

**UFO OBSERVATIONS (pp. 130-134)**

Again, we have many cases where a UFO was discovered on a photo, but not noticed at the time when the photo was taken. The most likely explanation in these cases is a bird or an insect flying through the frame, such as in the picture taken on 17 August 2005, at Wölfersheim, and on photo bird or insect 14 August 2005 in Corse. Even the almost perfect flying saucer photo taken on 12 August 2005, at Sozopol in Bulgaria shows most certainly only an insect – you can even see the wings!

The simple observations were due to well-known stimuli. The green, football-sized light that moved, on 18 October 2004, across the Darstein sky was most likely a bolide; the 20 circles of light that rotated over Tauberbischofsheim on 16 October 2004 were most probably the rays of a sky tracker reflected on the cloud layer, while the red-green-yellow lights that seemed to burn up, then disappear on 19 September 2003 at Lörrach might have been a plane approaching the airport.

**50 YEARS AGO: KELLY-HOPKINSVILLE. REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS, RESEARCH (pp. 135-145)**

The Kelly-Hopkinsville case of 1955 is one of the great classics of Ufology. A family of farmers was besieged by one or several tiny humanoids with large, pointy ears. They seemed to hover and sounded metallic when shot at. The siege lasted a whole night and only ended when the sun rose. Over the years, several explanations have been offered, among them a true ET visitation as well as the allegation that it had all been a hoax. Now, 50 years later, the author summarises the case and outlines a new and highly likely solution which was suggested by French researcher Renaud Leclét: the creatures were owls which approached the house, flying silently as they did so, probably to protect their young, and vanished with daybreak. The outline of an owl, compared to the earliest depictions of the Kelly-Hopkinsville creatures, give an almost perfect fit.

**A BIG DISC IN THE HEAVENS (pp. 146-147)**

Hildegard von Bingen, the great German mystic, had many strange and wonderful visions, among which is what she describes as a giant, metallic-looking, then multi-coloured disc rotating in the sky, in which was a strange humanoid form. What sounds like a mediaeval flying saucer can actually be deciphered using middle age iconography as a description of Hildegard's world view. The example shows the danger of interpreting old reports as early depictions of UFOs.

**CRÖFFELBACH UFO-FORUM (pp. 148-154)**

This year's UFO meeting at Cröffelbach had talks on crop circles (by a crop circle maker), an abduction in psychiatric context, on orbs (actually, dust or water particles illuminated by a camera's flash), UFO stimuli, and ancient astronaut interpretation of myths.

**CHALONS EN CHAMPAGNE – EUROPEAN UFO CONGRESS 2005 (pp. 155-157)**

It was to be a large pan-European UFO conference, and it certainly drew thousands of visitors. However, the majority of groups and speakers attending were French or Belgian, so interpretation into other languages was sparse. Main guest was Budd Hopkins.

**EXTRATERRESTRIAL VISIT TO THAILAND? (pp. 158-159)**

Axel Ertelt provides some background to a CE IV from Thailand that made the world press headlines. On 9 September 2005, several villagers at Huay Nam Rak, Northern Thailand, observed a 70 cm hovering humanoid with a large head and big ears in a rice pad. Thai journalists offered the explanation that it was a 1 m tall, grey-shaped balloon which had freed itself on 29 August 2005 only 6 km distant from the area of the sightings, yet the witnesses denied the possibility.