

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, yeah! All right!

3

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

Phil and Jess investigate the legend of a demonic creature

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

in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey.

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

That lure, the story, everything behind it

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

is something out of a nightmare.

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

...said to have been terrorizing the region for 300 years.

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

All of a sudden, there's a God-awful screech.

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

And I just froze. I was scared to death.

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Could it be a predator unknown to modern science?

11

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

That was terrifying.

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

What was it?

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

I have no idea.

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00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:45,000

The mere product of tall tales and paralyzing fear.

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

Can all these people be wrong? There's just something out there.

16

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

Or is it something demonic?

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

It's over here at the trees.

18

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

We need to get back here. We're all scared.

19

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

Anyway...

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

Devil in the forest.

21

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:05,000

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:09,000

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

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00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:12,000

and made me question everything.

24

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Oh, my God.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:19,000

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

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Let's go!

27

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Phil Torres is a scientist who hunts for rational explanations.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:28,000

This is a corner from actually found stationery.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:33,000

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

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:35,000

Phil, do you see that?

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:36,000

I just saw something pretty gross.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:38,000

Together, we're searching for answers...

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

What is that?

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

...to the world's most extraordinary mysteries.

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:46,000

This is Expedition X.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

Okay, so as we kick off a new case here,

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

I want to start by showing you a photo.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:58,000

What do you think?

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:01:59,000

That is weird.

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

Yeah.

41

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

And very dead.

42

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

And very gross.

43

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

Correct on all counts.

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

Weird, dead, and gross.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

This is referred to as the Montauk monster.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,000

It's something that washed ashore in Montauk Long Island in 2008.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,000

And it's what people refer to as a cryptid,

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

an unidentified, unknown animal.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

In this case, biologists were able to determine

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:23,000

that this particular cryptid is in fact the bloated decomposing carcass

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:24,000

of a raccoon.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:25,000

See?

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:26,000

Science for the win.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:27,000

Now we're talking.

55

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

Science for the win.

56

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Well, today's case might be a little harder for science to figure out,

57

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,000

and it's actually not far from Long Island.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:36,000

It is in fact a cryptid that we're talking about,

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:40,000

one of the most hotly contested cryptid stories in American history,

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

something that people are still having terrifying experiences with

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

in the wilds of New Jersey.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,000

The cast of the Jersey Shore.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:49,000

Even scarier, Jess.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:50,000

No.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:52,000

The Jersey Devil.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:57,000

The legend goes that in 1735,

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00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:02,000

in a heavily forested area known today as the Pine Barrens of New Jersey,

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:07,000

a woman named Jane Leeds learns that she is pregnant with her 13th child

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:13,000

and becomes incensed that her husband is never around to help raise their kids.

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:17,000

In some versions, mother Leeds is a witch.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:20,000

In others, simply a stressed out mom.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Regardless, in her anger, it is said that she raises her fists to the heavens

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:27,000

and proclaims,

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

let this one be a devil.

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

According to the story, mother Leeds gets her wish.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

Although born looking human,

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:41,000

the child soon develops ghastly demonic features.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:43,000

A large horse-like head,

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:44,000

cloven hooves,

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:47,000

and huge leathery wings.

81

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

After savagely attacking its siblings,

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

the devil disappears into the expansive forest

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,000

and some claim it takes refuge in an abandoned inn deep in the woods.

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

As crazy as the legend sounds,

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

what is undeniable is the number of eyewitness sightings,

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

people who swear they've encountered the monster.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:10,000

The most infamous reports occur in January 1909,

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:14,000

when South Jersey residents find cloven hoof prints in the snow

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

that cross fields, fences, rooftops,

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

and end in a bloody mess of dead livestock.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:26,000

Panic begins to spread as others profess to witness the devil face-to-face,

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

inciting mass hysteria in the region.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Over a century later,

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:34,000

there are still frequent reports of a grotesque flying creature

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:37,000

prowl the pines of South Jersey.

96

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:38,000

Just a few weeks ago,

97

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:42,000

a local woodsman reports a new, shocking encounter.

98

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:45,000

Then a local farmer finds cloven hoof prints

99

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:48,000

and blood trails crisscrossing his property.

100

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Another eyewitness describes an animal resembling a kind of winged llama,

101

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

running through the trees and taking flight.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,000

Skeptics believe the creature may be a large predatory bird

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:02,000

or a deer afflicted with mange.

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

There's even some who believe it's a mutant bat.

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

But true believers insist a monster inhabits the barons.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:15,000

So, is the Jersey Devil truly an unholy abomination

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:18,000

or simply a series of misidentified animals

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

that spawned a legend that won't die?

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Okay, so, Phil, thoughts?

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Come on. I mean, you lost me a flying llama.

111

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:32,000

I can't even begin to tell you how biologically impossible this thing is.

112

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:36,000

For something the size of a horse to be flying through the trees,

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:38,000

it wouldn't need wings bigger than this room.

114

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

Just can't see it happening.

115

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:43,000

Not a totally unexpected response from Phil.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:48,000

And let's be honest, the origin story of this cryptid is really fantastical, right?

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:49,000

But we do have all these sightings.

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

So, Jess, Jersey Devil, yes or no?

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,000

Llama Jersey Devil? No.

120

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Jersey Devil, something? Yes.

121

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:02,000

I mean, you've got so many compelling reports from people that span centuries.

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00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:04,000

People are taking this seriously.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:08,000

My instinct here says that this is just a case of misidentification.

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

There is this thing called insular gigantism,

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00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:14,000

which is when an isolated population of animals, say, on an island, can become giant.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Like giant tortoises, we've seen Galapagos,

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:20,000

or there used to be this giant eagle that's now extinct.

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00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:25,000

It can happen, but we're talking about New Jersey here, not an island.

129

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:31,000

So, I don't know, maybe it could be some weird, bigger population of owls or bats.

130

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

Always with the bats and owls.

131

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:36,000

Well, they fly at nights and they scare people.

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:41,000

All I'm saying is that people's descriptions of this thing are so unique that there's something there.

133

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:46,000

And people have been seeing something for more than 300 years.

134

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:50,000

So, I think instead of sitting around talking about it, let's get out there and investigate it.

135

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:54,000

Let's start by talking to people that are having these current encounters.

136

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Are they misidentifying something or could there be a real cryptid here?

137

00:06:58,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Sound good? Agreed.

138

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:00,000

I'm in.

139

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

My team drives 100 miles south of New York City to one of the most remote and unpopulated areas on the eastern seaboard.

140

00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Or exit 52 off the Garden State Parkway for you Jerseyites.

141

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

I'm seeing some pine trees, Jess.

142

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:18,000

Which means we've made it to the Pine Baron Forest.

143

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:24,000

The New Jersey Pine Barons, also known as the Pines, is over a million acres of thick forest

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:30,000

that stretch over seven counties and make up nearly a quarter of the state's entire landmass.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:37,000

The name Pine Barons refers to the area's sandy, acidic, nutrient-starved soil.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:43,000

But it still manages to support an impressive 900 different plants and hundreds of unique animals

147

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:48,000

from bald eagles and bears to flying squirrels and tree frogs.

148

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:51,000

This place is amazing.

149

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Yeah, maybe an ecosystem that can support the Jersey Devil.

150

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:01,000

I mean, there's plenty of stuff thriving out here, but home to Jersey Devil? I'm not so sure.

151

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:07,000

How is there no actual physical evidence of this thing that people claim is real?

152

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

This is acres and acres and acres of woods that have not been touched.

153

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:20,000

But if you're going to live anywhere where you can hide and people would have a tough time to find you, this is it, right here.

154

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Are there things we don't know about this area? Yes, but I just can't see a giant Jersey Devil

155

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:30,000

being able to hide out here without being seen.

156

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:35,000

Jess and Phil arrive at a local watering hole to meet with the most recent eyewitness

157

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:39,000

who claims to have had a chilling encounter with, well, him.

158

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:41,000

Oh, wow.

159

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Yeah.

160

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Ladies and gentlemen, the Jersey Devil.

161

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:50,000

Who knew that the Jersey Devil loves the gym?

162

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:51,000

Oh, that guy works out.

163

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:52,000

He is swole.

164

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Well, we found him.

165

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:54,000

Let's go home.

166

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:55,000

Yeah, we got it.

167

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Cool.

168

00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:58,000

Anyway, the team are meeting Bruce Powell.

169

00:08:58,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Hey, it's Bruce.

170

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

Yes, how you doing?

171

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

A local woodsman who's been hunting in the pine barrens for decades, Bruce claims to have had a terrifying encounter

172

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

with what he believes was the Jersey Devil.

173

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:15,000

I had an experience that I can't really explain.

174

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:25,000

About three weeks ago, I was up a deer stand, and I was sitting there most of the day and got towards dark.

175

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

And all of a sudden, this god-awful screech.

176

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:34,000

I just froze.

177

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:38,000

I heard two steps and then one faint step and then that was it.

178

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:43,000

There was only two times in my life I've been scared, and that was one time right there.

179

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:45,000

And it didn't sound like a deer or anything like that?

180

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no.

181

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:51,000

Deer make blowing noises, they'll snort, they make all signals like that.

182

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:52,000

What about like cats in the area?

183

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

Like bobcats or anything like that?

184

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:55,000

I felt this.

185

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:56,000

Uh-huh.

186

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:57,000

That's how big it was.

187

00:09:57,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Did you see any footprints or anything?

188

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:00,000

I didn't even bother.

189

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:01,000

You just got out of there.

190

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:03,000

I got out of there and I never went back.

191

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:07,000

So there's something unknown in these woods?

192

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Always has been.

193

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:15,000

If there really is a large and mysterious animal living in the pines, we have to track it down.

194

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:18,000

And that starts with its last known location.

195

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:26,000

And to get there, we're heading down the Molica River, a former trade route that once funneled millions of dollars of cargo into New Jersey.

196

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:29,000

To look at it, you never know.

197

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:32,000

But there's a lot of money made here since the 1700s.

198

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

The schooners came all the way up here from Jamaica with rum.

199

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

This is where they dropped everything off duty free.

200

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:43,000

Rum was that important to the people here that they went all the way down to Jamaica to pick it up before coming.

201

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:44,000

Absolutely.

202

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

As a matter of fact, I'm going to take you to one where it was served.

203

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:52,000

It's also very close to where I had my experience with the animal made of noise that night.

204

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:56,000

This is a spot right here.

205

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:59,000

I'm going to anchor up and I'll walk you back in.

206

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,000

Bruce's hunting stand is located miles into the forest.

207

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:10,000

These woods provide habitat for the highly venomous Timberrattle snake, which is considered one of

the most dangerous snakes in the northeastern U.S.

208

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:12,000

So we need to watch our step.

209

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:14,000

All right, follow me up here.

210

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:20,000

As we venture deeper into the woods, Bruce points out an important landmark with historic ties to the Jersey Devil.

211

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:23,000

I'm going to show you what's left of the Bodine Tavern.

212

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:27,000

The last remnants of the foundation are underneath that tree.

213

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

It grew right over top of you see the stone sticking out.

214

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:32,000

That's the corner.

215

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:37,000

A lot of people congregated around here and there was a lot of Jersey Devil sightings here.

216

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

The Bodine Tavern opened its doors in 1769.

217

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Not long after, sightings of the creature perched on its roof became so common that in the early 1800s, they began printing images of the Devil on their cider jugs.

218

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:56,000

And these sightings weren't just the results of locals pickling themselves in rum.

219

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:02,000

Even after the tavern closed, the abandoned structure remained a hotspot for many years.

220

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:06,000

From where we're standing, where did you have your experience?

221

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:12,000

Right down that path through here, very near an old fire tower that's out there pretty far.

222

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

Awesome. All right, so that's where we got to go.

223

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:15,000

That's where you're going.

224

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

Where we're going.

225

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:17,000

I'm staying here.

226

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Okay.

227

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:19,000

All right.

228

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:21,000

Be careful walking down here now.

229

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:22,000

All righty.

230

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Bruce has agreed to pick us up in his boat at first light tomorrow morning.

231

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:31,000

Our plan is to spend the night in these woods looking for any sign of whatever he encountered.

232

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:36,000

I believe the Jersey Devil is not a devil at all, but a misidentified animal.

233

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:43,000

And like every flesh and blood creature, it will require specific environmental features to sustain itself.

234

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:46,000

If we can find and gain access to the fire tower, Bruce mentioned,

235

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:51,000

I might be able to figure out where an animal like this is most likely to call home.

236

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

Look at that.

237

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:53,000

You seen that?

238

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Oh, yeah.

239

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:56,000

There's a fire tower.

240

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

Wow.

241

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

Yeah.

242

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:03,000

Well, should we get up there?

243

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Yeah, I mean, it says no trespassing, but I think we're going to have to trespass on this one.

244

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:08,000

We'll just trespass a little bit.

245

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:09,000

A little bit.

246

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

Make it fast.

247

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:14,000

And the door's open, so...

248

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:17,000

It's kind of an open invitation right there.

249

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:19,000

Oh, it's tall.

250

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:24,000

This 10-story fire tower was built by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service

251

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

to help with the early detection of brush fires.

252

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Wildfires have helped shape the pine barrens for thousands of years.

253

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:37,000

These fires can create large clearings which give rise to edible plants which attract herbivores,

254

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:42,000

making the edge of those clearings ideal for predators to hunt for prey.

255

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:45,000

Oh, we are high.

256

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:47,000

I wish these heights didn't make me throw up.

257

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

This would be fantastic.

258

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,000

That's why I'm above you, so you don't puke on me.

259

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:55,000

Based on folklore, the Jersey Devil is a carnivore,

260

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:59,000

which makes this vantage point perfect for scouting this neck of the woods.

261

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:00,000

Jess.

262

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:01,000

What?

263

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:03,000

You can stop at the base of this stairs.

264

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:06,000

The floor feels a little unstable for two up here.

265

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:08,000

Yeah, that's fine.

266

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

All right. Wow.

267

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:12,000

It is an amazing view.

268

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

Oh, yeah.

269

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

I mean, it is just green pine trees all the way in every direction to the horizon.

270

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

We got our work cut out for us, Jess.

271

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Based on reports, there's a good chance that the so-called Jersey Devil

272

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:28,000

lives somewhere between the Bodine Tavern and this tower.

273

00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:32,000

But finding him in this, that's a needle in a haystack.

274

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:35,000

You see anything worthwhile?

275

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:37,000

No Jersey Devil yet.

276

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Hang on. I think I'm seeing something over here.

277

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Yeah, what?

278

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:51,000

It looks like there's some sort of, I don't know, clearing or sinkhole or maybe even a cave.

279

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

Where should I be looking?

280

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:57,000

If the sun is 12 o'clock, look at around 10.30.

281

00:14:58,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Okay, no, I think I see it.

282

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

From your perspective, does it look like a place where a creature would live?

283

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Yeah, I mean, in an area that is completely uniform with pine trees, anything that...

284

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:16,000

What the f\*\*\* was that?

285

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Jess and Phil are investigating recent sightings of the Jersey Devil,

286

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:33,000

the legendary monster whose story has been synonymous with New Jersey's pine barons for 285 years.

287

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:36,000

Where did you have your experience?

288

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Right down that path, very near an old fire tower.

289

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:40,000

So that's where we gotta go?

290

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

That's where you're going.

291

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

It looks like there's some sort of, I don't know, clearing or sinkhole or maybe even a cave.

292

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Does it look like a place where a creature would live?

293

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:52,000

Yeah, I mean, anything that...

294

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:56,000

What the f\*\*\* was that?

295

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:58,000

Jess, you heard that, yeah?

296

00:15:58,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Yeah, I did. What was it?

297

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

I have no idea.

298

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:07,000

As it's getting sundown, a lot of birds start to call when they go to roost for the night, so...

299

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

That didn't sound like a bird.

300

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

There's about 300 species that could be found here, Jess, so...

301

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

Do any of those 300 species of bird growl?

302

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

I actually have no clue.

303

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

It sounded like it came from near that area. Am I crazy?

304

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:28,000

If a large flesh and blood creature made that sound, there has to be evidence of it.

305

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:31,000

Tracks, hair, feathers, scat, something.

306

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:38,000

And based on our eyewitnesses' sighting, the clearing we saw from the fire tower could be prime habitat.

307

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

You see anything down that way?

308

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,000

I don't see anything.

309

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:56,000

Wait, wait, wait.

310

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:00,000

Wow.

311

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

Oh, check this out.

312

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:05,000

Are you kidding me?

313

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:08,000

Look at the size of this thing.

314

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:12,000

Is this some sort of building?

315

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:13,000

Yeah.

316

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:16,000

I mean, it just keeps going. Look, there's another wall.

317

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:19,000

You know what?

318

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:22,000

This is probably the best structure for shelter of the round.

319

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:24,000

It's been around for hundreds of years.

320

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Yeah.

321

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

So I could definitely see the wildlife around here using this.

322

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:30,000

That's essentially like a sanctuary or a base.

323

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:35,000

Alright, I think we should set up here.

324

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:40,000

We got great visibility of the sky, and that's perfect for the low-light camera.

325

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,000

So if the Jersey Devil flies over, we'll catch it.

326

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:45,000

And we've got the ruins. That's a pretty high point.

327

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:46,000

Yeah.

328

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:47,000

Maybe he'll perch over there.

329

00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:49,000

Yeah. Good visibility of the tree on it.

330

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:52,000

I think I'm going to go all around the periphery.

331

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:54,000

I have to throw my imaging cameras.

332

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:55,000

I'll shine it up in the trees.

333

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:00,000

I get a heat signature of an animal running around up there or flying around up there.

334

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

Maybe it will give us a clue as to what it is that people are seeing when they think it's the Jersey Devil.

335

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

I also have the fox pearl.

336

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:09,000

I can send out some calls and see if we can draw something in.

337

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:13,000

That's good. Yeah, we just got to remember though, whatever people are seeing out here,

338

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

just get on the heck out of there. We've got to be extra careful.

339

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:17,000

Well, yeah, we're going to Jersey Devil.

340

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:19,000

Of course, I'm going to be careful.

341

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:21,000

I don't want to get my head ripped off.

342

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

Alright. Good luck here.

343

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:23,000

Oh, yeah.

344

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:24,000

I'm heading out.

345

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:25,000

You got your walkie?

346

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Yeah.

347

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:27,000

Okay.

348

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:40,000

I'm using a specialized low light camera capable of magnifying low levels of ambient light.

349

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:44,000

Anything that streaks across the sky or lands near this structure,

350

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:49,000

even if I can't see it with my own eyes, this camera will image it.

351

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Alright.

352

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:54,000

I'm going to take out the thermal imager.

353

00:18:54,000 --> 00:19:02,000

This thermal imager can identify heat sources in complete darkness by measuring the heat

354

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:05,000

radiating off an object or living thing.

355

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

Where are you at, Devil?

356

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

Do you hear that?

357

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

There's something up here.

358

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

Come on.

359

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:22,000

What was it?

360

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:28,000

Oh, look at that.

361

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:33,000

I just saw some bats flying by.

362

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:39,000

To see it fly across the night sky with the thermal is amazing because it's really hard to see with just a flashlight.

363

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:46,000

But this thing, they are lighting up amazing.

364

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Okay. I've got the night vision camera set up.

365

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:51,000

And I'm ready to send out some calls with the FoxPro.

366

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Alright. What are you going to send out first?

367

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Let me try and see.

368

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Doing the rodent call brings anything in.

369

00:19:57,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Alright. Go for it. I'm ready.

370

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

I'll let you know if I hear from here.

371

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Okay.

372

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:09,000

The FoxPro is an incredibly loud, high definition speaker capable of reproducing a thousand different animal calls.

373

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:14,000

With a range of about 10 miles, this thing is like ringing the dinner bell.

374

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Come on.

375

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:37,000

You seen anything?

376

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:38,000

No, nothing yet.

377

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:43,000

I'm speaking. We do a white tail deer distress call.

378

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Let's see if that brings anything in.

379

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:50,000

Alright. I'll get my eyes on this guy here.

380

00:20:57,000 --> 00:21:02,000

That's a terrifying noise she's been coming out.

381

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:06,000

We can only guess how to curate a menu for the so-called Jersey Devil.

382

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:14,000

While a rodent call might draw on predatory birds, this wounded deer call could attract something bigger that you don't want to tangle with in the dark.

383

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Like a 400 pound black bear.

384

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:29,000

Jess, the forest just got super quiet around here.

385

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Yeah, I noticed. It's quite over here too.

386

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:39,000

That tells me something is either here or something could be here this way.

387

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Oh.

388

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Jess, I just had something flying overhead.

389

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:54,000

You okay? I'm looking. I thought I heard something.

390

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:00,000

What the heck was that?

391

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

I'm not sure.

392

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Oh, sh\*\*!

393

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

Oh, sh\*\*!

394

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

That was Jess. Come on.

395

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:32,000

So what happened?

396

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:34,000

Something f\*\*\*\*\*g flew right over me.

397

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

What the heck?

398

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:39,000

I'm going to check the thermal camera. Maybe it's still here.

399

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:48,000

You seen anything?

400

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Nothing.

401

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Whatever flew above Jess's head seems to be gone now.

402

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:56,000

It kind of sounded like it went back here.

403

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:58,000

Isn't this where you have a little light camera?

404

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:00,000

Okay, I'll put it over here.

405

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:03,000

Let's try to review this footage.

406

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:04,000

Okay.

407

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Let's try to come scrub into this area.

408

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

Yeah. See it right there. Check that out.

409

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:11,000

There. Did you see it?

410

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:12,000

Wow.

411

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:14,000

Right there. That was like a wing.

412

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:16,000

I have to go back with the time.

413

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:20,000

That's a wing.

414

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:22,000

It does look like a wing.

415

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:24,000

If there are mosquitoes flying around you,

416

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

bats are known to fly right by you to pick those up.

417

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:30,000

It was definitely large. Larger than a bat.

418

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Whatever just scared you,

419

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:35,000

that could be the thing that people are calling the Jersey Devil.

420

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:38,000

We have something on tape,

421

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:41,000

so I think we should just keep this thing on.

422

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Do a few more calls. Just see what happens.

423

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:49,000

For the next hour, we continue sending out more virtual calls.

424

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:51,000

But things stay quiet.

425

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:54,000

The footage we managed to capture is a frustrating near miss

426

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:57,000

of whatever the hell flew over my head.

427

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:00,000

And whatever it was, I'm certain it was no bat.

428

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

Because while I couldn't see it,

429

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:06,000

I could definitely tell it was something extremely large.

430

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:09,000

I'm just so pissed that it didn't just land on the top of that ledge

431

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:11,000

so that we could get a picture of it.

432

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

I don't think it's going to be that easy, Jess.

433

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:18,000

At the end of a long night, I'm certain of two things.

434

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:21,000

One, something scared the crap out of Jess.

435

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

And two, there are bats all over these woods.

436

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

I recorded some of them on my thermal camera.

437

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:30,000

I have to believe that is what Jess encountered out here.

438

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:34,000

Though she's convinced it was much larger than any bat native to this area.

439

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

So as a new day dawns, we meet up with Bruce,

440

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:47,000

who takes us back to civilization so we can each scare up some new leads.

441

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Alright, back to the marina we go.

442

00:24:50,000 --> 00:24:53,000

Bruce claimed to have heard a monstrous call in the woods.

443

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:55,000

And based on last night,

444

00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Jess believes there could be a large winged cryptid that inhabits the pines.

445

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

After hitting the phones all day,

446

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

Jess has managed to track down another eyewitness

447

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:09,000

that believes she actually saw the Jersey Devil with her own two eyes.

448

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

Meanwhile, Phil heads to the New Jersey Wildlife Conservation

449

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:19,000

and Education Center to follow up on his theory

450

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:24,000

that the legendary Jersey Devil is nothing more than some kind of misidentified bat.

451

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:30,000

Hey, you must be Phil.

452

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:35,000

Yes, judging by all the bats I'm seeing here, I'm guessing I'm in the right place.

453

00:25:35,000 --> 00:25:37,000

You're in the right place, you're in the bat cave.

454

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:39,000

Joe DeAngeli, the director and curator of the center,

455

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:42,000

has been studying bats for over 25 years

456

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:46,000

and is one of the foremost experts on native bat species in the pine barrens.

457

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:51,000

I am here in New Jersey actually looking into the Jersey Devil.

458

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:54,000

Anybody in New Jersey has to be familiar with the Jersey Devil,

459

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:56,000

especially if you work with bats.

460

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:01,000

Yeah, and when people say that there's like a 10-foot horse-headed Jersey Devil flying around?

461

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:04,000

No, there's no bats that are that big obviously.

462

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:07,000

But, you know, everything and anything could be over-exaggerated,

463

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:08,000

especially with bats,

464

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:12,000

because they're one of the animals that you love or you're afraid of.

465

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:17,000

So, the Jersey Devil, that lure, the story, everything behind it,

466

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:20,000

it's mysterious enough and then add in the bat factor, of course.

467

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:21,000

Yeah.

468

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

It's almost something out of a nightmare.

469

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

The legend of the devil that inhabits these pine barrens

470

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

has inspired fear in this region for centuries.

471

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:34,000

And scientists have found that fear itself can distort our perceptions.

472

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:39,000

In 2016, researchers discovered that people with a fear of spiders,

473

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:46,000

in this case tarantulas, actually estimated that they were three times larger than they really were.

474

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:49,000

So, if a person sees a large bat flying overhead in the pine barrens,

475

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:57,000

it's possible that a fearful response could actually transform that same bat into a giant winged monster.

476

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Now, speaking of bats, do you have anything that's large enough

477

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

that could be mistaken for the Jersey Devil?

478

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

I think we might have something you'd like to see.

479

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Okay.

480

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:08,000

While Phil hangs with the batman,

481

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:11,000

I'm speaking with eyewitness Megan Zalinka,

482

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:17,000

who just days ago had what she says was a face-to-face encounter with the Jersey Devil.

483

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,000

And whatever she saw, it could be the same large creature

484

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

that swooped past me in the woods the other night.

485

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

So, tell me what happened.

486

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

My mom was driving and I was in the passenger seat.

487

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

You were going home and I kind of like glanced up and

488

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:37,000

crouching on the eaves of the house was like something huge looking directly at me.

489

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:39,000

And then we passed it.

490

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

I glanced behind and yelled at my mom to turn around,

491

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:44,000

but by then it was already gone.

492

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:47,000

What gave you the idea that this thing was so big?

493

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:49,000

They had a chimney on the roof,

494

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:51,000

was probably twice the size of the chimney.

495

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:56,000

Back at the Batcave, I'm having a close encounter of my own.

496

00:27:56,000 --> 00:27:58,000

So these, Phil,

497

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:02,000

whoa, are our big, big bats.

498

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Yeah, that is huge.

499

00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:06,000

These are the flying foxes.

500

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:09,000

These are some of the biggest bats in the world.

501

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Wow.

502

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:14,000

You can really see when they extend that front arm

503

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:16,000

how giant they would be when they're in flight.

504

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:18,000

This is definitely mega of the megabat family.

505

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:19,000

Yeah, okay.

506

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:21,000

Now we're talking.

507

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:25,000

Okay, you're okay. You're okay.

508

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

Wow, beautiful.

509

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

Huge animal.

510

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:32,000

Yeah, I said you're beautiful.

511

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:34,000

And that face, that's not what you expect from a bat.

512

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:38,000

No, most people would not think of a bat as cute or cuddly.

513

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:42,000

Yeah, and you can imagine if people in the 1700s here in New Jersey,

514

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:44,000

like if they saw this flying around,

515

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:46,000

they would just think it's a devil.

516

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

Yeah, I mean, their Latin name, monstrosus,

517

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:52,000

basically signifies that this is something monstrous.

518

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Wow.

519

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:58,000

While the flying fox is living proof that bats definitely come in size extra large,

520

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:00,000

there's just one problem.

521

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

This is a warm climate species

522

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:05,000

and simply not able to survive the harsh winters here.

523

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:09,000

So this sanctuary is the only place in New Jersey where you'll find them.

524

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

Sorry, flying fox, but you are not the Jersey Devil.

525

00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Is there any possibility that we could still be looking at some unusual bat

526

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:21,000

that's a little bit bigger than people are used to here

527

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:24,000

that could explain the sightings of today?

528

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:34,000

My team is investigating the Jersey Devil,

529

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:38,000

and Phil is going batty over a new winged suspect.

530

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:41,000

If they saw this flying around, they would just think it's a devil.

531

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Is there any possibility that we could still be looking at some unusual bat

532

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:47,000

that's a little bit bigger than people are used to here

533

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

that could explain the sightings of today?

534

00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Sure. I mean, anything is possible.

535

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:54,000

They're very resilient animals.

536

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,000

They can find ways of finding different types of food.

537

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

They are excellent at adapting.

538

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Is it possible that some kind of large, unidentified, or mutant bat species

539

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:10,000

has managed to adapt and has yet to be discovered in the vast pine barrens?

540

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:13,000

The eyewitness that Jess has been interviewing is convinced

541

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:16,000

what she saw was more like a bat out of hell.

542

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

So that winged monster you saw.

543

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

Were you able to glean any details from it at all of what it looked like?

544

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

Its eyes were red and glowing.

545

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:27,000

You could see the wings.

546

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

They were like a bat because I didn't see any feathers or anything like that.

547

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:33,000

And then the wings were pointed at the top.

548

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:38,000

You know how like a gargoyle sits like with its arms in front of its legs

549

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:41,000

when it sits on top of like the cathedral?

550

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:43,000

It kind of reminded me of that.

551

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:45,000

Were you freaking out?

552

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:48,000

I was. I feel like it could really tear you apart.

553

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:51,000

And this area that you were driving through, is it a suburban area?

554

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Is it nearby any woods?

555

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:56,000

It's right like in the middle of the pine lands.

556

00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:00,000

Okay, so it could have taken off and gone anywhere and be hidden right away.

557

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:01,000

Yeah.

558

00:31:01,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Interesting.

559

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

According to Megan, the large creature she saw had the wings of a bat.

560

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:10,000

So I can see why people like Phil might jump on the bat wagon.

561

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:13,000

But the fact is bats don't have glowing red eyes

562

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:17,000

and as far as we know, in this state, they don't even come close to the size

563

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:19,000

of the creature she witnessed.

564

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

So Phil and I meet back up and we're at a crossroads.

565

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,000

We're hoping Josh can point us in the right direction.

566

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Jess and Phil, how are you?

567

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:29,000

Good. How are you?

568

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

I'm great. How's the investigation?

569

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

It's been pretty crazy.

570

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:36,000

I actually had a possible encounter with the Jersey Devil.

571

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Wait, what?

572

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Yeah, we were out by these ruins.

573

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:41,000

I was sending out these deer distress calls

574

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:44,000

and right then something swooped down past my face.

575

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:46,000

Ah! Oh, sh\*\*!

576

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:48,000

Did you get a good look at it?

577

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:52,000

No, but I do think we got something worth checking out on camera.

578

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:53,000

Phil, what do you make of this?

579

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:56,000

Just absolutely encountered something.

580

00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

I just don't know quite what it was.

581

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:02,000

Now, my theory based upon what we've seen out here

582

00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:05,000

is that if the Jersey Devil could be a bat,

583

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:08,000

maybe there's some kind of non-native species or migrant species

584

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:10,000

that goes up in New Jersey every once in a while

585

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:13,000

and kind of throws people off and swoops Jess's head.

586

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:15,000

I would like to disagree.

587

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:18,000

This thing that flew over me felt huge.

588

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:22,000

Not like just one tiny little bat swinging on by.

589

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:24,000

It was significant.

590

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Phil, last time I checked, there are no huge,

591

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:30,000

monster sized bats in New Jersey, right?

592

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

I gotta say that is correct,

593

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

but nature has been surprising us all the time.

594

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:37,000

I mean, sure. Could be anything.

595

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:40,000

I'm a mutant bat for all we know, but let's say you are right.

596

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:42,000

Let me see if I can wrangle some tech for you guys

597

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:44,000

to send out there to help you

598

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:46,000

in identifying the species that are out there.

599

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:47,000

Great. Sounds good.

600

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Well, good luck out there.

601

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:51,000

And remember, if something swoops down to attack you,

602

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:52,000

just keep filming.

603

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,000

We'll do. We're on it.

604

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

As a biologist, I know that every big animal needs three things to survive.

605

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:01,000

Shelter, food, and water.

606

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:04,000

Shelter and food are everywhere you look,

607

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:08,000

but a water source that reaches the deep interior of the Pine Barrens,

608

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:10,000

that can only be the Mullica River.

609

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:13,000

Our plan is to navigate to its most remote area

610

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:17,000

where we'll deploy some very cool new tech we got from Josh.

611

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:20,000

And in Jersey, there's only one way to travel on the water.

612

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:22,000

Cue the drum and bass.

613

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:28,000

All right.

614

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:32,000

These babies came with a coupon for a free spray tan and a slice of pizza.

615

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Now this is how you get around the Pine Barrens.

616

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:44,000

Let's go here.

617

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:46,000

Through that little wood thing?

618

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Yeah.

619

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:49,000

Todd's going down. I don't know if we can make it through this.

620

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:50,000

It's going slow.

621

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:51,000

All right.

622

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:55,000

These jet skis aren't just for the Jim Tan laundry crowd.

623

00:33:55,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Their flat bottom hulls make them the only viable way

624

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:01,000

to travel deep into the shallow inlets that we need to get through.

625

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Hey, here's a good spot.

626

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:06,000

I like it.

627

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:09,000

After an hour of navigating a maze of small tributaries,

628

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:12,000

we find the ideal spot to set up camp.

629

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Okay.

630

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:24,000

Well, if my hypothesis is correct,

631

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:27,000

and the Jersey Devil is actually some sort of bat,

632

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:31,000

I'm trying to do everything I can to attract it to us.

633

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Okay.

634

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

So, here's the plan.

635

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

Large bats essentially eat one of two things,

636

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:39,000

one of them being insects.

637

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:42,000

So, we got this really bright light shining over the stream.

638

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:44,000

It's already bringing in tons of bugs.

639

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,000

My hope is that the bats will see their food source

640

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:50,000

and come in, get a meal, and we'll be able to spot them.

641

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:51,000

Okay.

642

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:56,000

The other thing that large bats like to eat is fruit.

643

00:34:56,000 --> 00:34:59,000

When I lived in the Amazon, we would have big bushels of bananas

644

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:01,000

hanging by our base, and every single morning,

645

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:04,000

there'd be big chunks taken out of it by bats.

646

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:07,000

So, I'm going to hang this up in a tree,

647

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

and, you know, who knows, maybe it'll bring in something.

648

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Okay.

649

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:13,000

And this is where Josh's tech comes in.

650

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:17,000

This is a echolocation high-frequency sound sensor.

651

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:20,000

I can plug this thing directly into my phone,

652

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:23,000

and when it listens, it can not only detect bats,

653

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:27,000

but it can also tell me what species is flying overhead.

654

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:28,000

Okay.

655

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:29,000

That actually is really cool.

656

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:30,000

Right.

657

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:31,000

It's like my favorite toy ever.

658

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:32,000

That's a good one.

659

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

And I'll be listening tonight, too, with the parabolic mic.

660

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

Because I've used this in the jungle to record bird calls,

661

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:40,000

frog calls, that sort of thing.

662

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:41,000

This thing's empowered.

663

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:43,000

Have you used one of these before?

664

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:44,000

Yeah.

665

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:46,000

For what?

666

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Bigfoot.

667

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:48,000

Of course you have.

668

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:49,000

I heard him, too.

669

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:50,000

Of course you did.

670

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:55,000

Well, I'll tell you what, between the high-tech and the low-tech,

671

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:56,000

we've got to get some tonight.

672

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:57,000

Yeah.

673

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:58,000

All right.

674

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:00,000

If anything happens, walkie-me.

675

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:06,000

All right.

676

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:08,000

Let's listen to some bats.

677

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Oh, look at that.

678

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

Check that out.

679

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:25,000

Even though I've not seen any bats flying by,

680

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:26,000

this thing is detecting them.

681

00:36:26,000 --> 00:36:27,000

There.

682

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:28,000

It just happened again.

683

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:30,000

This says little brown bat.

684

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:32,000

So there's some bats flying around.

685

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

Okay.

686

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

This looks like a good place to start.

687

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:41,000

This parabolic microphone can detect even the faintest of sounds

688

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:43,000

up to 500 feet away.

689

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:48,000

I am hearing so much stuff on this thing.

690

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Huh.

691

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:59,000

It's detecting a bat, but it's saying no matches found.

692

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:02,000

See, look at that.

693

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:05,000

That means it can't ID what had just hurt.

694

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:07,000

It could just be an anomaly.

695

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:10,000

Or there could be something weird flying around here.

696

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:12,000

Oh, just happened again.

697

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:14,000

I better get a camera set up on this tree line.

698

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:17,000

These anomalous readings only strengthen my theory.

699

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:18,000

I'm not sure what I'm doing.

700

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:20,000

I'm just trying to figure out what I'm doing.

701

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:23,000

These anomalous readings only strengthen my theory

702

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:25,000

that a large unidentified bat species

703

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:28,000

could be responsible for Jersey Devil sightings.

704

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:31,000

So I'm deploying the same special low light camera

705

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:32,000

that we used the other night.

706

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Hopefully this time we'll get a complete picture of the creature

707

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:39,000

that has been terrorizing this land for over 300 years

708

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

and put this legend to rest once and for all.

709

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:43,000

And recording.

710

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:45,000

See if you've got anything.

711

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:53,000

What was that?

712

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:55,000

I heard some rustling through the trees.

713

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:57,000

Something that sounded like flapping,

714

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:59,000

like something taking off.

715

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:08,000

Let me see if I can get a closer look at what made that sound.

716

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:12,000

Camera call.

717

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Yeah.

718

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:23,000

Let's go.

719

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:34,000

Cryptozoological creatures have always captured our imaginations

720

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:38,000

and will pay harder and money for the chance to get a look at them.

721

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

And throughout history,

722

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Huxters and Shoman have taken note

723

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:42,000

such as P.T. Barnum,

724

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:46,000

the legendary promoter and founder of the Barnum and Bailey Circus,

725

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:48,000

the world-famous spectacle dubbed

726

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:54,080

famous spectacle dubbed the Greatest Show on Earth. In the 1840s, Barnum drew crowds with the

727

00:38:54,080 --> 00:39:00,320

promise of catching a glimpse of a real-life mermaid, one of his most elaborate hoaxes. Sure,

728

00:39:00,320 --> 00:39:05,600

it was really just the upper body of a monkey sewed to the tail of a fish, but hey, the Fiji

729

00:39:05,600 --> 00:39:12,400

mermaid helped put Barnum on the map. Then, in 1911, another group in Philadelphia wanted to cash in

730

00:39:12,400 --> 00:39:17,760

on a famous creature that was causing local hysteria, the Jersey Devil. Maybe you've heard of it.

731

00:39:17,760 --> 00:39:23,120

They painted green stripes on a kangaroo and slapped some fake wings on its back,

732

00:39:23,120 --> 00:39:28,480

quite the cooked-up curiosity. As to the creature that inspired it, well, that's the real mystery.

733

00:39:36,480 --> 00:39:39,360

Phil, I got it. It's over here in the trees.

734

00:39:43,280 --> 00:39:44,880

Okay, so I'm looking at you with...

735

00:39:48,720 --> 00:39:53,280

Turn off your light. Turn off your light. What? Turn off your light.

736

00:39:56,080 --> 00:39:59,920

I don't want to scare it off. What if you hear something swooping

737

00:39:59,920 --> 00:40:03,360

landing these branches and just kind of rumbling around a little bit?

738

00:40:03,360 --> 00:40:07,040

No, close to something. It's pretty close. You've got to sneak up.

739

00:40:13,360 --> 00:40:14,880

Oh, \*\*\*\*.

740

00:40:18,080 --> 00:40:20,880

Okay, we were close. Okay.

741

00:40:30,720 --> 00:40:36,880

What was that? There was something right here.

742

00:40:36,880 --> 00:40:40,000

Oh, \*\*\*\*.

743

00:40:47,120 --> 00:40:51,840

Did you see anything? I'm not seeing anything. Yeah, I'm not hearing anything either.

744

00:40:51,840 --> 00:40:56,480

Just just a one-time. I'm not going to tell you. Could have been an owl, because owls essentially

745

00:40:56,480 --> 00:41:02,560

fly silently. So you really wouldn't have picked that up. I'm just so mad we didn't get visual on it.

746

00:41:03,120 --> 00:41:08,000

Because if you see eyes shine, that can tell you so much about it. It's a mammal, it's a bird,

747

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:11,760

it's a pack, all those things. All right, so what do you want to do?

748

00:41:11,760 --> 00:41:17,120

Now that there's rain, I feel like that's going to make it really hard for you to pick out the

749

00:41:17,120 --> 00:41:21,440

singular sound. Yeah, it's kind of all just like white noise at this point, just hitting all the

750

00:41:21,440 --> 00:41:28,160

raindrops. Yeah, so whatever was here, we've probably spooked enough that it's not going to come

751

00:41:28,160 --> 00:41:33,840

back. I don't think we're going to get a second chance to get close to it, but \*\*\*\* you're close.

752

00:41:35,600 --> 00:41:41,040

I feel like we just almost snuck up on this thing. Yeah, damn.

753

00:41:43,840 --> 00:41:48,880

I can't say for certain what Jess heard in the trees, but what I do know is that my sensor

754

00:41:48,880 --> 00:41:54,880

detected some kind of bat flying around, but it wasn't able to identify it. Huh, could be something

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00:41:54,880 --> 00:42:01,920

weird flying around here. So does that add weight to my theory that the Jersey Devil is some kind

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00:42:01,920 --> 00:42:10,880

of mysterious bat species that's come to inhabit these woods? And if so, what is it and how did

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00:42:10,880 --> 00:42:19,680

it get here? We found historian and Jersey Devil expert Tom Hanson, who has not only studied the

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00:42:19,680 --> 00:42:26,000

legend for over a decade, but also believes he knows what the Jersey Devil really is. And it

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00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:31,120

might help explain the strange readings I was getting on the bat detector. History books actually

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00:42:31,120 --> 00:42:37,200

show that there was a mother leads who had 13 children and her husband was Daniel Leeds, who

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00:42:37,200 --> 00:42:42,080

this is all focused around. He was a Quaker, but he didn't get along with the Quakers because he

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00:42:42,080 --> 00:42:47,760

published the American Almanac, which had some risqué things in there that the Quakers didn't like.

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00:42:48,240 --> 00:42:56,320

So they told him to stop. Turns out Daniel Leeds refused. Then in 1728, the Leeds changed the cover

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00:42:56,320 --> 00:43:03,040

of the Almanac to include the Leeds family crest that incorporates a strange creature with bat wings

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00:43:03,040 --> 00:43:08,400

that are eerily similar to descriptions of the Jersey Devil. So he puts these bats that look

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00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:14,720

like devils and that was a shot of the Quakers and then Ben Franklin comes along. Wait, Benjamin

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00:43:14,720 --> 00:43:20,080

Franklin. The Benjamin Franklin, your founding father from Philadelphia, he was a Quaker.

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00:43:21,760 --> 00:43:26,960

And he begins to say that the Leeds family isn't trusting because they're in league with the devil.

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00:43:26,960 --> 00:43:33,440

So it seemed like there were just rumors around this town that the Leeds family was devil worshipping

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00:43:33,440 --> 00:43:39,520

with a bat on the family crest. You combine those things. Is that the formula to make a Jersey

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00:43:39,520 --> 00:43:46,880

Devil? Absolutely. However, can all these people be wrong? Wherever there's a little smoke, there's

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00:43:46,880 --> 00:43:52,160

a fire. There's just something out there. What is it? I think the Jersey Devil was what we call the

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00:43:52,160 --> 00:43:58,720

the Hammerhead bat. I'm not familiar with the bat. I gotta see this. When we pull up pictures of the

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00:43:58,720 --> 00:44:06,000

Hammerheaded bat, look at that face. It is so bizarre looking. Oh my god. The similarities are

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00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:13,200

striking to the descriptions of the Jersey Devil. Huge wings, huge bulbous head looks kind of like

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00:44:13,200 --> 00:44:22,240

a horse's head. It's about this high. Cut up. No. Absolutely not. If I saw that in a tree, I'd be like,

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00:44:22,240 --> 00:44:29,760

what the f\*\*\*? The Hammerheaded bat is one of the largest bats in the world with a wingspan of

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00:44:29,760 --> 00:44:36,480

over three feet. Males have elongated horse-like heads that some have described as the spitting

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00:44:36,480 --> 00:44:42,400

image of a devil. They're nocturnal feeders and produce extremely loud and terrifying calls.

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00:44:42,400 --> 00:44:48,320

But like other large megabat species, they are not native to the United States. The problem is,

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00:44:48,320 --> 00:44:54,160

these are bats from Africa. Right. So how do they get here? So what they did was,

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00:44:54,240 --> 00:45:00,720

when all the sailing vessels from the 16, 17, 18 hundreds were bringing things over,

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00:45:00,720 --> 00:45:06,400

they were coming up the Mullerka River, they would unload their goods and the bats would be inside

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00:45:06,400 --> 00:45:13,280

the ships. Oh. So the bats would stow away. Wow. And then the bats would get loose in our area

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00:45:13,280 --> 00:45:18,240

and they would fly up and down looking for food. Now can you imagine a bat with three-foot wings

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00:45:18,240 --> 00:45:23,680

flying overhead with a moon behind it? In New Jersey. Uh-huh. That would probably look like a

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00:45:23,680 --> 00:45:30,960

devil to you. Absolutely. Wow. We've used the historic Mullerka River ourselves to gain access

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00:45:30,960 --> 00:45:36,240

to the remote part of the Pine Barrens where both Jess and a recent eyewitness had a strange

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00:45:36,240 --> 00:45:42,800

encounter with a large unidentified creature. That waterway was a bustling trade route with

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00:45:42,800 --> 00:45:48,880

ships packed with cargo from all over the world. And it's possible that may have included a strange

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00:45:48,880 --> 00:45:54,400

winged creature from Africa that just so happens to look strikingly similar to eyewitness descriptions

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00:45:54,400 --> 00:46:02,640

of the Jersey Devil. What do you think about the evidence we got? New Jersey surprised me. I mean,

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00:46:02,640 --> 00:46:07,360

we got a weird reading on the bat detector. You heard weird noises. We've seen stuff kind of flying

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00:46:07,360 --> 00:46:15,920

by camera. All of that points to something unusual flying around here. And I think it is entirely

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00:46:16,000 --> 00:46:21,120

plausible that the hammerheaded bat can be the Jersey Devil. It holds up to science. It holds

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00:46:21,120 --> 00:46:27,360

up to history. And it matches the description so well. I agree with you. I really like that theory.

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00:46:27,360 --> 00:46:35,920

Something's out here scaring people. Yeah. I mean, scared us too. The monsters that lurk in the

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00:46:35,920 --> 00:46:42,720

darkest corners of our minds often manifest themselves in the real world. 300 years ago,

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00:46:42,720 --> 00:46:48,880

a rumor was spread to demonize an entire family tree. Combined that with the possibility of an

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00:46:48,880 --> 00:46:54,480

undeniably strange winged creature hitching a ride from an exotic corner of the world,

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00:46:54,480 --> 00:46:59,520

well, perhaps the team's suspicions are correct. See it right there. Check that out.

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00:47:00,480 --> 00:47:04,720

Did the mysterious wing they captured on camera in the heart of the forest

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00:47:04,720 --> 00:47:10,800

truly belong to a giant African bat? It does look like a wing. And was it the same

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00:47:10,800 --> 00:47:15,760

unidentified creature that Phil's tech detected in the dead of night? Could be something weird

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00:47:15,760 --> 00:47:22,080

flying around here. This bold new theory lines up with descriptions of the monster. And it is

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00:47:22,080 --> 00:47:28,240

entirely possible that these bats may have provided a powerful basis for the story of the devil.

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00:47:28,240 --> 00:47:34,320

But when it comes to the modern sightings, it isn't entirely case closed. Just like the flying fox,

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00:47:34,320 --> 00:47:40,160

the hammerheaded bat would be unable to survive the winter here. As Dr. Ian Malcolm from Jurassic

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00:47:40,160 --> 00:47:46,880

Park once noted though, life finds a way. Could these bats have somehow adapted to the climate?

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00:47:46,880 --> 00:47:52,560

Or is there something else here? As long as people report terrifying encounters in the pine

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00:47:52,560 --> 00:47:59,760

barrens, the legend of the Jersey Devil will continue to take flight. For more information

812

00:47:59,760 --> 00:48:04,320

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