

Cryptozoology

Cryptozoology is a pseudoscience that is the study of out-of-place, folkloric, or mythological creatures, with the supposition that they exist and leave evidence through either oral traditions, or by physical traces in their environment.

Existing Species Once Thought To Be Cryptpids

In 1799, the remains of a platypus were considered a hoax. It wasn't until Colonel David Collins, British administrator of Britain's first Australian colonies, began encountering them often, years later, that they were determined to be real animals.



Source:

Wilkins, Alasdair. Legendary Cryptids That Turned out to Be Absolutely Real. Gizmodo, 23 June 2011, io9.gizmodo.com/legendary-cryptids-that-turned-out-to-be-absolutely-rea-5814976.

It wasn't until 1912 that the komodo dragon was finally accepted as a real animal, after Dutch scientist Pieter Antonie Ouwens, published a paper on the lizard, with an accompanying photograph.



Source:


Wilkins, Alasdair. Legendary Cryptids That Turned out to Be Absolutely Real. Gizmodo, 23 June 2011, io9.gizmodo.com/legendary-cryptids-that-turned-out-to-be-absolutely-rea-5814976.

It wasn't until 2004, when images of the squid were captured by a Japanese scientific research team, that scientists had to accept that tales of giant squid may have originated from encounters with these gigantic creatures, some measuring up to 43-feet-long.



Source:

Wilkins, Alasdair. Legendary Cryptids That Turned out to Be Absolutely Real. Gizmodo, 23 June 2011, io9.gizmodo.com/legendary-cryptids-that-turned-out-to-be-absolutely-rea-5814976.

The background features a large, solid grey hexagon centered on the right side. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent grey shapes that resemble stylized mountains or hills. Faint, wavy white lines sweep across the entire background, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Living Species Previously Thought Extinct

The most impressive example of once thought to be extinct animals, that cryptozoologists indicate as evidence for the supposed existence of some cryptids, is the Coelacanth, a fish thought to have gone extinct 65-million-years ago. That was until a specimen was caught off the coast of South Africa in 1938.



Source:

Strauss, Bob. "11 Plants and Animals That Have Literally Come Back From the Dead." Treehugger, 3 Mar. 2021, www.treehugger.com/living-species-once-thought-extinct-4117748.



Environmental Factors That Keep Species Hidden

It is hypothesized by cryptozoologists that, based on examples of once thought mythical creatures such as the platypus and komodo dragon, that areas that are sparsely populated, with adequate foliage and food resources, could hide other creatures, currently thought to be fictitious.

The J'ba Fofi, for example, is said to be a truly gigantic spider, by some tribes in the Congo, in Africa, with legs at least three-feet-long.



Source:

"J'ba FoFi." Cryptid Wiki, cryptidz.fandom.com/wiki/J%27ba_FoFi.

The background features a large, solid grey hexagon centered on the page. To the left of the hexagon, there are several thin, light grey wavy lines that curve upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

The Animal Out-of-place Hypothesis

When an animal is sighted out of its natural environment, it's typical for locals to retell stories of a train, carrying carnival animals, having an accident, and releasing the animals. Or, that exotic animal owners, who did not have a license for their pet, released the animal after finding themselves unable to care for the animal, any longer.

Alien big cats, for instance, have nothing to do with extraterrestrials, but are foreign to the British Isles. However, sightings of black cougars, which do not exist in Europe, have been recorded as far back as the 1760's.



Sources:

- 1) "British Big Cats." Wikipedia, 9 Feb. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_big_cats.
- 2) Linda. "Mysterious Panther Roaming." The Hancock Clarion, 13 May 2020, www.hancockclarion.com/2020/05/13/mysterious-cat-roaming-area/.

The background features a large, solid grey hexagon centered on the right side. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of light blue and grey, creating a layered effect. Faint, wavy white lines radiate from the left edge of the image, adding a sense of motion or depth.

Mythological Creatures As Crytpids

Many cryptozoologists hypothesize that some mythological creatures, especially those contained in first nation tales, were or are real creatures.

The Thunderbird, for example, is a symbol in many Native North Americans mythology, that some cryptozoologists contend is still-living.

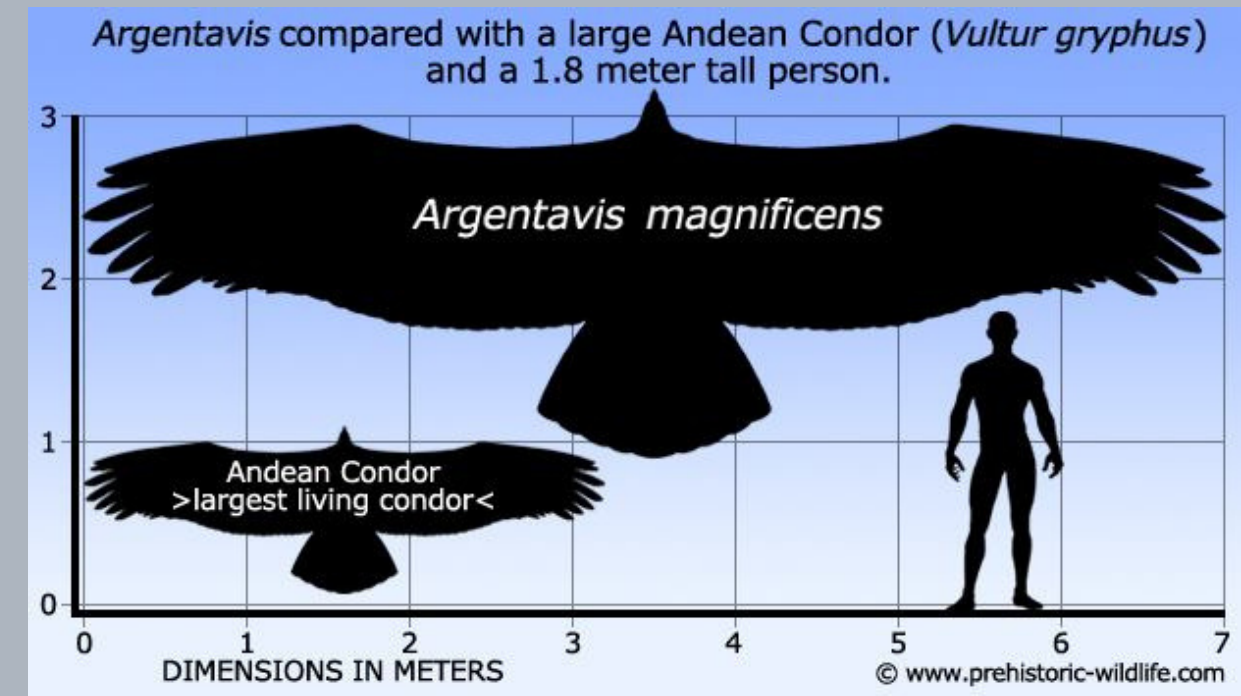


Sources:

1) "Thunderbird (Mythology)." Wikipedia, 5 Mar. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbird_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbird_(mythology)).

2) "Thunderbird: a Symbol of Power, Strength and Nobility." Ecstatic Trance Postures, 15 Apr. 2020, www.cuyamungueinstitute.com/articles-and-news/thunderbird-a-symbol-of-power-strength-and-nobility/.

Some believe sightings of these birds are misidentified and misplaced Andean condors, from South America, whose wingspan can reach up to eleven-feet.



Sources:

1) "Thunderbird (Mythology)." Wikipedia, 5 Mar. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbird_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbird_(mythology)).

2) "Andean Condor." Wikipedia, 23 Jan. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andean_condor.

3) Don Peak Wilderness Adventures. "Don Peak Wilderness Adventures." Facebook, 19 May 2020, www.facebook.com/donpeakwildernessadventures/posts/we-believe-that-giant-thunderbirds-still-fly-the-skys-of-north-america-in-these-/1704550516349794/.

Some even postulate that they are misidentified, surviving pterosaur, and point to the alleged "Tombstone Thunderbird" photos. These photos, however, are photo-shopped.



Sources:

1) "Thunderbird." Cryptid Wiki, cryptidz.fandom.com/wiki/Thunderbird.

2) Serda, Martha, et al. Legend or Lie? The Tombstone Thunderbird. KGUN, 11 Oct. 2016, www.kgun9.com/entertainment/legend-or-lie/legend-or-lie-tombstone-thunderbird-sighting.

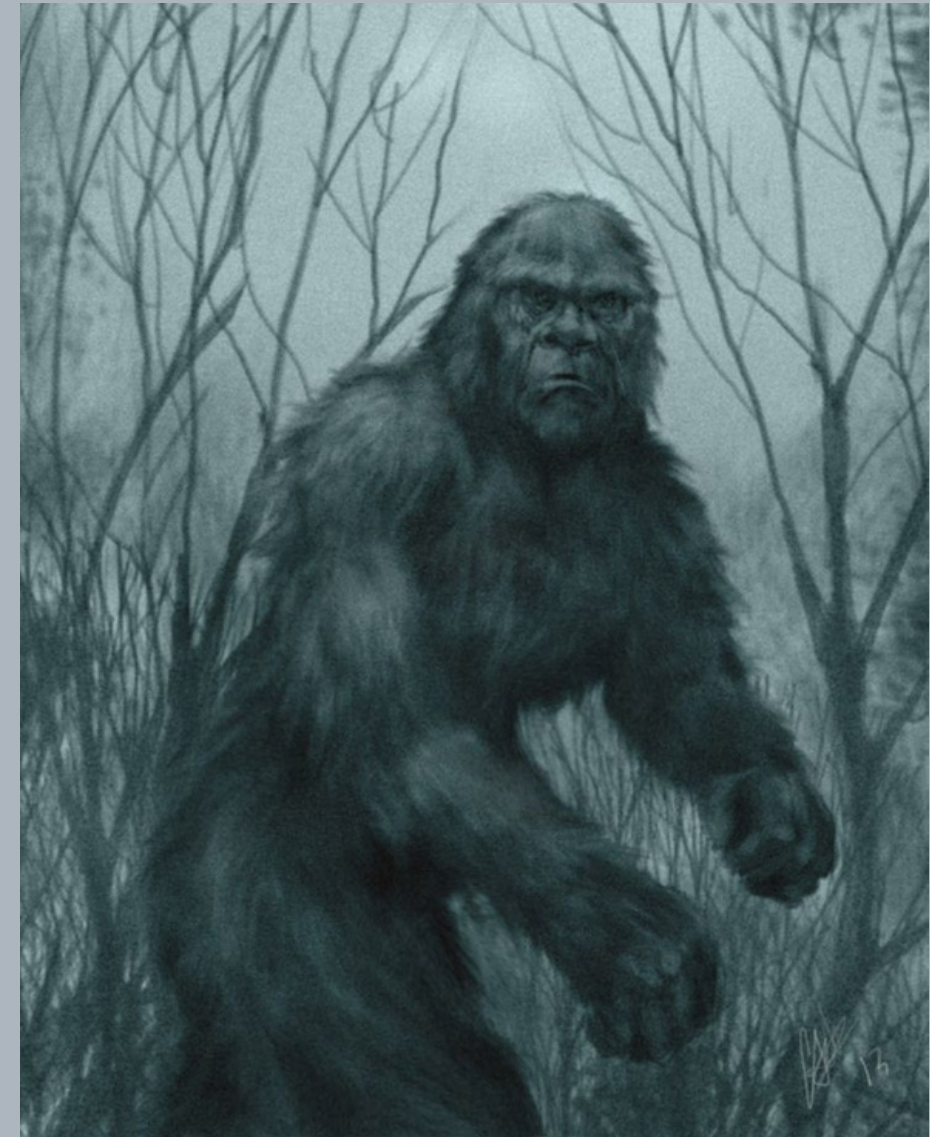
There is some anecdotal evidence to a species of bird, larger than an Andean condor. For instance, in July, 1977, in Lawndale, Illinois, Ruth Lowe has to protect her son, Marlon, from being carried off by one of two birds that were attacking him. The boy weighed between 50 and 65 pounds. Andean condors only weigh up to 33-pounds, themselves.



Source:

"Giant Bird Swooping down in Lawndale: Fact or Fiction." Lincoln Courier, 18 May 2014, www.lincolncourier.com/article/20140518/news/140519416.

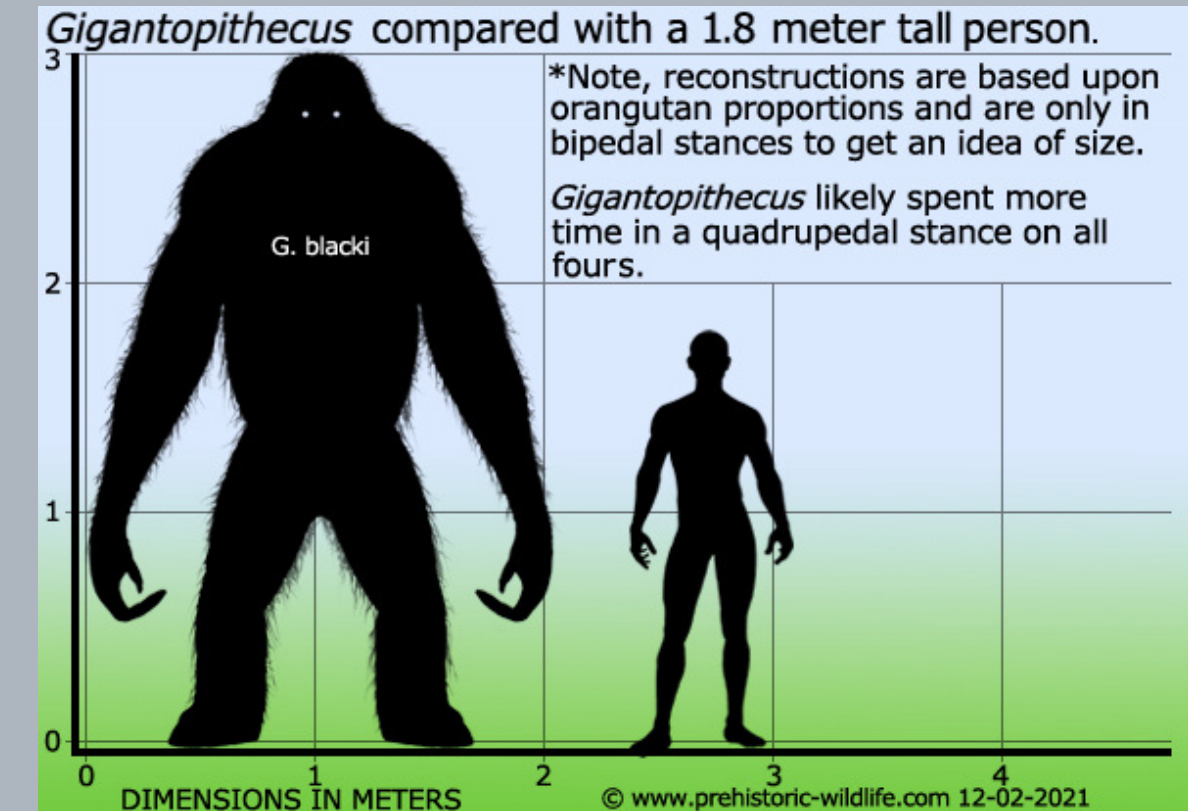
Bigfoot is arguably the most popular cryptid, and appears in cross-culturally, in oral traditions of many first nations. Despite the heavily disputed Patterson–Gimlin film, and some foot impressions, there has been no definitive proof that this creature exists.



Sources:

- 1) "Bigfoot." Wikipedia, 27 Feb. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bigfoot.
- 2) Norfolk, Joyce. "Pin by Joyce Norfolk on Bigfoot: Bigfoot Art, Bigfoot Pictures, Bigfoot Drawing." Pinterest, www.pinterest.com/pin/329325791477018231/.

Some cryptozoologists hypothesize that Bigfoot-type creatures could be remnant Gigantopithecus, an ape that went extinct 100,000 years ago, but is estimated to have stood up to almost ten-feet-tall, and weigh up to about 660-pounds.



Sources:

- 1) "Bigfoot." Wikipedia, 27 Feb. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bigfoot.
- 2) Pepper, Darren. Gigantopithecus, www.prehistoric-wildlife.com/species/g/gigantopithecus.html.



Local Legends As Crytpids

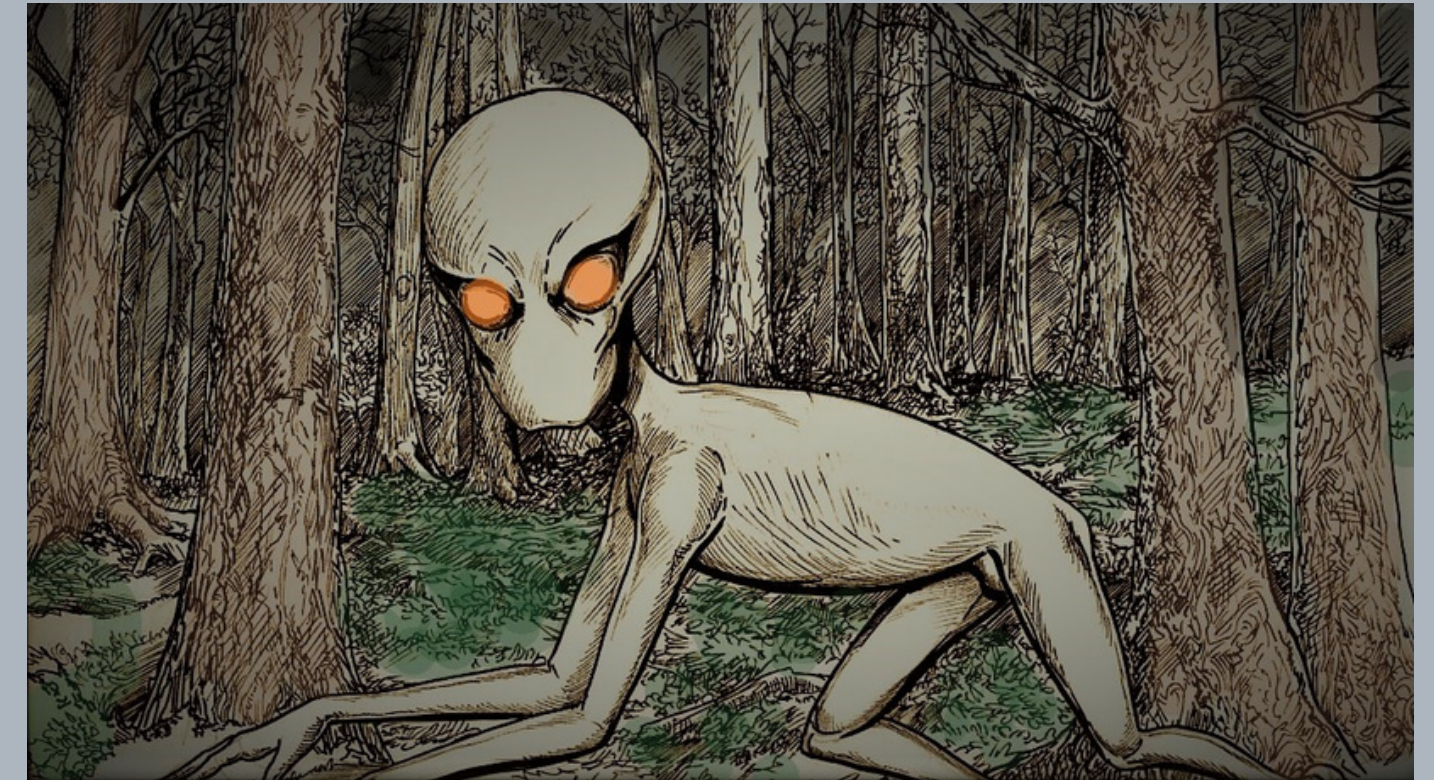
The most famous of folkloric cryptids is the Mothman of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, that some argue appeared to warn residents of the town of the coming disaster of the collapse of the Silver Bridge, which led to many deaths.



Sources:

- 1) Keel, John A. The Mothman Prophecies. Tor, 2013.
- 2) "The Mothman." Strange Matters Podcast, 14 July 2017, www.strangematterspodcast.com/the-mothman/.

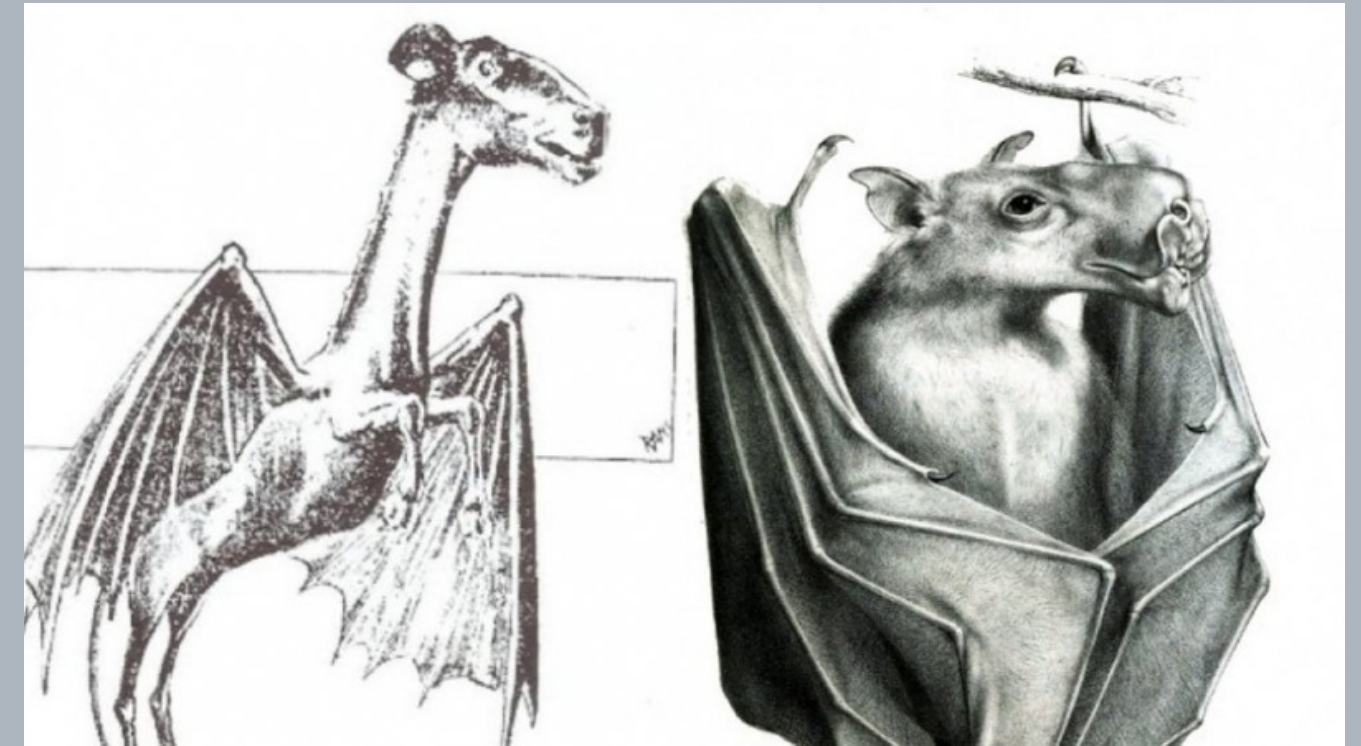
Another strange cryptid was the so-called Dover demon, reported by several witnesses in Dover, Massachusetts, in April, 1977. Like the Mothman percipients, the sightings were reported to local authorities.



Sources:

- 1) "Dover Demon." Wikipedia, 3 Mar. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dover_Demon.
- 2) darknite125. "Creepy Mysteries: Dover Demon." Funk's House of Geekery, 6 Jan. 2020, houseofgeekery.com/2020/01/07/creepy-mysteries-dover-demon/.

The odd Jersey Devil of the Pine Barrens, New Jersey, at least encountered during "phenomenon week", between January 16 through 23, 1909, may have been misidentification. Besides the size, descriptions are strikingly similar to the strange-looking hammerhead bat, of Africa.



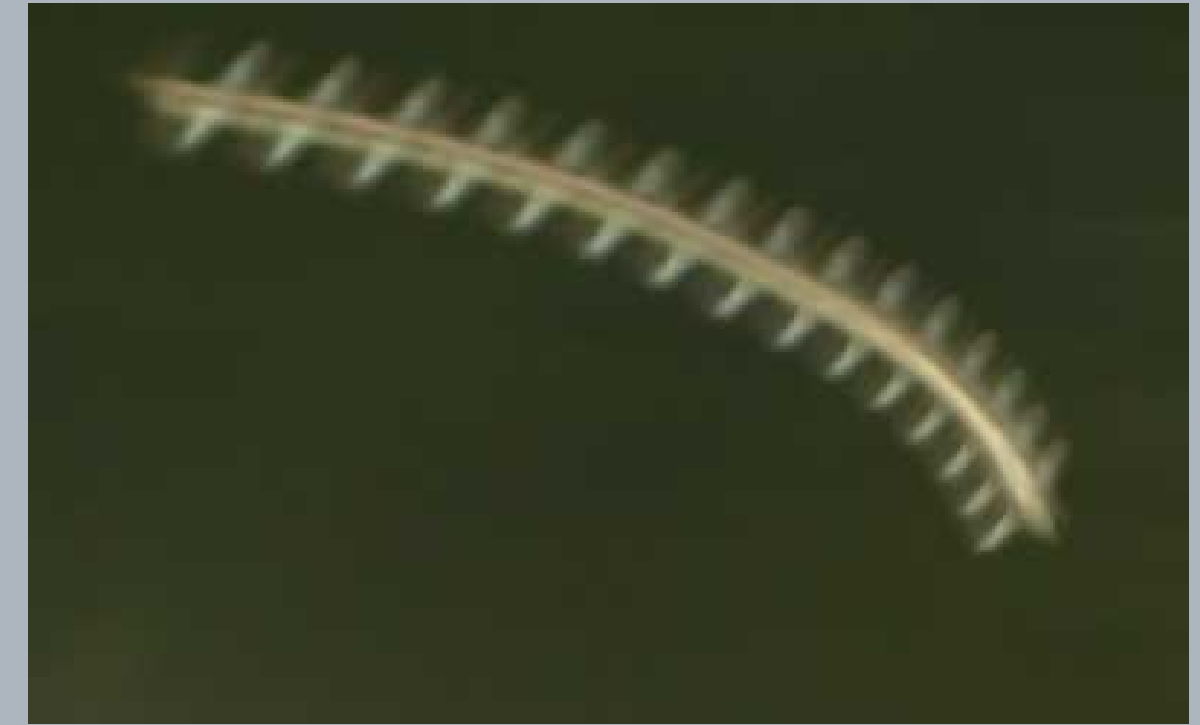
Sources:

- 1) "Dover Demon." Wikipedia, 3 Mar. 2021, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dover_Demon.
- 2) darknite125. "Creepy Mysteries: Dover Demon." Funk's House of Geekery, 6 Jan. 2020, houseofgeekery.com/2020/01/07/creepy-mysteries-dover-demon/.



Interdimensional Creatures As Cryptids

"Air rods", or "sky fish" are an optical illusion created when an insect or bird flies in front of a camera lens, but because of a low frame rate, appear like elongated, winged "rods". Before this was understood, it was hypothesized that they were interdimensional creatures, invisible to the human eye, but captured on video.



Sources:

1) "Rod (Optical Phenomenon)." Wikipedia, 8 Feb. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_\(optical_phenomenon\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_(optical_phenomenon)).

2) Dunning, Brian. "Rods: Flying Absurdities." Skeptoid, 19 Oct. 2006, skeptoid.com/episodes/4004.

Despite this, some paranormal researchers hypothesize that some, if not all cryptids, are indeed interdimensional, which is why they leave little to no evidence to their existence.

The background features a large, solid grey triangle on the left side, pointing towards the top-left. The rest of the background is filled with a complex pattern of thin, light grey wavy lines that create a sense of motion and depth. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

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