

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 20 April 1958		2. LOCATION NE of Boston, Ga.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical <i>METEOR</i> ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT <i>2/0119Z</i>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE SW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING A small pin of light, then an abrupt increase in size, round shape. Light green increasing in intensity. Intermittent exhaust or trail. Pink, then dark compared to clouds. Trail was smaller than the diameter of the sphere.				11. COMMENTS The description is definitely of a fireball.	

AFSCIN-444g

Fireballs

SAFIS-3 (Major L. J. Tacker)

19 AUG 1959

1. In answer to a request by Dr. [REDACTED], the following information is submitted:

a. 20 April 1958, 2019 EST - Two aircraft at 9000 feet altitude, located at 30 degrees 50'N 83 degrees 45'W, east of Thomasville, Georgia, sighted the following object: round, light green, increasing in intensity as it approached the aircraft. Object had a trail smaller than the diameter of object, pink, then dark compared to clouds; approach speed from the northeast toward the aircraft was like a meteor, heading southwest. Object passed between the aircraft and Cordell, Georgia in a descending curve. The glow just disappeared. Object in view for four seconds.

b. 5 July 1958, 0105 EST - At 31 degrees 30'N, 71 degrees 25'W, an aircraft at 8000 feet altitude sighted the following: an object was observed one and one-half to two miles north of aircraft; object appeared to ignite at high altitude, leaving a long trail of sparks. At about 600 feet, object burst into bright green ball of fire, lighting up entire area. A few more sparks were observed floating earthward after explosion. This same object was seen from a position of 31 degrees 30'N, 71 degrees 30'W, and 32 degrees 30'N, 70 degrees 30'W by three other aircraft.

c. 14 December 1958, Yonkers, N. Y., 0045 EST - A large meteor was observed east of Orion traveling in a southwest direction. The color was white, with a tail about as long as the distance from Betelgeuse to Saiph. The meteor was in view for approximately one second.

d. 14 December 1958, east of Elmira, N. Y., 0045 EST - A brilliant light, yellow, slightly larger than a quarter, with a dark red tail seven times larger than object, was observed at a great height. It moved from southeast to northwest. Duration of sighting not reported.

e. 14 December 1958; Smithtown, N. Y., 0041 EST - A bright light, orange-blue and greenish-white, traveled south to north, observed for 10 to 15 seconds.

f. 14 December 1958, Toms River, Harristown, Wrightstown, McGuire AFB, and Lakehurst NAS, N. J., 0030-0100 EST - A round object, size of a large grapefruit, green, brilliant white, orange red, traveled in straight line from Toms River to Lakehurst NAS, as given above. Object was observed for five seconds.

COORDINATE [REDACTED]

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 4

FLOWER AND COOK OBSERVATORIES

1959 July 30

Executive Officer,
Public Information Division
Office of Information Service
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Last year the Executive Officer very kindly, in reply to a request from me for information about certain fireballs which appeared in 1957, sent me a considerable amount of useful information, which can be used in the solution of the atmospheric paths and orbits of these bodies.

During the past year or so a large number of fireballs have appeared over the eastern or south eastern states, and in the cases of the five to be mentioned, I have been able to assemble a number of observations. But despite this I find it impossible to make good solutions. I am therefore writing to urgently request that you be good enough to send me copies of any or all reports in your hands, dealing with these bodies.

I may add the Hydrographic Office of the U.S. Navy has for over 30 years effectively cooperated in such work and as a consequence it has been possible to solve for many important fireballs. Such cooperation from your office, as a routine matter, would also be invaluable.

The specific bodies I now request information on are:

→ 1958 April 20/21 Southeastern States 8:20 pm Apr. 20
1958 July 4/5 North Carolina etc. 1 ± am July 5
nothing → 1958 Nov. 30 South Carolina etc. 6:10 pm Nov. 30
in this 1958 Dec. 12/13 New York, New Jersey etc. 12:42 am Dec. 14
and. 1959 Feb. 10/11 South Carolina etc. 4:15 am Feb. 11

} all times
approx.

It would be a great favor to me and useful to science if you would be good enough to send me observations dealing with these fireballs.

Very sincerely yours,


Pittsburgh, Pa.
Harberth, Pa.

c. 14 December 1958, Wilmington, Delaware and over Stillwater, Pa., 0043 EST - One object the size of a baseball, first observed 30 degrees above horizon, traveled west to east, broke into three parts, leaving a slight trail, and disappeared to the east. Object observed for five to six seconds.

h. 14 December 1958, Washington, D. C., 0043 EST - Round object, size of grapefruit, yellowish to light green, with tail similar to a comet tail. First sighted approximately overhead, disappeared 45 degrees above horizon to the north. Observed for 15 to 30 seconds.

i. 11 February 1959, south of Rockingham, N. C., 0500 EST - Round object, estimated to be 200 to 300 feet in diameter, dark green, tail was the same color, 200 feet long. First observed overhead, disappeared below horizon to the south. Observed for ten seconds.

j. 11 February 1959, Shaw AFB, S. C., 0415 EST - Round, size of grapefruit at arm's length, white with a blue-red tail about two to three times the diameter of the object. Object traveled in a southwest direction. Observed for five to ten seconds.

k. 11 February 1959, north of Ingeland, S. C., 0420 EST - A bright white light with green ring around it was observed overhead, traveling to the southwest, and disappeared over the horizon. Size of object was between that of a grapefruit and a basketball. Observed for 30 seconds.

→ 1. Attached is a copy of a United Press Release concerning a sighting on 20 April 1958, which occurred over the southeastern part of the United States.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

t MPost 8/18/59
GORDON C. KOFFMAN
Colonel, USAF
Actg. Deputy for Sciences
and Components

1 Atch:
Cy United Press Release