wow

379

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:15,000

Phil and Jess are tracking a controversial theory

380

00:15:15,000 --> 00:15:18,000

that top secret military experiments with animals

381

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:19,000

or even people

382

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:21,000

conducted out of these bunkers

383

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:24,000

could be responsible for the Mothman sightings

384

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:27,000

Either way, people have been seeing something

385

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:29,000

hiding amidst these ruins

386

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:31,000

The question is, what?

387

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Ready? Set

388

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Holy

389

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:41,000

What is that?

390

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:55,000

A barrel of diesel oil?

391

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:57,000

What is this?

392

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:01,000

And a sprocket

393

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

Let's go look at this

394

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:08,000

Look

395

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:12,000

Why would you just leave all this stuff behind?

396

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:15,000

No, why does it look like something was cheered up here?

397

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:19,000

That does look like kind of like a wrist-pun or something

398

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:23,000

That's kind of creepy

399

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

Oh, what's that?

400

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:29,000

A lot of old fire extinguisher

401

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Dayton fire extinguisher

402

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:35,000

Dayton, Ohio

403

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Is there a date on here?

404

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,000

I don't think so, but yeah, that's interesting

405

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:42,000

this is coming from Dayton

406

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Yeah

407

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

The Bunker

408

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Having fully explored the bunker

409

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

we return to the boat and begin paddling back

410

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:57,000

only to find another mysterious structure

411

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Look at that

412

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:04,000

What is this?

413

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Let's see if we can get in

414

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:15,000

Let's go

415

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:29,000

Oh

416

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Oh my god

417

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:46,000

Oh

418

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Wow

419

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:55,000

This is huge

420

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:04,000

I'm almost afraid to put my paddle in the water

421

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:05,000

It is, look at, there's

422

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:06,000

What's down there? What's down there?

423

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:07,000

I don't know

424

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:18,000

So did you see anything under the water?

425

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:19,000

What's there?

426

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:20,000

I don't know

427

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:23,000

I mean, if you're going to be a mothman

428

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:25,000

why wouldn't you live here?

429

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Oh, did you hear that?

430

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:33,000

There was someone over there

431

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:36,000

That sounded like it was coming from outside

432

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:39,000

Come on, let's get out there

433

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:58,000

Did you hear that?

434

00:18:58,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa

435

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:01,000

Something out there, something out there

436

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Did you see it? I heard it over here somewhere

437

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,000

Shine the flashlight up in that tree

438

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:11,000

Wait, I think I see it

439

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:14,000

What is that?

440

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:16,000

It just moved

441

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:17,000

To the left, to the left

442

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:19,000

It's trying to avoid the light

443

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:21,000

Yeah, there's something over there

444

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:22,000

I'm going to paddle this a little closer

445

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Okay

446

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:32,000

I've got the thermal camera

447

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:34,000

If there's anything biological giving off heat

448

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:36,000

we'll see it on this

449

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:43,000

It sounded like it was up in the tree tops here

450

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Where? Short point your light where you think you saw it?

451

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:46,000

Yeah, right up here

452

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Alright

453

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:49,000

I'm looking

454

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Hey, I think I see something on the thermal

455

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:56,000

Oh my god

456

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:58,000

Whoa, what do you think that is?

457

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:01,000

I think I lost it

458

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:07,000

Well, let's keep heading towards the shore

459

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:09,000

and see what we can find once we're on land

460

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Alright

461

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Is that the tree we saw something in?

462

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Something in?

463

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:27,000

I'm not sure

464

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,000

It might be that one over there

465

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:31,000

I don't see anything

466

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:39,000

After another hour of searching

467

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:42,000

we still haven't made contact with the source of the noise

468

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:44,000

and whatever we saw on the thermal camera

469

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:46,000

With the sun on the horizon

470

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:48,000

we decide to head back

471

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,000

The items we found at the ordinance plant

472

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:53,000

support Dave's theory that a secret military operation

473

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:55,000

could have been conducted here

474

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:58,000

but what sort of experiment could account for the mothman?

475

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:03,000

We check in with Josh to update him on our investigation

476

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:10,000

Hello, how's West Virginia treating ya?

477

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:13,000

We're definitely getting into some weird stuff out here

478

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Alright, so bring we up to speed

479

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:18,000

So that area where all of the original mothman sightings

480

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:20,000

took place, the West Virginia ordinance works

481

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:22,000

The TNT plant

482

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:23,000

Yeah, exactly

483

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:25,000

We got the plans for the area

484

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:27,000

and right there in the center

485

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

has been just sectioned off as war department

486

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:31,000

with no explanation given

487

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:33,000

War department? Okay

488

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:35,000

So what are you thinking, maybe something top secret

489

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:36,000

was going on out there?

490

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Possibly

491

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:39,000

and we actually went out to that area last night

492

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:41,000

And is there anything in that area?

493

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

There were these sealed off bunkers there

494

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:46,000

and we went into one of them

495

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:48,000

and it was basically half hidden

496

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:50,000

kind of buried in the ground right there

497

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,000

What was inside?

498

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:53,000

There was a place that was supposed to be storing TNT

499

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:55,000

There was a lot of weird stuff in there

500

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:58,000

We found chains, shackles, a diesel drum

501

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:01,000

There was a really old fire extinguisher from Dayton, Ohio

502

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:03,000

There were tools

503

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Hold on, hold on, the fire extinguisher was from Dayton?

504

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:06,000

It was labeled Dayton?

505

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:07,000

Yeah

506

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Dayton, Ohio is home to Wright Patterson Air Force Base

507

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:13,000

One of the most famous military bases in the country

508

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:16,000

also a place where a lot of top secret military activity

509

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:18,000

took place, that's on record

510

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,000

If in fact there was some sort of top secret facility

511

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:22,000

in Point Pleasant

512

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:25,000

Wright Patterson and Dayton, that's like 150 miles away

513

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:27,000

that's not far at all

514

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Maybe there is a relationship there

515

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

But that place is extremely restricted

516

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:33,000

You're talking about what a lot of people consider to be

517

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:35,000

the real area of 51

518

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:39,000

and I just don't know how we would ever be able to investigate that

519

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Well, I might have a way

520

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:55,000

The team and I are reviewing the discoveries they made

521

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:57,000

at the West Virginia Ordnance Plant

522

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:00,000

and whether the Mothman sightings might be explained

523

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:03,000

by a top secret military program

524

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:06,000

The challenge now is getting access to one of the most

525

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:09,000

secretive military bases in existence

526

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:12,000

Wright Patterson Air Force Base

527

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:15,000

I have a contact from Wright Patterson

528

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:18,000

from a military investigation we did several years ago

529

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:20,000

I'll see if I can connect all of you

530

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:23,000

In the meantime, we've still got these eyewitness sightings

531

00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:26,000

in Chicago and I think you've got to head there next

532

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:27,000

Absolutely

533

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Also, I've learned back here that one of the eyewitnesses there

534

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:35,000

claims that he actually has images of his encounter with Mothman

535

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

though he's been hesitant to show it

536

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:38,000

I want to see that

537

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:39,000

Alright, let's go to Chicago

538

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Yeah, down

539

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:41,000

To Chicago, good luck

540

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

While I work on access to Wright Patterson Air Force Base

541

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:53,000

the team travels 438 miles northwest to Chicago

542

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:56,000

I'll admit, it's a strange place to find Mothman

543

00:23:56,000 --> 00:24:00,000

but don't tell that to the people who say they've seen him here

544

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:02,000

So I've actually hooked us up with somebody

545

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:05,000

that's going to walk us through all those recent sightings

546

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:07,000

and we're going to have to go up, like, really high

547

00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:08,000

What do you mean high?

548

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,000

Like, Mothman high

549

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:14,000

No Chicago structure is more iconic than Willis Tower

550

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:16,000

once known as the Sears Tower

551

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:19,000

it is the second tallest building in the Americas

552

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:23,000

and the place where eyewitnesses have reported seeing Mothman

553

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:27,000

Jessica and Phil are here to meet author and paranormal investigator

554

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:28,000

Going up?

555

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:29,000

Tobias Wayland

556

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:33,000

Tobias has been gathering data on the Chicago Mothman sightings

557

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:37,000

since he first got wind of a trio of recent reports

558

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:40,000

Hey, Tobias

559

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:41,000

Sorry, I'm a little late

560

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:42,000

That's a lot of stairs

561

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:44,000

Sure

562

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:46,000

So why did you bring us here?

563

00:24:46,000 --> 00:24:47,000

Well, it wasn't me

564

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:48,000

The Mothman did

565

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:49,000

The Mothman

566

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:52,000

Over a thousand feet up chose this location

567

00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:53,000

Higher, actually

568

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:57,000

The sighting that supposedly took place right here

569

00:24:57,000 --> 00:24:59,000

had the creature at the very top

570

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Wow

571

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:01,000

There's a guy, Guillermo

572

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:02,000

and he's outside smoking

573

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:05,000

just after 5pm in July of 2017

574

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:09,000

and he sees something on top of the tower

575

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:11,000

and as he's standing there

576

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:16,000

this winged human jumps off of the tower

577

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:20,000

After that, the sightings just kept coming

578

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:22,000

and everybody sort of described the same thing

579

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:26,000

which was a large bat-like creature

580

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:34,000

We've got probably well over 100 different reports

581

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:36,000

and associated phenomena

582

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:38,000

All within this area or just across the board

583

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:42,000

Within 200 miles of Lake Michigan

584

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:43,000

Well, it's really interesting

585

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:48,000

because Mothman always, at least the reports

586

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:50,000

and stories that I've heard and read

587

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,000

is that it's usually in kind of rural areas

588

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:55,000

I've never heard of him in the middle of Chicago

589

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Let me show you a map

590

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:06,000

They're almost always centered around green spaces

591

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:10,000

I'm actually really surprised at how many are in the city too

592

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,000

A lot of people probably don't realize

593

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:14,000

that they are surrounded by nature

594

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:16,000

that there are owls here

595

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:17,000

there are herons here

596

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:18,000

there are a lot of big birds

597

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:21,000

and so when it's dark and they see something flying

598

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:23,000

and they know that Mothman has been sighted here

599

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:25,000

maybe that's why they're thinking it's Mothman

600

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:28,000

There isn't going to be as much physical evidence

601

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:31,000

and so the criteria I have to use to judge those sightings

602

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:34,000

is the credibility of the witnesses themselves

603

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:39,000

and there have been a good number of very frightened

604

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:42,000

very otherwise normal people who have come forward

605

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:44,000

and recounted these stories

606

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:47,000

and when you're dealing with a normal, credible person

607

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:49,000

who's telling you that they were standing

608

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:51,000

only several feet away from something

609

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:54,000

that looked like a winged humanoid

610

00:26:54,000 --> 00:26:56,000

I feel like under those circumstances

611

00:26:56,000 --> 00:26:58,000

it would be very difficult, if not impossible

612

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:00,000

to misidentify some sort of large bird

613

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:02,000

I'm eager to speak with a Chicago eye witness

614

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:04,000

to see if the Mothman sightings here

615

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:08,000

might also be explained by some kind of secret military program

616

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:12,000

so we head southwest from Willis Tower to the lower west side

617

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:15,000

that's where we're meeting Kelly Hanata

618

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:18,000

the eye witness that has been reluctant to release his evidence

619

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:20,000

at least so far

620

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:30,000

what's your experience been? Walk us through it

621

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:33,000

when I was on my way to work riding my bike

622

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:36,000

this is the route that I take pretty much daily

623

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:39,000

so as I'm pulling up to this intersection

624

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:42,000

I'm just kind of gazing out looking at the flags above the library

625

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:46,000

and I see another gentleman start pointing to the sky

626

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:48,000

and that's when you see a large flying object

627

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:50,000

until I immediately think in my head

628

00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:52,000

hey, I think that's the Mothman

629

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:56,000

so you immediately went to Mothman?

630

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:00,000

yeah, so, well certainly at the time of when I'm experiencing this

631

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:04,000

and viewing it, I'm almost positive that what I'm capturing on film is the Mothman

632

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:09,000

I had the GoPro on me and I was able to get that captured

633

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:11,000

is there any way we can see that footage of the Mothman?

634

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:13,000

yes, please

635

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:17,000

I kind of hesitant if you've been showing people now

636

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:20,000

just because it almost seems like a point of ridicule

637

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:23,000

just for like, people will either see one thing or the other

638

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:27,000

and then I look like a crazy person for coming forward with the Mothman sighting

639

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:29,000

so, you know, I'll tell you what, what's important here is

640

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:33,000

you're not the only one who has seen something strange

641

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:35,000

and what you saw still is a mystery

642

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:38,000

and we're here to help and see if we can get to the bottom of that mystery

643

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:41,000

yeah, well, I mean, so I do have it with me

644

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:44,000

and I have a few of the stills

645

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:46,000

a little bit of an idea

646

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:48,000

oh, no, that's huge

647

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:56,000

The Mothman

648

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:01,000

my team is in Chicago

649

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:04,000

investigating recent reports of a giant winged creature

650

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

Kelly Hanata was cycling to work

651

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:09,000

wearing a camera on his helmet

652

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:13,000

when he captured images of something large flying in the sky

653

00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:17,000

oh yeah, there he is

654

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:19,000

oh wow

655

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:25,000

so here's where it is right here

656

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:27,000

it basically starts from this area

657

00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:30,000

heading kind of in a southwest direction

658

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:32,000

almost into the wind the entire time

659

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:40,000

so Kelly, I gotta say, especially in this frame right here

660

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:43,000

as much as it would be amazing if there's a photo of Mothman

661

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:47,000

to me, this just looks like a really big impressive bird

662

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:50,000

well, it would have to be at least a 10 foot wingspan

663

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:51,000

given the size

664

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:54,000

yeah, but a bird is not going to attract that kind of attention

665

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:55,000

from people on the ground

666

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:57,000

to actually stop on their way to work

667

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:59,000

and point up in the sky

668

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:02,000

I do that if they're like a great horned owl or a giraffe falcon

669

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:04,000

I mean, I think there's some really cool

670

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:07,000

a unique amazing person

671

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:08,000

are you going to call me a nerd?

672

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:09,000

no

673

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:10,000

you're going to call me a nerd

674

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:14,000

Kelly's footage shows something human-sized flying above Chicago

675

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:17,000

given its size and shape, many have suggested

676

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:19,000

it might have been a person in a wingsuit

677

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:22,000

experts have also theorized that sightings at Willis Tower

678

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:25,000

could have been a base jumper illegally jumping from the roof

679

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:28,000

to put these theories to the test

680

00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:30,000

we're heading to an indoor skydiving facility

681

00:30:30,000 --> 00:30:35,000

to meet with expert wingsuit pilot and world record holder, Joe Riddler

682

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:39,000

we've actually been running around Chicago

683

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:41,000

investigating the Mothman sightings

684

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:42,000

interesting

685

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:44,000

yeah, we suspect it could be any number of things

686

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:47,000

but one of the things we were thinking of is maybe a base jumper

687

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:48,000

or a guy wearing a wingsuit

688

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

basically somebody like you

689

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:52,000

because you've done a lot of jumps, yeah?

690

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:53,000

yeah, absolutely

691

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:55,000

I'm just under 1500 jumps right now

692

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:56,000

wow

693

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:57,000

yeah

694

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:00,000

to be clear, base jumping is an extreme sport

695

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:02,000

where people leap and then parachute from cliffs

696

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:04,000

and yes, tall buildings

697

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:07,000

on the other hand, a wingsuit has sections of fabric

698

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:10,000

that inflate to allow gliding through the air

699

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

before deploying a shoot for landing

700

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:14,000

what would be a giveaway?

701

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:17,000

a sign that that person is a base jumper

702

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:20,000

wearing a wingsuit versus, oh hey, that's Mothman

703

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:23,000

when it comes to base jumping, they're all kind of ninjas of the night

704

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:26,000

it's not exactly a legal sport to participate in

705

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:30,000

so jumping in the day would be one red flag

706

00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:34,000

another would be, you know, the height of the object that you're jumping off of

707

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:36,000

another is landing area

708

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:42,000

we showed Joe the schematic of where eyewitness Guillermo spotted the wing figure

709

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:45,000

he said he was looking up at that ledge

710

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:46,000

and they got jumped

711

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:51,000

he claims he saw it just kind of fly away towards the lake

712

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:52,000

is that doable?

713

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:53,000

oh no, absolutely not

714

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:57,000

so the height of this ledge

715

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:00,000

is high enough to do a wingsuit base jump

716

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:05,000

but given all of the complexities of the landing areas around here

717

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:08,000

probably not a plausible solution

718

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:13,000

we also showed Joe the images that Kelly Hanada took with his GoPro

719

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:15,000

which Joe also dismisses

720

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:18,000

they were in a wingsuit or base jumper either

721

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:23,000

if we're going to document our own encounter with the Mothman

722

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:26,000

we need to look for it in its natural habitat

723

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:31,000

a biological creature of this size might pass through the big city on occasion

724

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:33,000

but it certainly won't make its home here

725

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:38,000

one of the densest areas of recent sightings nearby

726

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:41,000

is only 15 miles northwest of the city

727

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

in a 20 mile stretch of forest preserve

728

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,000

no humans, lots of animals, plenty of water

729

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:50,000

if the Mothman is real, this could be his home

730

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:55,000

by the way, wait to see what I got inside

731

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:56,000

what did you get?

732

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:59,000

our goal is to try to photograph whatever it is that people are seeing out here

733

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:02,000

and to do that, we'll use several motion sensitive wildlife cameras

734

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:04,000

so what do you think about this?

735

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:06,000

uh, overkill? what's the crossbow for?

736

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:08,000

we're going to shoot it up into the tree

737

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:10,000

and at the end of the fishing line we'll put a trail cam

738

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:13,000

so if anything flies by, we'll get a photo of it

739

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:17,000

we're dividing the forest into quadrants and placing cameras in each corner

740

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:20,000

we attach cameras to trees along trails

741

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,000

and use the crossbow to hoist cameras to higher positions

742

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:25,000

with a better view of the skies

743

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:29,000

we finish setting up the cameras just as day turns tonight

744

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:33,000

any motion, it'll trigger, it'll take a photo

745

00:33:33,000 --> 00:33:36,000

when I think of an area like this, this is habitat at its prime

746

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:38,000

there's tons of sightings around this park

747

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:41,000

I'm sure there are all sorts of things living around here

748

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:44,000

so what is the weirdest thing you've ever seen with those cameras?

749

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:46,000

well in Central America, I've seen jaguars

750

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:49,000

sometimes we actually see the poachers in the area

751

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:51,000

and they come by with their guns and they can hear us

752

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:55,000

wait, what was that?

753

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:56,000

I don't know

754

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:58,000

it sounded like it was coming from over there

755

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:01,000

I got the thermal camera

756

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:04,000

yeah, we definitely got moving

757

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

I saw it, I saw it

758

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

you're definitely there

759

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:09,000

yeah, might open that tree

760

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:11,000

oh, I got something

761

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:13,000

come here, yeah, right there, right there, right there

762

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:14,000

it just moved

763

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:30,000

Jess and Phil are pursuing the idea that someone from right Patterson Air Force Base

764

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:35,000

may be able to provide information about a mysterious flying something

765

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:37,000

in the skies of West Virginia

766

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:39,000

now it may sound like the stuff of science fiction

767

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:40,000

but consider this

768

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:44,000

by the time of the original Mothman sightings in 1966

769

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:48,000

the base had served as headquarters for three top secret programs

770

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:51,000

tasked with studying UFOs

771

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:54,000

the most comprehensive among them, Project Blue Book

772

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:58,000

this was the program that investigated more than 12,000 UFO sightings

773

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:02,000

to determine whether they posed threats to national security

774

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:08,000

it was also during this time that joint Army Navy Air Force Regulation No. 146 was passed

775

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:14,000

making it a crime to discuss classified UFO reports with unauthorized persons

776

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:19,000

but decades later, Project Blue Book's existence has been officially acknowledged

777

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:23,000

and tens of thousands of documents have since been declassified

778

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:27,000

those who spent their careers at right Patterson Air Force Base

779

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:30,000

may now speak about some of the military's activities

780

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

around the time of the original Mothman sightings

781

00:35:45,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Phil and Jessica are north of Chicago

782

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:51,000

investigating a cluster of recent Mothman sightings

783

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:54,000

while setting up motion-activated wildlife cameras

784

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:56,000

they hear something in the tree line

785

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:58,000

it's moving

786

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:03,000

yeah, we definitely got movement

787

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:07,000

oh, I got something!

788

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:08,000

I got something?

789

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:10,000

yeah, yeah, right there, right there, right there

790

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:15,000

I don't see it anymore

791

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:16,000

I'll see it either

792

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:18,000

did you hear something?

793

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

anything, anything?

794

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

I don't see it, I see it

795

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:28,000

we spend hours searching for the source of the noise in the trees to no avail

796

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:33,000

with the sun about to come up, we make sure our trail cameras are still running

797

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:36,000

to gather evidence long after we leave

798

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:39,000

and that's when we get word from Josh

799

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:41,000

time for a road trip

800

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:44,000

he's gotten us access to a right Patterson Insider

801

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:47,000

someone who can speak to whether there's any military program

802

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:50,000

that might help explain the point-pleasant Mothman sightings

803

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:56,000

so, right Patterson Air Force Base and the West Virginia Ordnance Plant

804

00:36:56,000 --> 00:37:00,000

the link here, we don't quite have it down

805

00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:02,000

and I don't know if we sound crazy right now

806

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:04,000

I mean, we probably do sound crazy, which is fine with me

807

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:08,000

here's the thing, military bases, they still talk to each other

808

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

so it wouldn't surprise me at all

809

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:15,000

if some out-of-the-way area had some sort of connection to nearby bases

810

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,000

that's true

811

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:23,000

to meet Josh's contact, we're driving 300 miles southeast from Chicago to Dayton, Ohio

812

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Ray Shomansky is a retired engineer who worked on classified projects at Wright Patterson Air Force Base

813

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:34,000

he's asked to meet us at an underground bunker just a few miles away

814

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:38,000

a location that once housed top-secret research programs

815

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:41,000

so Ray, how long did you work here?

816

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:45,000

I spent nearly four decades at Right Patterson Air Force Base

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00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:46,000

what were you doing there?

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00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:49,000

I was an electrical engineer in the Department of Defense's weapon systems

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00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:53,000

so as part of that, I worked on a number of secret programs

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00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:59,000

and in a place like this, you can imagine how easy it was to keep a secret

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00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:05,000

this abandoned facility once played host to the most secretive military research program in history

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00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

the Manhattan Project

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00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:11,000

from the late 1930s to the mid 1940s

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00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:15,000

more than 130,000 people worked in absolute secrecy

825

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:18,000

building the world's first atomic bomb

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:27,000

so the theory that we're kind of coming up with for these mothman sightings

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00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

is that perhaps it is an experiment by the government

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00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:33,000

some sort of testing they were doing or anything like that

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00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

you know that is possible because it's the early 60s

830

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:38,000

in fact the time frame is perfect for it

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00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:40,000

new laboratories were being built

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00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

new technologies were being developed

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00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:48,000

a lot of that technology would have been perfected at Right Patterson Air Force Base

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00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:50,000

integrated circuits and fiber optics

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:54,000

and new materials, tough durable materials for flight suits

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00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:58,000

or anything that they would spend off for a military application

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00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:02,000

so what you're telling us is that Right Patterson Air Force Base

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00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:05,000

might have engineered flight suits

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00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:09,000

and then that might explain the potential for some mothman sightings

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00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:11,000

I'm saying exactly that

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00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:14,000

this was the height of the Cold War

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00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:17,000

what was the big motivation at the time for developing new technology

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00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:20,000

something like a flight suit or a parachute

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00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:25,000

the military would be interested in some type of a singular soldier

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00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:28,000

their transportation because they could do some sabotage

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00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:30,000

or they could do some surveillance

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00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:35,000

with either a parafoil or a cruciform type suit that was being developed at the time

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00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:37,000

or even those jet packs

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:40,000

and it turns out that the wind tunnel at Right Patterson Air Force Base

850

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:42,000

was used to perfect the design

851

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:46,000

wow so the military was very much aware of this new technology

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00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:49,000

and it's possible that flight testing was being done

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00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:51,000

could have been done anywhere

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00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:56,000

and perhaps when somebody saw a person flying for the very first time

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:00,000

could easily have been misidentified as somebody that we now call mothman

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00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:06,000

it's possible that mothman may be related to an extraordinary

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00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:09,000

but very real top secret government program

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00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:13,000

this now declassified footage from 1961

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:15,000

pulled from the National Archives

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00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:19,000

shows early testing of flying soldier technology

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00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:23,000

work on this continued through the late 1960s

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00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:26,000

and by 1978 the Delta Force

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00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:30,000

the US military's most elite special forces troops

864

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:33,000

was testing combat flight suits in

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,000

you guessed it, West Virginia

866

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:39,000

such a program could explain the visits from men in black

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00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:43,000

government agents putting a lid on our latest secret technology

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00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:49,000

and the recent point pleasant eye witness accounts

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00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:51,000

like many others

870

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:56,000

Phil and Jess did detect animals living in the ruins of the abandoned military plant

871

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:58,000

point your light where you think you saw it

872

00:40:58,000 --> 00:40:59,000

right up here

873

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:01,000

I think I see something on the thermal

874

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:04,000

oh my god

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00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:06,000

but those who claim it's a monster

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00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:10,000

are probably getting caught up in 50 years of mothman mania

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00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:14,000

as for the Chicago sightings

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00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:16,000

we believe we were able to rule out the possibility

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00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:19,000

of a rogue base jumper or wingsuit in flight

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:21,000

is that doable

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00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:23,000

oh no absolutely not

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00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:27,000

but photos continue to come in from our remote wildlife cameras

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00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:29,000

and the evidence is in

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00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Sandhill Crane, check

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00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Golden Eagle, check

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00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:35,000

but no mothman

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00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:39,000

even Jess now supports Phil's original suspicion

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00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:41,000

that the recent Chicago sightings of the mothman

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00:41:41,000 --> 00:41:46,000

are nothing more than the misidentification of large winged birds

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00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:48,000

the Sandhill Crane and the Golden Eagle

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00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:51,000

have enormous wingspans at nearly 8 feet

892

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:55,000

imagine seeing that soaring in the windy city

893

00:41:55,000 --> 00:41:58,000

you too might think it's a monster