

Analysis of the UFO Observation Data Collected by the Finnish UFO Research Association, 2018–2023

Toni Poikela - Master of Computer Science, Member of Fufora, UAP researcher and Member of Society of UAP Studies [<https://www.societyforuapstudies.org/>]

18.10.2026

Summary

This study examines reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) submitted in Finland between 2018 and 2023 by Finnish citizens and foreign nationals residing in Finland. The aim of the study was to identify recurring temporal, geographical, and observation-related patterns in the dataset and to evaluate the characteristics of the reported phenomena using a classification framework developed for this study.

The research material consists of observation reports collected through a systematic reporting process. Reports were submitted voluntarily by individuals through the Finnish UFO Researchers Association (FUFORA, fufora.fi) website using a structured reporting form. Each case was assessed by the association's researchers according to predefined criteria, including information about the observer, observation conditions, characteristics of the reported phenomenon, and available supporting material. The data were analysed by examining the annual distribution of observations, seasonal variation, geographical location, observation duration, and reported behavioural characteristics.

The results provide an overview of the quantitative distribution of observations and the prevalence of different observational characteristics. The reported phenomena were classified according to predefined observation categories without making a determination about their ultimate nature or origin. The act of submitting a report indicates that the observer perceived something sufficiently unusual or significant to warrant reporting. However, the dataset cannot independently establish the accuracy of every report, and deliberately false reports are particularly difficult to identify with certainty.

The purpose of this study is not to determine the origin or nature of unidentified sightings, but to provide a systematic and objective description of reported UAP observations. The results establish a standardized observational dataset that can serve as a basis for future scientific research and for national and international comparative studies.

Introduction

I have been interested in flying saucers and extraterrestrial life since I was young. My first exposure to the subject came through comic books that I read as a child. Some of them presented what was portrayed as a genuine encounter with extraterrestrial beings somewhere in the world, illustrated in comic-book form. The idea stayed with me throughout my life, and I gradually became interested in learning more about the subject. Eventually, I began reading books and other literature about UFOs and related phenomena.

In general, the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) refers to observed phenomena that cannot readily be identified or explained based on the available information. The term is not limited to objects of a particular shape, size, or apparent technology. Observations may involve objects or lights in the sky and, in some cases, phenomena reported in or near bodies of water. The defining characteristic is that the observer or investigator cannot confidently determine what was observed from the available evidence.

A large proportion of UAP reports consist of observations of lights in the sky. Such reports should not automatically be regarded as insignificant simply because they are supported only by an eyewitness account rather than by photographs, video, radar data, or other physical evidence. Observed lights may display characteristics that appear unusual to the observer, including changes in colour, sudden flashes, unusual movement, or apparent rapid acceleration. At the same time, observations based primarily on visual perception can be difficult to interpret, and natural, astronomical, atmospheric, technological, or other conventional explanations may be difficult to rule out without additional evidence.

Reports of unusual aerial phenomena have been made in many parts of the world and across different populations and time periods. The reasons people report such experiences can vary considerably. Some observers may simply want an explanation for something they could not identify, while others may interpret their experience within a broader interest in UFOs or extraterrestrial life.

There are undoubtedly many phenomena for which conventional explanations exist, including phenomena that an observer may not immediately recognize. Scientific knowledge continues to develop, and there remain many aspects of the natural world that are not fully understood. This does not mean that an unexplained observation should automatically be attributed to an extraordinary cause. Rather, an unexplained observation represents a starting point for further investigation.

Personally, I consider the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe to be an important question. Given the enormous scale of the universe, the possibility that life exists beyond Earth is scientifically worthy of consideration. Whether extraterrestrial life has ever visited Earth, however, is a separate question for which this study does not attempt to provide an answer.

I also believe that unusual observations can occur anywhere, including Finland. Finland presents particular challenges for systematic UAP research. The country has a relatively small population distributed across a large geographical area, and opportunities to obtain supporting evidence can therefore be limited. In addition, access to radar, military, governmental, and scientific data is generally restricted. There is no comprehensive national system dedicated to collecting and investigating UAP reports using all potentially available sources of evidence.

I am not aware of a previous Finnish study that has systematically analysed a comparable dataset of UAP reports over several consecutive years using a standardized classification framework. If such research exists, it is not widely known within the Finnish UAP research community. This provided additional motivation for conducting the present study.

The reports collected by the Finnish UFO Researchers Association (FUFORA) represent only a proportion of all unusual observations that may have occurred in Finland during the study period. Not everyone who experiences something unusual chooses to report it. Some people may be concerned about being ridiculed or not being taken seriously, while others may simply prefer not to attract attention to their experience. Some reports have therefore been submitted anonymously.

Anonymous reporting creates an additional limitation for research because it may prevent investigators from conducting follow-up interviews with the observer. Important contextual information can consequently remain unavailable, potentially reducing the evidentiary value of the report. At the same time, providing a safe and non-judgmental reporting environment may encourage people to report observations that might otherwise remain undocumented.

FUFORA's approach is to investigate reports rather than ridicule the people who submit them. The purpose of systematic investigation is not to assume that an observation has an extraordinary origin, but to document what was reported, assess the available evidence, and consider possible explanations. This study follows that principle by treating the reports as observational data while avoiding conclusions about their ultimate origin.

Goals

The aim of this research was to gather more information about the phenomena reported in Finland. I have never come across a Finnish study that has examined the phenomenon in this way, so I felt it was time to conduct one. I remember that Yle, the Finnish national public broadcasting company, published a report on the subject a few years ago, but I found it rather weak. It did not satisfy me, at least not in terms of the depth I was looking for. The report was quite superficial. I wanted to develop a much better understanding of how much of this phenomenon is being reported in Finland and where these observations occur.

The aim of this study was to examine unusual phenomena reported in Finland to FUFORA, regardless of whether the reported events actually occurred as described. I have used the

reports submitted to us, which are referred to throughout this study as either observation reports or observations. My own interest in the observational data focused particularly on the following questions:

- Where are these phenomena reported in Finland? Are there locations where more observations are reported than elsewhere?
- Are there differences in reported observations depending on the time of day, day of the week, or season?
- What kinds of cases have been reported?
- What kinds of objects or phenomena have been observed? How do the observations differ from known natural phenomena?
- In what kinds of environments are observations made?
- How does the situation in Finland compare with observations reported elsewhere in the world?

I have to admit that nothing particularly extraordinary has ever happened to me personally. Or, well, I have seen a strange, distant light in the sky that appeared to grow larger. The light then changed direction and gradually disappeared as it moved away. That experience was enough to make me curious, but I have never had a more significant personal encounter.

By going through the experiences of other people, I wanted to understand what they had experienced and what had caused them to become amazed or puzzled by what they saw. At the same time, I wanted to produce a report that could make some of these observations visible in a more concrete and visual form.

In connection with this work, I have also recently become interested in using artificial intelligence for data analysis. I have used AI to some extent in this study, even though I have a background in statistics. It has been interesting to experiment with new tools and explore how they can support the analysis of observational data.

Background

I had been working as a researcher for some time when I started wondering whether I could obtain the data in a more usable format than the reports themselves. Unfortunately, the content management software available to the association did not provide an easy way to extract or work with the data. Eventually, I managed to obtain the data in CSV format.

Unfortunately, the data required a considerable amount of work. A lot of work, actually. I had no idea at the beginning how much work would be involved.

There were also many things happening along the way. My own work required a lot of time and energy, and from time to time I also had to take care of the association's membership register and keep it running. As a result, the data preparation progressed in between other responsibilities and sometimes had to be put on hold.

Materials and methods

The data were extracted from the association's database and provided to me as a CSV file. In practice, the original file contained observation reports from 2009 to 2023, together with anonymized information about the people who submitted the reports. During the three-year period in which I worked on the dataset, I was able to process the observations from 2018 to 2023 into the form I wanted for this study. For some aspects of the data, I was also able to review information covering all years in the original dataset. There is still considerable work that could be done with the remaining data, and this study represents only one stage in the broader research process.

The original dataset contained 106 columns. These corresponded to the questions and fields in the observation reporting form, including the values or answers provided by the observer for each case. In addition to the original fields, I added 28 new fields. I used these fields to capture information from the observation reports that was not clearly represented in the original structured fields. I also used them to categorize different types of information so that they could be incorporated more consistently into the analysis and provide additional context for the dataset.

I also had to supplement and correct information in some observation reports. In some cases, information had been entered incorrectly in the structured fields. In other cases, the information was incomplete or had been provided only as free-form text in a single field, while the corresponding structured fields had been left unanswered. Where possible, I reviewed these cases and supplemented or corrected the information based on the original report. I hope that observers will be more careful when completing their reports in the future, as the quality and completeness of the submitted information directly affect the possibilities for subsequent analysis.

Duplicates were removed from the dataset. These consisted of reports that were clearly duplicate submissions of the same observation by the same person. After this process, each remaining report represents a unique submitted observation. The same event may still have been reported by more than one person, in which case the reports were retained because they represent independent observations of the same event.

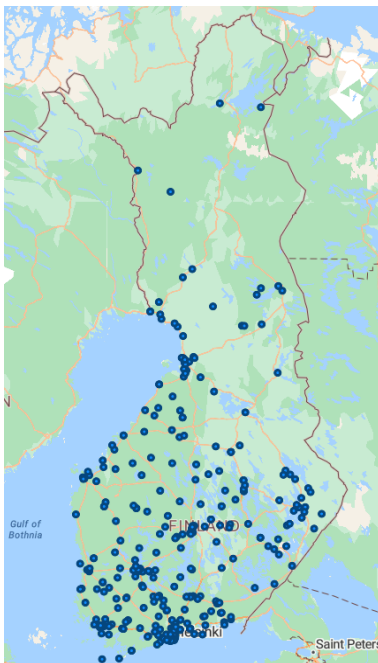
Although the original dataset also contained anonymized information about the observers, I did not systematically analyse this information as part of the present study. The study therefore focuses exclusively on the observation data. Out of personal interest, however, I did examine how many reports had been submitted by the same individuals.

Each report was reviewed and, where necessary, corrected by me with regard to its content. Where possible, I also checked the reported observation location against the location described in the report using Google Maps. Locality information was reviewed and corrected where necessary. This was particularly relevant because municipal boundaries and municipality names have changed over the period covered by the original dataset, including through municipal mergers and other administrative changes since 2009.

While cleaning and improving the dataset, I also began designing a visual summary of the observations. The report gradually developed alongside the dataset as the data became more structured and consistent. For this purpose, I used Microsoft Power BI Desktop, with which I already had some familiarity, to create the visualizations and reporting views used to explore and present the data.

Analysis of the data set

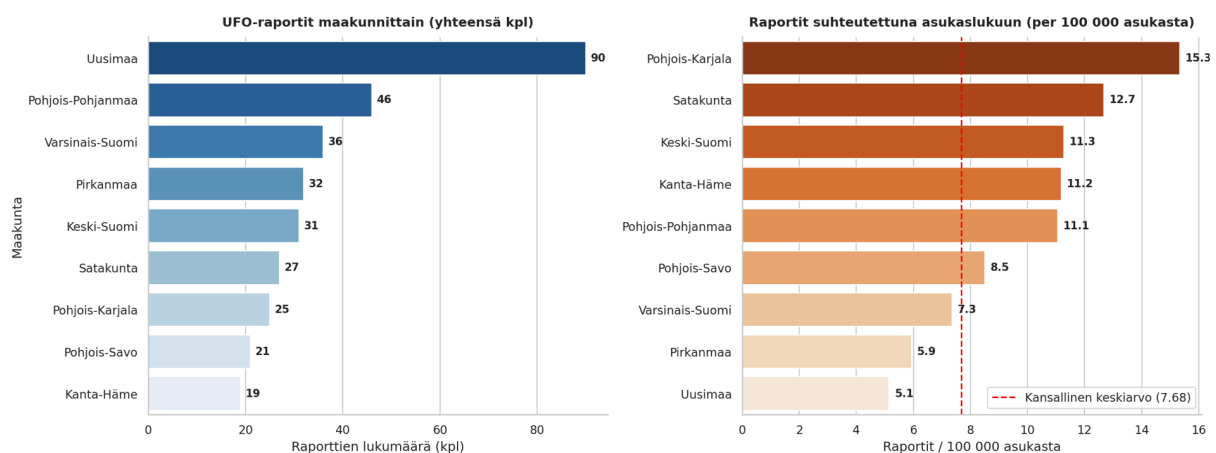
Location information for reports



There are a total of 428 sighting reports for the period 2018–2023. This corresponds to an annual average of approximately 71.5 reports per year in Finland, or slightly more than one report per week.

The map shows all reported observations plotted according to their reported locations. Not all observations have been independently verified, so the possibility of inaccurate or deliberately false reports cannot be completely ruled out. The map appears to show some local concentrations of reports around larger cities.

However, the location data available in the dataset do not allow for more detailed geographical analysis. More precise coordinate data would be required to analyse the spatial distribution of observations in greater detail.



When looking at the number of observation reports by region, Uusimaa is clearly the most common region by number of reports. Northern Ostrobothnia ranks second. Only six

observation reports did not contain information about the region in which the observation was made.

When the number of observation reports is related to the population of each region, using the reporting frequency per 100,000 inhabitants, the picture changes considerably. As shown in the upper-right figure, Uusimaa has the highest absolute number of reports and is home to approximately 30% of Finland's population. However, its reporting frequency is lower than might be expected based solely on its population size.

North Karelia had the highest reporting frequency, meaning that it produced the most observation reports in relation to its population. Five regions exceeded the national average of 7.69 reports per 100,000 inhabitants.

The real “hot spots” can be found in the eastern and western provinces, where the reporting frequency of notifications is up to 2-3 times higher than in Uusimaa:

- North Karelia: approximately 15.3 reports / 100k inhabitants (approx. 1.9 times higher than expected)
- Satakunta: approx. 12.7 reports / 100k inhabitants (approx. 1.6 times the expected rate)
- Central Finland: approx. 11.6 reports / 100k inhabitants (approx. 1.5 times)
- Kanta-Häme: approx. 11.2 reports / 100k inhabitants
- Northern Ostrobothnia: approx. 10.8 reports / 100k inhabitants (approx. 1.4 times)

Why are there relatively more reports in certain areas?

I propose several possible explanations and questions that may help explain the regional differences in reporting frequency:

- **Darker skies and less light pollution:** Are stars, satellites, meteors, and other celestial phenomena easier to see in sparsely populated areas? Could military exercises or other activities on the other side of Finland's eastern border produce visible light phenomena?
- **Outdoor activities and summer cottages:** Do people in rural areas spend more time outdoors, particularly at summer cottages, and therefore have more opportunities to observe the sky?
- **Unobstructed horizons:** Lake and coastal areas often provide wide, unobstructed views of the horizon, which may make unusual phenomena easier to notice.
- **Air traffic and military activity:** The proximity of airports, air bases, and other aviation or military activities may increase the likelihood of unusual lights being observed and subsequently misidentified.
- **Willingness to report:** Regional differences may partly reflect differences in people's willingness to report unusual observations. Some populations may be more willing or less hesitant to submit a report than others.

- **Awareness of FUFORA:** The Finnish UFO Researchers Association may be better known in some parts of Finland than in others. Differences in the association's visibility could therefore affect the number of reports submitted from different regions.
- **Deliberate false or misleading reports:** It is also possible that some individuals may intentionally submit false or misleading reports in an attempt to distort the dataset. Another possibility is that some individuals may have a particular interest in the subject and submit a disproportionately large number of reports.

Although the proximity of airports may explain some of the observations reported in urban areas, it does not appear to explain the geographical distribution of reports across Finland as a whole. If air traffic were the primary explanation for the regional differences, the Helsinki-Vantaa area would be expected to stand out much more clearly from the rest of the country.

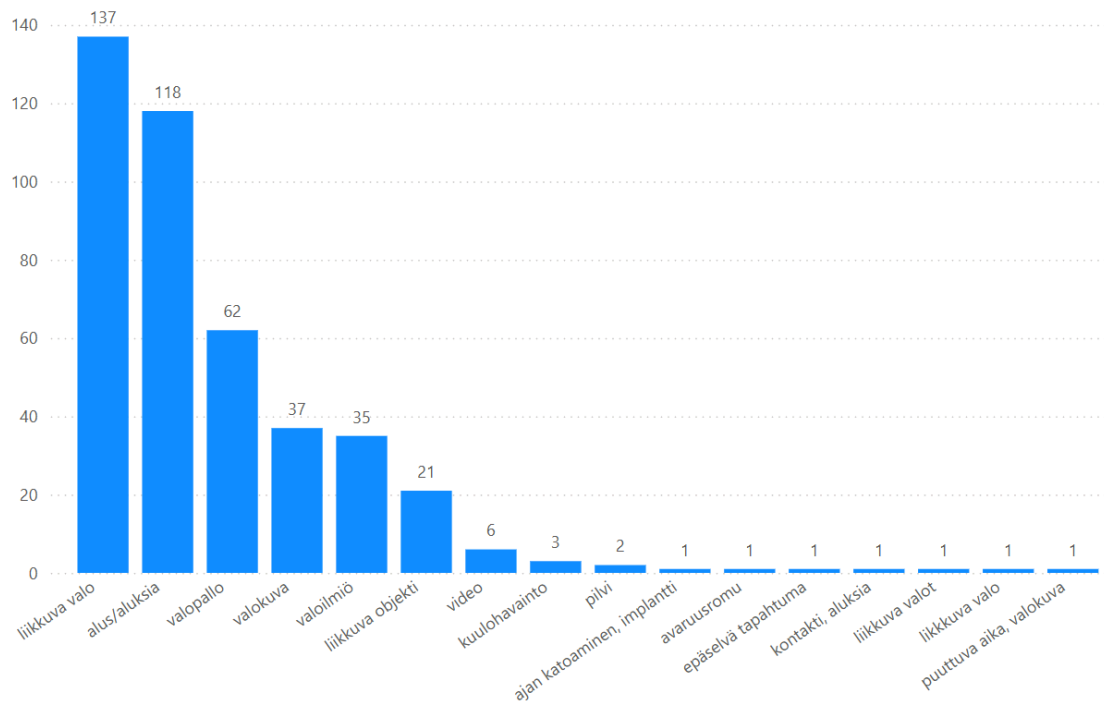
Kunta/Kaupunki	Havaintojen lukumäärä	Kunta/kaupunki	Havainnot	Väkiluku	havaintomääräsuhde
Helsinki	25	Merijärvi	2	1059	18.89
Oulu	18	Rääkkylä	3	1881	15.95
Pori	17	Juuka	5	4160	12.02
Jyväskylä	13	Pomarkku	2	1931	10.36
Tampere	13	halsua	1	985	10.15
Vantaa	12	sysmä	3	3428	8.75
ei tiedossa	10	Lapinjärvi	2	2429	8.23
Espoo	10	Enonkoski	1	1288	7.76
Joensuu	10	Simo	2	2778	7.20
Turku	10	Multia	1	1393	7.18

Among individual municipalities/cities ("kunta/kaupunki"), Helsinki (25 reports), Oulu (18), and Pori (17) stand out by the absolute number of sighting reports.

However, when the number of reports is related to the population of each municipality, using population data from Statistics Finland [Statistics Finland, Population of municipalities 2023], the picture changes considerably. A small number of reports can have a large effect on the reporting rate in sparsely populated municipalities.

For this reason, Merijärvi appears prominently when reports are considered in relation to population size. However, the number of reports is too small to conclude that Merijärvi is actually a centre of Finnish UFO sightings. The result should instead be regarded as an observation that would require a larger dataset and further research to confirm.

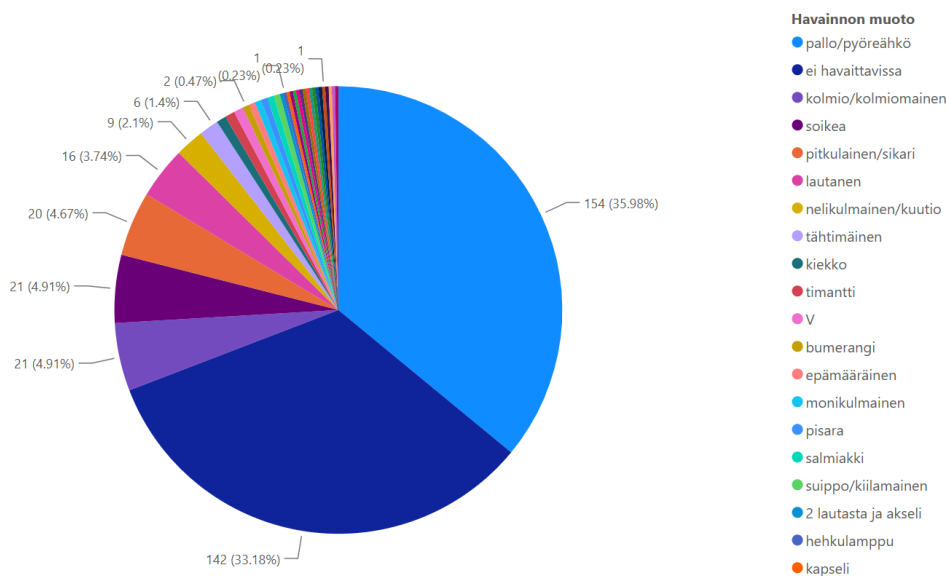
Characteristics of the observation object



The majority of the reported phenomena were clearly distant moving lights, light balls, or other light phenomena (“liikkuva valo”, “valopallo”, “valoilmiö”). More than 230 observations fell into these categories, representing over 50% of all reports.

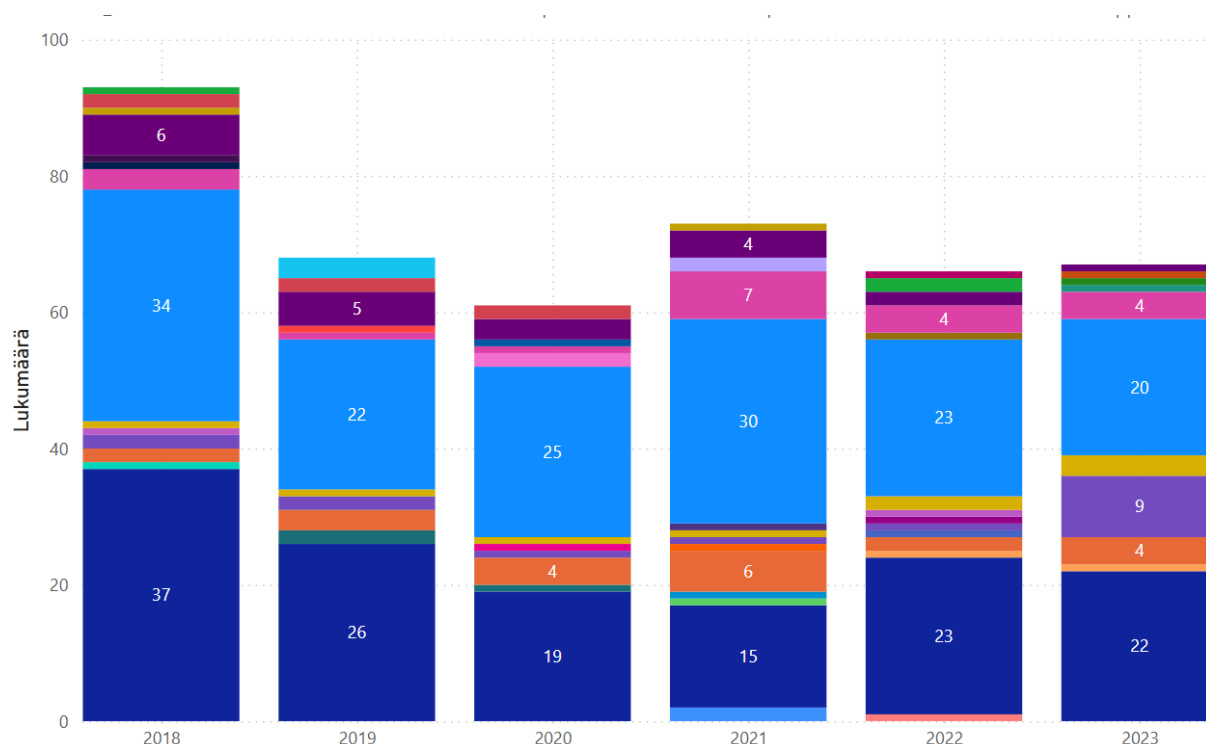
As shown in the figure, 118 reports, or approximately 28% of all observations, involved phenomena that could be identified (by an observer) as a ship or ships. In addition, 21 observations involved other types of moving objects.

A further 37 observations were based solely on photographs. In many of these cases, there was no direct eyewitness observation of the phenomenon itself. For example, something unusual was noticed only later when the photograph was examined.



If we look at the shape of the observation, 36 percent of the observations were circular according to the observer. This may be influenced by the fact that the light observed in the dark is circular and does not fully describe the shape of the observed object itself, but only the shape of the light. In a third, or 33 percent of cases, the observer has not been able to identify the shape of the observation. Less than 20 percent of the observations are classic UFO observations.

There are 15 reports of more than one object, or about 3.5 percent of the cases. In two of the cases, fighter jets have been seen in the air after the event, so the defense forces have apparently also spotted something. In two reports, creatures/humanoids are also reported to have been seen, so such encounters are not very common (0.47%).



There is no significant annual variation in the shape of the sightings. The circular object (light blue) remains the dominant shape in all sightings from 2018 to 2023. In about a third of the events, the shape could not be detected (dark blue). The year 2023 saw the highest number of reported sightings of saucers (9, purple). The annual differences are therefore extremely moderate, and the basic statistical structure of the data remains unchanged..

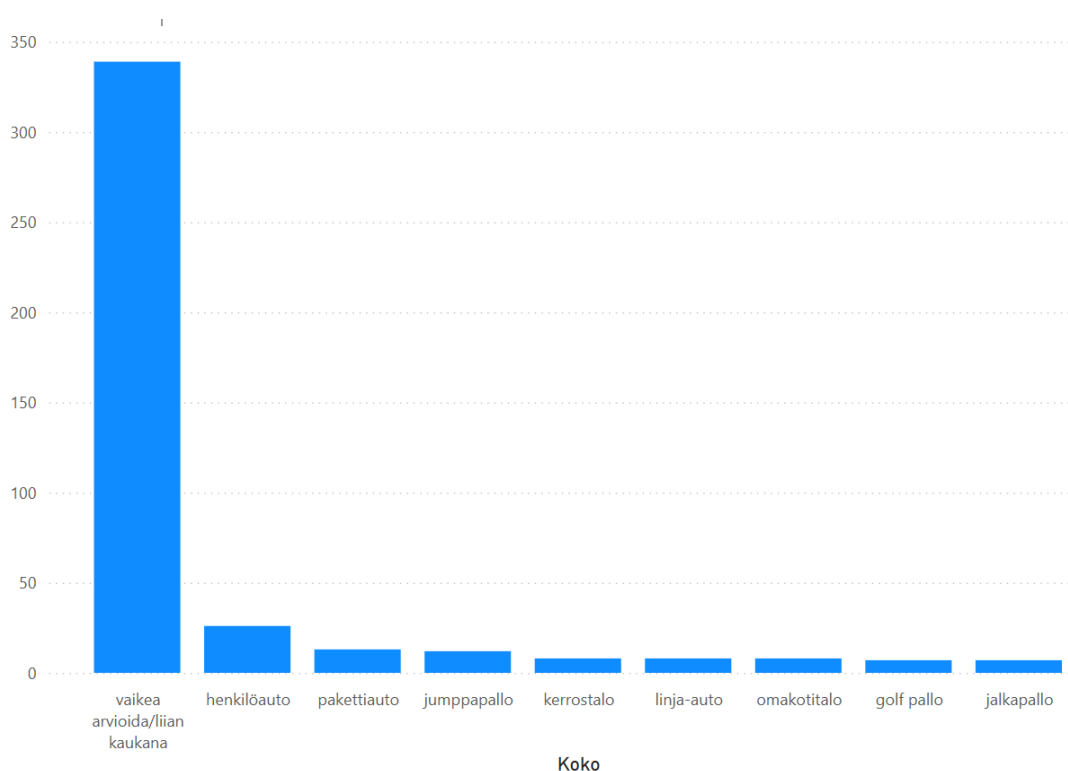
Valaisiko	Lukumäärä	Loistiko	Lukumäärä	Värityyppi	Lukumäärä
ei	374	ei	132	monivärinen	66
kyllä	54	kyllä	296	yksivärinen	362
Total	428	Total	428	Total	428

The majority (374) of the observations did not illuminate the environment. Instead, almost 70 percent (296) of the observations shined. The majority of the observations were monochromatic, and about 15 percent (66) of the observations were multi-colored. Multi-color is an interesting feature, as it usually involves more than just a few colored lightflash. Thus, the aircraft lights can be easily ruled out.

Päästikö ääntä	Lukumäärä	Pyörικό	Lukumäärä	Hohkasiko lämpöä	Lukumäärä
ei	404	ei	379	ei	414
kyllä	24	kyllä	49	kyllä	14
Total	428	Total	428	Total	428

Most of the objects were also silent. This is common in UFO phenomena. Only a little over 5 percent (24) made noise. As I mentioned, similar aircraft are usually described as silent, but in some history events the observers have also heard some kind of electrical hum.

Therefore, in my opinion, silence does not rule out anything. About 11 percent (49) of the observations were rotating, which is similar to some aircraft described around the world. A small number of observations (14) seemed to radiate heat.



According to the reports, it was difficult to make an observation about the size of the majority of the objects. It is usually difficult to know how far away an object is when there are no comparison objects available. For those whose size has been estimated, the size variation is distributed relatively evenly. Although the comparison point is a passenger car and a van as a size class are the most common. Very small objects, about the size of a golf ball, have also been observed. It is likely and often the case that such small objects have been observed in very close proximity.

hav_liike	Lukumäärä
ei	229
kyllä	199
Total	428

Approximately 46 percent (199) of the observed objects were in motion. More than half of the observations (229) appeared to be stationary. If the observation was in motion, the movement was usually described as abnormal and not typical.

Pelottiko	Lukumäärä	Vaikutti psyykeen	Lukumäärä	Vaikututti eläimeen	Lukumäärä
ei	364	ei	392	ei	407
kyllä	64	kyllä	36	kyllä	21
Total	428	Total	428	Total	428

Observation from the witnesses (64) about 15 percent felt fear (“Pelottiko”) and about 8 percent (36) felt that the incident had affected the person's psyche (“vaikuttiko psyykeen”). Almost 6 percent (21) of the reports said that the incident had an impact on behaviour of the animal involved, which was most commonly a dog or, less commonly, a cat.

Reports usually indicate that the characteristics of the sighting indicate unusual activity: 1) shape, 2) color, 3) strange movement, 4) speed, 5) unusual flashing of lights.

In summary, the observations can be divided into three categories:

- Group A: distant objects and light phenomena - these are the majority of observations
- Group B: structural observations and strange movement - a small portion of observations
- Group C: high anomaly cases: fast moving objects, multiple eyewitnesses and the case is very precisely described - few observations

Time of observation

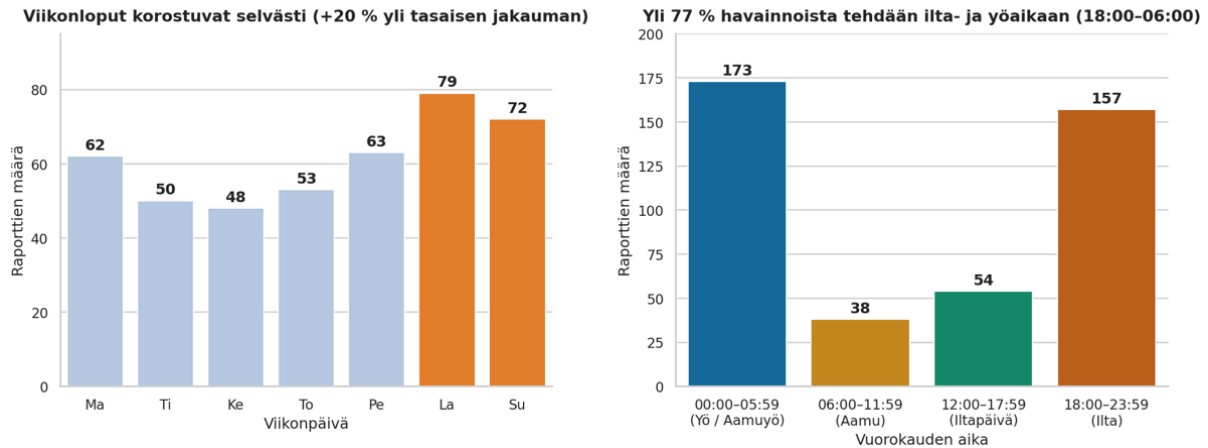
Times of day: Observations are strongly concentrated at night

More than three-quarters (75 percent) of the observations are made in the evening and night. Usable time of day is known for 422 cases, and they are distributed as follows:

- 00:00–05:59: 173 cases
- 18:00–23:59: 157 cases
- 12:00–17:59: 54 cases
- 06:00–11:59: 38 cases

A total of 77.3% of all reported sightings occurred between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM. When the data is divided directly into day and night, the relationship is very clear:

- Evening/night (6:00 PM–5:59 AM): 330 cases
- Day/Morning (06:00–17:59): 92 cases



Sightings are reported approximately 3.6 times more in the evening and night than during the day. By far the most popular single hour for sightings is 00:00 (94 reports). Other busy hours are also at night:

- 9:00 PM: 37 reports
- 23:00: 36 reports
- 01:00: 35 reports

Days of the week: weekends dominate

On weekdays, free time guides observations: observations are distributed fairly evenly across weekdays (Tuesday and Wednesday being the quietest with approximately 50 cases), but Saturday (79 cases) and Sunday (72 cases) see a clear peak.

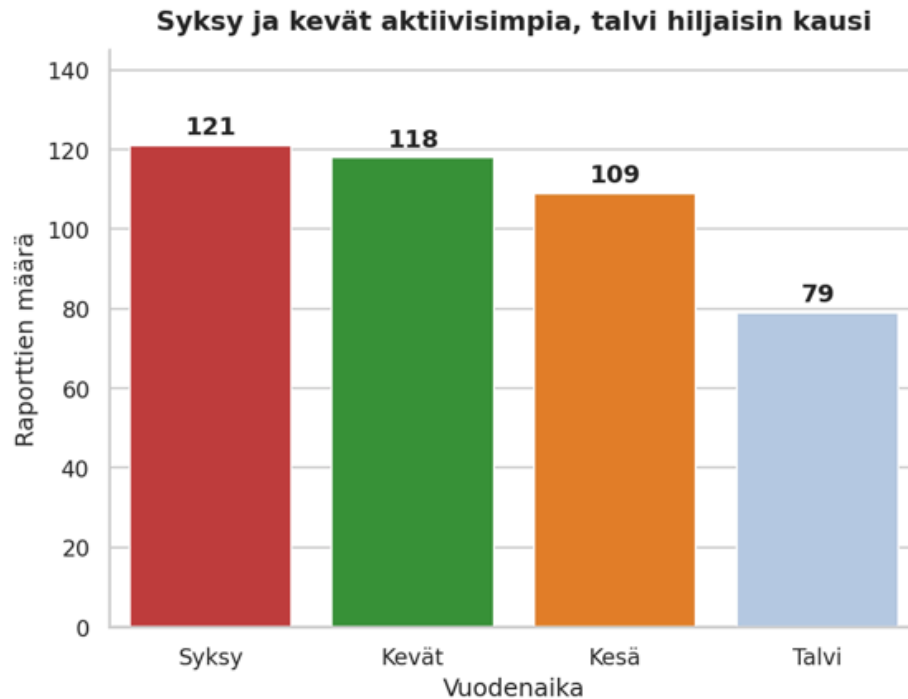
- Weekends are overrepresented by about 20% compared to the assumption of a perfectly even distribution. This is a strong indication that reporting is related to people's leisure time (such as late nights out, camping, or partying) rather than the actual variation in physical phenomena occurring in the sky.

Seasons: Autumn and spring most active, winter quietest

When seasons were divided directly in the analysis observation dates (for which the date was known), the distribution was:

- Autumn: 121 cases (28.3%)
- Spring: 118 cases (27.6%)
- Summer: 109 cases (25.5%)
- Winter: 79 cases (18.5%)

In my opinion, it is a bit surprising that there are fewer sightings in winter. Or are people less outdoors in winter? Based on the data, darkness alone does not guarantee sightings.



The strongest individual months were October (the highest peak of the entire year), April and August. The weakest months were December and January.

What do these dates tell us about the phenomenon?

Month distributions reveal something very important about the nature of the phenomenon:

- The trade-off between darkness and outdoor activities: Although the darkest time in Finland is midwinter (November–January), it is still the quietest time of year for reporting. This shows that darkness alone does not generate reports.
- Observer opportunity: Reporting peaks when three factors combine: sufficient darkness (so that lights stand out), favorable weather (compared to midwinter cloudiness), and people actually being outside (for example, camping, fishing, or spending the evening)

A typical Finnish UFO sighting occurs on a clear, dry weekend night in spring or autumn, when people are outside (for example, smoking or walking the dog) and unusual light sources stand out most easily against the dark sky.

Geographical environment (Location type)

Contrary to what is often imagined, Finnish UFO sightings are not primarily a "wilderness phenomenon", but concentrated in populated areas:

- City/urban area: 204 cases
- Rural/forest/lake area: 118 cases

- Village agglomeration: 61 cases
- Sea/coast: 2 cases
- *The environment is not clear in the remaining announcements.*

More than half of the observations are made in inhabited environments. This reflects above all reporting bias: people make observations from where they themselves are.

Outdoors vs. interiors

- 78.5% of observations (335 cases) were made outdoors.
- 92 observations were made from inside.

This shows that a typical observation situation begins unplanned when a person is outside and decides to look at the sky.

Weather conditions: The strongest signal in statistics

Weather conditions have a very strong influence on the number of observations.

hav_pilvisyys	Lukumäärä
kirkas	289
pilvista	38
puolipilvista	101
Total	428

Sightings are made almost exclusively when the sky is clear and visibility is good:

- Clear skies: 68% of cases
- Partly cloudy: 24%
- Cloudy: Only 9%

Dry weather: As many as 95% of all reports are made during rainless weather.

Although the observations are concentrated in cities due to population size, the most active areas relative to population size (such as North Karelia and Satakunta) are environments with low light pollution (very dark skies), large lake and forest areas, and unobstructed horizons. These conditions make it much easier to observe celestial bodies, satellites or atmospheric phenomena.

In summary, a typical observation environment is a clear, dry, and dark night outdoors, often near a settlement or in an environment where broad visibility and a dark sky make it easier to observe the sky.

Statistical distribution of observation duration

In the data, the duration of observations is divided between seconds, minutes and hours as follows (when duration is indicated):

- Seconds (197 cases in total):
 - 0–5 seconds: 74 cases
 - 5–15 seconds: 42 cases
 - 15–30 seconds: 39 cases
 - 30–60 seconds: 44 cases
- Minutes (total 178 cases):

- 1–5 minutes: 90 cases
- 5–15 minutes: 42 cases
- 15–30 minutes: 29 cases
- 30–60 minutes: 17 cases
- 60–120 minutes: 8 cases
- Hours (4 cases in total):
 - 2–24 hours: 4 cases
- Unknown duration: 38–43 cases.

In total, about 88% of observations with known duration last only seconds or minutes. Long-term observations lasting hours are extremely rare.

What does duration tell us about observations?

Duration information analytically provide several important clues about the nature of the phenomenon itself and the reporting system:

1. Observation opportunity: The duration of an observation is closely related to how much time the observer has to watch the object. Since 78.5% of observations occur outdoors and are initiated without prior planning, short-duration observations often represent situations where a person unexpectedly notices something unusual in the sky and observes it only briefly.
2. Connection to distant lights (Group A): The short duration fits perfectly with the so-called "Group A" observation model that dominates the Finnish data. This group typically consists of a nocturnal, quiet, circular light source that is observed by only one person for seconds or minutes. Many of these short-duration lights can be explained by passing satellites, with meteors, with shooting stars or by airplane.
3. Difficulty of object identification: When the observation lasts only seconds, it is very difficult to reliably identify an object – especially when the object is far away and there is usually only one eyewitness. This also explains why about 69% of cases in the data describe the object only as round or are unable to distinguish its shape.
4. Screening for genuine objects (Group C): In mathematical and scientific analysis, duration is one of the most important variables when constructing "UAP anomaly and evidence matrix". If the observation is long-lasting and is combined with other reliability factors– such as multiple independent witnesses and photographic or video footage – the anomaly value of the incident increases significantly (Group C). The long duration gives the observer time to analyze the object's trajectories, possible sounds, and physical effects, reducing the risk of human misinterpretation.

Number of witnesses: Sightings are private, not mass events

The distribution of witnesses is one of the clearest and strongest features of the material:

- Observations by a single witness: A whopping 69.3% of all cases (296 reports) were made alone. If we exclude the 18 cases in which the number of witnesses not recorded, about three-quarters (75 percent) of all regular witness accounts are the observations of one person.
- Observations of several witnesses:
 - 2 witnesses: 93 cases (approx. 22%).
 - 3 witnesses: 17 cases (approx. 4%).
 - 4 witnesses: 3 cases.
- No mass observations: There is no case in the data where there were more than 4 witnesses. The average number of witnesses is only 1.27 witnesses per observation.

Conclusion: Finnish UFO experiences are strongly personal in nature, not mass events shared by the entire community. From a research perspective, this is a challenge, as a remote observation made by a single witness is extremely difficult to interpret or verify reliably.

Recorded material: There are plenty of pictures, but the physical evidence missing

- Photos and videos: There is a surprisingly large amount of visual material in the data. Photos were taken in 30.7% of cases (131 cases) and videos in 7.0% of cases (30 cases).
- Although there have been reports of photographic or video footage, most of it has been of poor quality and filmed from a distance. Truly clear images are unfortunately rare.
- No independent evidence: The data is almost completely lacking in independent scientific evidence, such as radar observations, device measurements or repeatable physical measurements. Soil traces are mentioned in 28 cases (6%) and other physical signs in 6 cases (1%), but overall the data is almost purely based on observations.

Summary

Based on statistics, the most typical Finnish UAP observation (the so-called statistical “DNA” of the data) describes a brief, nocturnal and silent observation of a distant light source made by an individual outdoors.

The key parameters of this most common observation are:

- *Observer: The observation is made by one person (69.3% of cases). Larger mass observation situations are completely missing from the data.*

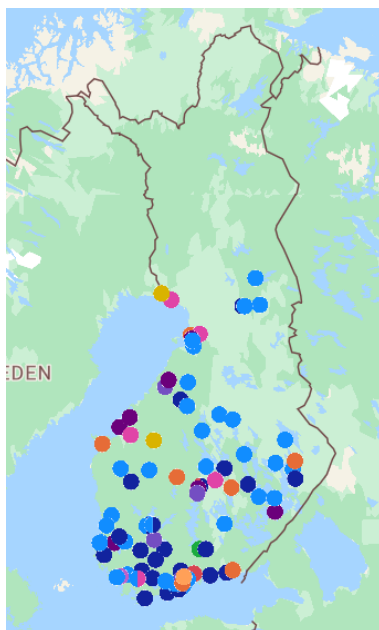
- *Observation environment: The observation begins unplanned outdoors (78.5%) and most often occurs in a populated area or urban area (204 cases) rather than in a remote wilderness.*
- *Weather conditions: The weather is exceptionally clear (68%) and dry (95%). Observations will only be made when the sky is clearly visible.*
- *Time of day: The observation occurs in the evening or night (77.3% between 18:00 and 06:00), especially on weekends (Sat–Sun) and in autumn or spring. The most popular single observation time is at 00:00.*
- *Object characteristics: It is a brilliant (69%), monochromatic (84.5%), and completely silent (94.4%) light source that is round in shape or too far to be determined (total 69% of cases).*
- *Duration: The observation is very short-lived, lasting only seconds or minutes (about 88% of known cases).*
- *Evidence: There is virtually no physical evidence or evidence. Photographs have been taken in approximately 30.7% of cases and videos in only 7.0% of cases.*

The most reliable observation reports

To get a little deeper observation of the most reliable cases, I have analyzed more deeply the observation cases where

- 1) the informant was interviewed
- 2) The phenomenon has remained unexplained despite the interview.

In multiple cases, the reason for not having any interview concluded, may be that when the material was handed over to me, there was still the year 2023. All studies were not yet conducted.



Maakunta	Havaintojen lukumäärä
Uusimaa	23
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa	15
Keski-Suomi	10
Satakunta	10
Pirkanmaa	7
Varsinais-Suomi	7
Pohjois-Savo	6
Etelä-Pohjanmaa	5
Etelä-Savo	5
Pohjois-Karjala	5
Kanta-Häme	3
Lappi	3
Pohjanmaa	3
Kymenlaakso	2
Päijät-Häme	2
ei tiedossa	1
Total	107

This leaves only 107 sightings.

Maakunta	Havaintoja	Väkiluku	havaintomääräsuhde
Satakunta	10	211261	4.73
Etelä-Savo	5	129376	3.86
Keski-Suomi	10	274112	3.65
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa	15	418331	3.59
Pohjois-Karjala	5	162091	3.08
Etelä-Pohjanmaa	5	189929	2.63
Pohjois-Savo	6	248815	2.41
Kanta-Häme	3	169455	1.77
Lappi	3	176151	1.70
Pohjanmaa	3	178749	1.68
Varsinais-Suomi	7	494819	1.41
Uusimaa	23	1782300	1.29
Pirkanmaa	7	545406	1.28
Kymenlaakso	2	157442	1.27
Päijät-Häme	2	204635	0.98
ei tiedossa	1		
Total	107		

Kunta/kaupunki	Havaintoja	Väkiluku	havaintomääräsuhde
Pomarkku	2	1931	10.36
Merijärvi	1	1059	9.44
Enonkoski	1	1288	7.76
Multia	1	1393	7.18
Rautalampi	2	2935	6.81
Humppila	1	2094	4.78
Alavieska	1	2410	4.15
Pudasjärvi	3	7304	4.11
Vimpeli	1	2607	3.84
Posio	1	2878	3.47

In terms of reliable events, Satakunta and South Savo come in first. There are so few reliable cases, that a municipality with a small population can get high in the statistics with just a few observations.

In ten reliable sightings, more than one flying object has been seen at the same time. In two reliable cases, a landed craft and a humanoid or other creature have been seen within sight.

Reliability factors synergy: drilling through the "real gems"

An analysis of the data reveals an interesting contradiction: although the data would be filtered only in the highest researcher classification (reliability 8–9) cases, the overall statistical picture does not change much. Even the most highly reliable sightings are still nocturnal balls or lights in clear weather without physical evidence.

Reliability factors: The real value lies in the fact that their combined effect can distinguish high anomaly cases (Group C) from normal ones, light observations (Group A). When building a tight filter that combines:

1. High rating (Credibility 8–9)
2. Multiple witnesses (3–4 people)
3. Photo or video material
4. No obvious natural or conventional explanation

This combination narrows the mass of 428 cases down to only about 10–20 of the strongest cases, which are considered worthy of further scientific investigation.

The three best cases:

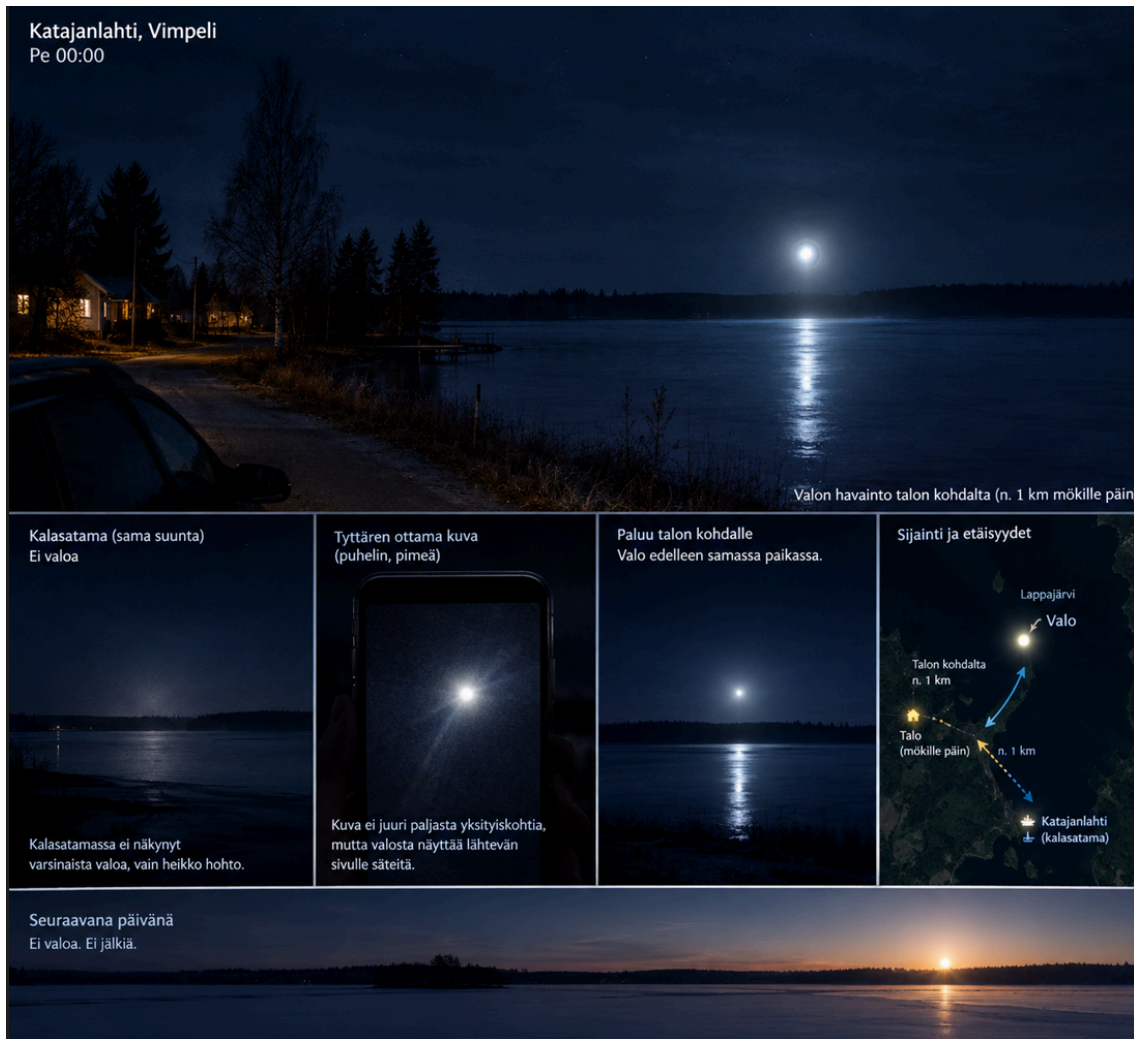
- Case 2232 (Vimpeli, December 2022): Reliability level 9, 4 witnesses, photo. The object was described as a rare cube/rectangle, and a similar shape was later seen again in the area.
- case 1833 (Espoo, May 2018): Reliability level 9, 3 witnesses, photograph. The object was described as structured into a ball of light instead of just a distant point.
- case 1962 (Pomarkku, May 2020): Reliability class 9, video that allows for objective frame-by-frame analysis.

Case 2232

Time: 31.12.2022

Place: Vimpeli, Katajanlahti, South Ostrobothnia

Multiple simultaneous sightings of a bright, round, stationary light over Lake Lappajärvi in the dark. The object was observed from multiple vehicle locations, but was not seen from the fishing harbor as expected. No sound was heard from the object and no obvious physical explanation was observed the next day. Two photographs were taken of the object.



- Date: December 31, 2022. Friday evening. It was pitch dark.
- Location: Vimpeli, on the shores of Lake Lappajärvi. The observation was made from Pokelantie, the view overlooking the lake.
- Observers: Father and his three children (born 2007, 2014 and 2016). All saw the object.
- Object: A bright, perfectly circular light that was visible above the water surface.
- Motion: The light did not move, but remained in the same place throughout observation period time.
- Sound: No sound was heard from the target.
- Confirmation: The family drove to the cabin, turned back and saw the light still in the same place. They also drove along the Katajanlahti to the fishing port, but there was no bright light visible there.
- Observation related to distance: The photographer believes that the light should have been visible from the fishing harbor as well, if it had been a regular light source on the lake.
- Photos: My daughter, born in 2007, took two cellphone photos. The photos showed light and possible side rays that were not visible to the naked eye.
- The next day: The light was no longer visible in daylight. Nor was there any place or object on the lake that could explain the light.

- Ice conditions: According to the photographer's assessment, the ice on the lake could not have supported a car or snowmobile at the time, and it is not certain whether it would have supported a person.

Researcher's statement:

According to the UFO researcher, similar bright lights seen over the lake have been reported both in Finland and elsewhere in the world. What was particularly interesting about the case was that the object was not visible from all angles of the observation sites, even though it was supposed to be visible. Observations could be viewed from different directions for about 15 minutes, which allowed for more accurate observations of the size and location of the target, although their determination remained uncertain.

The researcher does not consider the usual natural or technical explanations, such as drones, airplanes or astronomical phenomena, to be suitable for the observation. The difficult ice conditions on the lake also make it difficult to move around the site. According to the researcher, no valid explanation was found for the incident, and a personal conversation with the observer confirmed the perception that it was an exceptional phenomenon in a familiar environment for him.

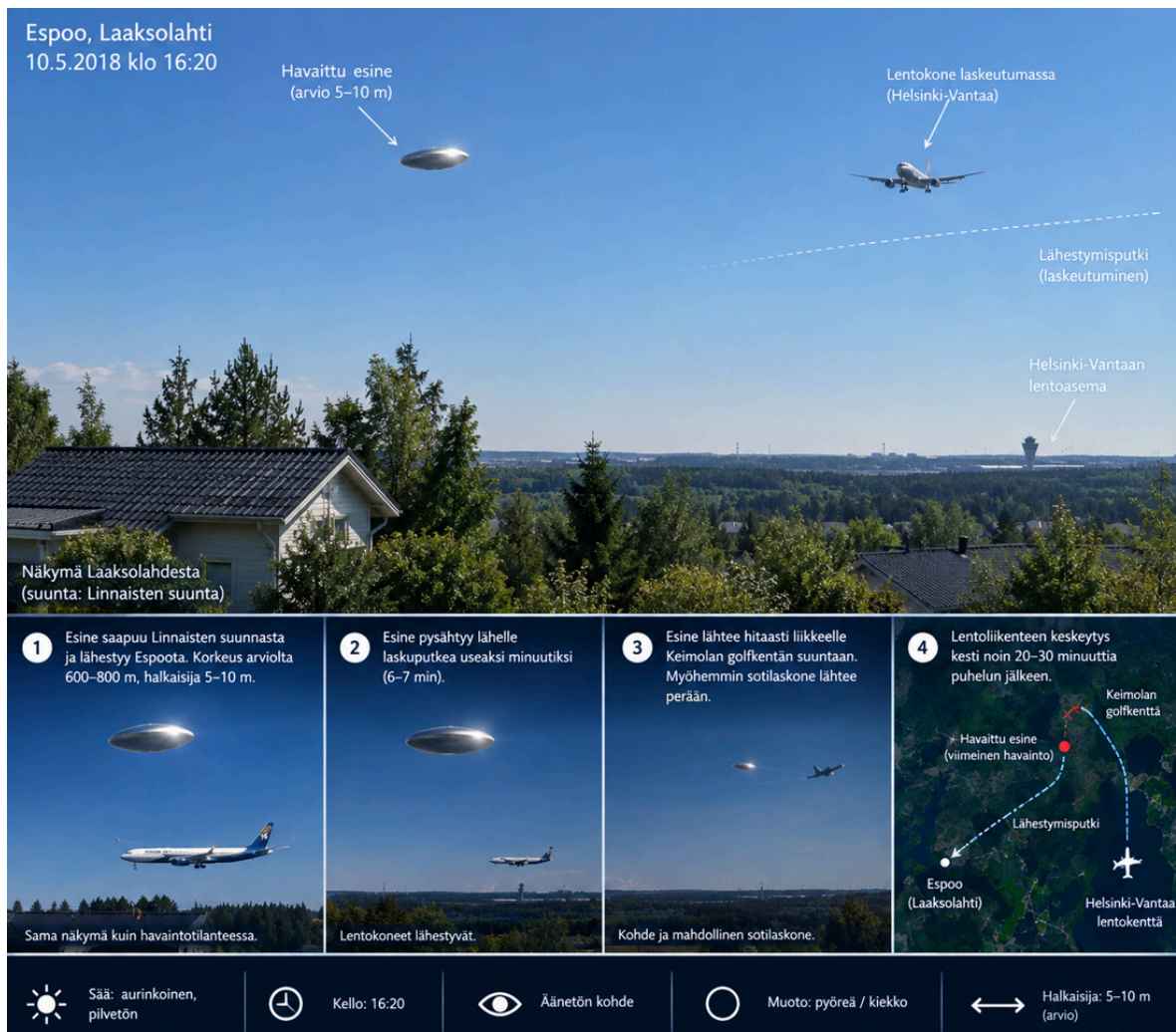
Case 1833

Time: 10.5.2018

Location: Espoo, Laaksolahti, Uusimaa

Sighting by two people on 10 May 2018 in Espoo on a sunny and cloudless afternoon. They saw a round, silvery, silent object, estimated to be 5–10 metres in size and 600–800 metres in height. The object moved slowly and stopped for approximately 6–7 minutes near the landing path of Helsinki-Vantaa airport.

The observer contacted air traffic control, whose representative reportedly confirmed that he had seen the object. The object then continued in the direction of Keimola, and the observers presumably saw a military aircraft following it. Later, drones were reported to have been spotted in the Helsinki-Vantaa area, but according to the observer, the object did not match a drone. A photograph of the object was also obtained.



Observers: Two people, a married couple.

Conditions: Sunny and cloudless day.

Target: Round, silver/shiny and silent object with no lights detected.

Estimated size: approximately 5–10 meters.

Estimated altitude: approximately 600–800 meters.

Movement: The object moved slowly, stopped for approximately 6–7 minutes near the Helsinki-Vantaa air traffic route and then continued in the direction of Keimola.

Air traffic control: The observer called Helsinki-Vantaa air traffic control. According to him, the air traffic control representative confirmed that he had seen the object.

Air traffic: Observers told according to reports, both landing and takeoff flights were suspended at the airport for approximately 20–30 minutes.

Military aircraft: Observers supposedly saw a military aircraft taking off after the target.

Documentation: A photograph was obtained of the site.

Later information: Two days later, there were reports of drones spotted in the Helsinki-Vantaa area, but according to the observer, the object spotted was not a drone.

Researcher's statement:

According to the UFO researcher, the observer seemed sincere and trustworthy based on the telephone conversation, and there were several observers. The case is considered extremely rare, as the observation led to the suspension of flight operations after the report

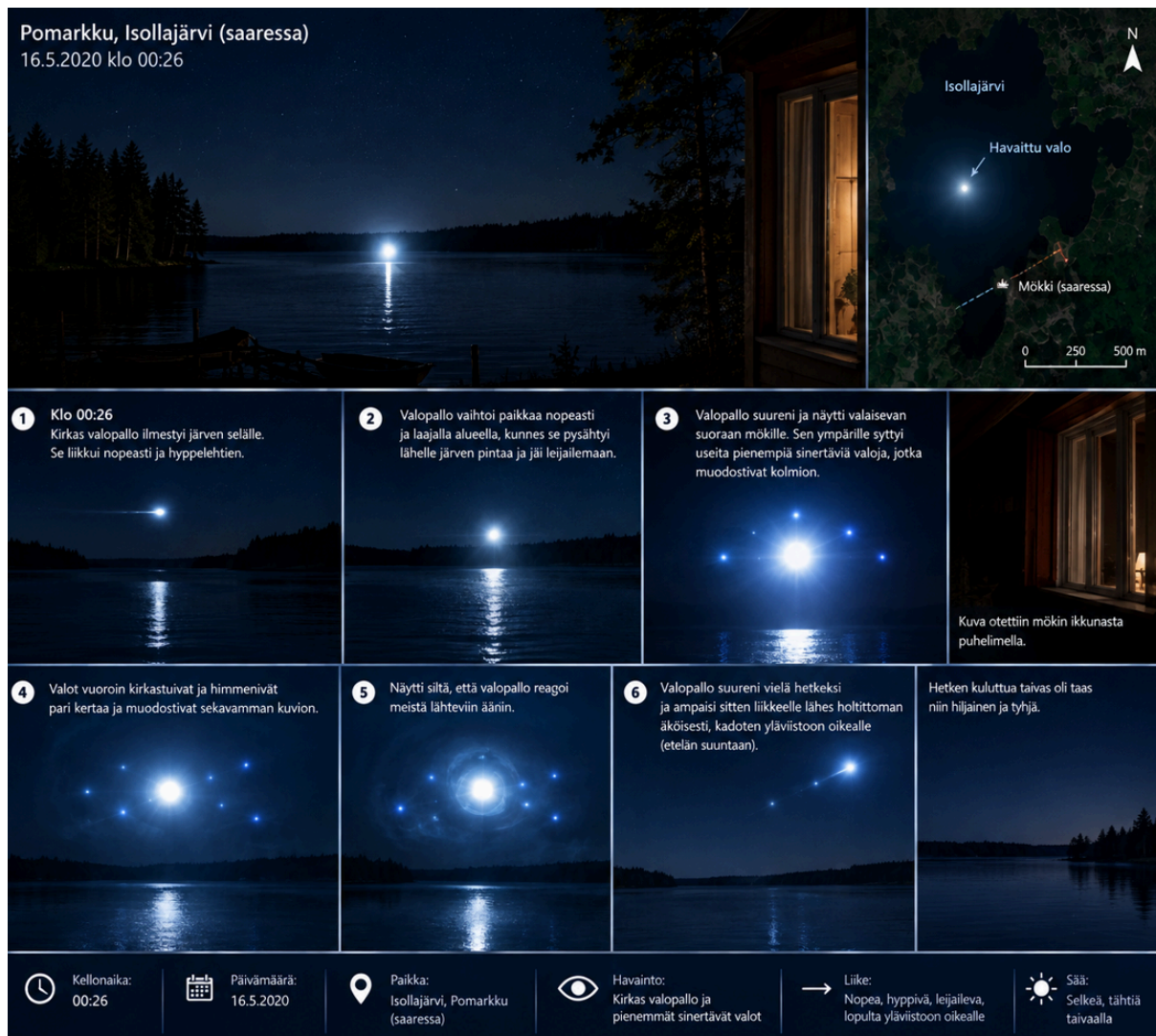
was made to air traffic control and, according to the researcher, two Hornet fighters were sent after the object. The object later ended up in newspaper news as a drone, although according to the observer it was not a drone and the outline of the object was visible. The researcher estimated that the object may have been 5–10 meters larger than reported. However, the object of the sighting remained unidentified.

Case 1962

Time: 16.5.2020

Location: Pomarkku, Isojärvi, Satakunta

This was a nighttime observation of a bright ball of light made on May 16, 2020 in Pomarkku Isojärvi. The object moved quickly and irregularly over the lake, then stopped hovering almost in place and briefly enlarged towards the cottage. Several bluish lights appeared around it, forming different patterns. The observer thought that the object was reacting to sounds coming from the cottage. Finally, the ball of light enlarged and accelerated rapidly upward and southward, disappearing from view. The observer filmed the object with a mobile phone.



Time: At night at 00:26.

Location: Pomarkku, Isojärvi, island.

Observer: One person, while the rest of the family is sleeping.

Conditions: Dark night, sighting on the back of a lake.

Target: A bright ball of light that moved rapidly and erratically.

Movement: The object rapidly changed location over a wide area, came to a near complete stop, and remained hovering above the surface of the lake.

Light behavior: The object grew larger and seemed to illuminate the cabin towards the window.

Additional lights: Several smaller bluish lights appeared around the subject, first forming a triangle and later changing patterns.

Reaction: It seemed to the observer that the ball of light was reacting to sounds coming from the cabin.

End: The object grew larger for a moment, after which it quickly moved upward to the right, towards the south, and disappeared.

Documentation: The observer photographed the object with a cell phone.

Researcher's statement:

According to the UFO researcher, the observer first reported a low-lying light at around 11:30 p.m. that was clearly different from the usual boat light. The actual sighting occurred at 12:26 a.m., when the rapidly moving ball of light was captured on a video lasting approximately 1 minute and 19 seconds. According to the researcher, the object first moved, zigzagged, approached and grew larger, after which 5-7 flashing bluish lights appeared around it. The lights formed an impressive organized pattern in the still images. Finally, the object made lateral movements and disappeared very quickly into the sky.

In addition, a few interesting cases

Case 2353

Time: 27.2.2023

Location: Hankasalmi, Ristimäki, Central Finland

The observer says that he first saw several lights flashing in the sky near his home in Hankasalmi. Soon, a small, lightless object that looked like a saucer appeared at the end of the house. After going inside, he says that he saw two figures through the window that he described as aliens, whose heads were translucent and who had three toes. The observer greeted the figures with his hand and did not feel afraid in the situation. The next morning he said having investigated the traces they left behind. He said he had had similar experiences before, but this was the first time he reported seeing an alien.



Time: At night at 00:30

Location: Hankasalmi, a residential area located in the middle of the forest.

Initial observation: Several different flashing lights were visible in the sky.

Subject: A small, saucer-like object with no lights appeared near the house.

Observer: Says he saw two figures he described as aliens from the end window of the house.

Description of the characters: According to the story, the characters' heads were translucent and they had three toes.

Interaction: Observer tells having raised his hands and having greeted the beings. He did not experience fear in the situation.

Traces: The observer tells, having investigated the next morning, traces left by the figures.

Previous experiences: According to the observer, he has had several similar experiences, but this was the first time he says he has seen an alien.

Researcher's comment:

The telephone interview reveals that person lives in a non-urban area in the middle of the forest. At the end of February, around midnight, he noticed yellowish, vibrating lights in the sky. He is not sure if there were more than one, or if it was just one that came on and went off. The man went outside to take a closer look at what was going on.

At the same time, he saw a ship hovering in place near his house at a distance of about 10-15 meters and a height of 7 meters. It was about three meters in diameter and looked dark, almost black against the night sky. No light shone from it, it was silent, round and presumably saucer-shaped. The object was tilted diagonally, the bottom facing the reporter, where he noticed a small depression of some kind. The observer admits that the moment of tension grew too great, so he thought it best to move back indoors. After a while, after glancing outside, he saw two strange creatures about a meter away from his window, passing one after the other. The creatures were about 120 cm tall and no facial features were visible, only a side profile. The heads were relatively large and shiny electric blue, in addition to which they were translucent against the background when separating. However, the observer was frightened by passersby and went into another room.

In the morning he went to investigate next to the window, where he found two thin footprints in the snow. They were 15 cm long triangular, he describes depressions so, as if the thumb, index and middle fingers were pressed against the ground. The observer remained consistent with his story throughout the interview, told the details as he remembered, when asked he had not consumed alcohol, and was not on medication when making the observation. He admitted that at that moment he was shocked by everything he had seen, in a slightly panic-like state. The researcher states that the observer saw or at least believed he had seen all of this, without exaggerating anything.

Case 2041

Time: 6.11.2020

Location: Laaksolahti, Espoo, Uusimaa

The observer says he was at home at night browsing the internet when a bright streak of light reflected on the wall. From the window he saw a very bright, flashing yellow object in the northeast direction and began to observe it with binoculars. Soon, he said, 6–9 other bright objects appeared in the sky at the same time. The house outdoor camera activated, and on the roof opposite his room he says he noticed gray-black, a thin, two-layered disc. The disc had no visible windows or doors, and its surface did not appear to reflect light.

He said that objects in the sky with binoculars showed a force field and colorful flashes and oval shapes. He tried to photograph the disk on the roof, but only a small greenish-yellow figure was visible on the phone screen. According to the observer, the figure turned towards the camera and had large black eyes, a small mouth and an oval head, larger than a human head. He stopped filming because he was afraid light objects disappeared.

Later, the objects in the sky were still visible, but the disk on the roof had disappeared and only a grayish shadow was visible in its place. One from light objects moved sideways and disappeared behind a tree, while the others remained mostly still. The observer observed the objects before going to bed. In the morning, both the lights seen in the sky and the disk on the roof were gone, and according to him, the outdoor camera recordings did not show anything related to the event.



Time: At night, around 1:30 AM.

Location: Observer's home.

First sighting: Bright streak of light reflected on the wall.

In the sky: Very bright glittering yellow objects and later 6–9 other bright objects.

Object Movement: Most appeared to be floating in place. At least one moved laterally and disappeared behind a tree.

Disc: Greyish-black, thin and two-layered, about 70 cm long, observed on the roof. The disc-shaped object.

Surface of the disc: According to the observer, there were no windows or doors visible on it and it did not reflect light.

Character: According to the observer, the phone image showed a small greenish-yellow figure with large black eyes and a large oval head.

Filming: The observer tried to film the object on the roof, but according to him, the image did not capture the disc.

End result: In the morning, all the items were gone. From the outdoor camera, according to the observer, no traces of the incident were found.

Researcher's statement:

The observer first reported two separate light phenomena. A very bright single object was visible in the northeast, while several balls of light appeared rapidly in the northwest sky. Through binoculars, they were seen flashing red, blue, and yellow light and forming a horizontal group. The objects appeared to be slightly oval and seemed to be surrounded by hazy fields. They were mostly hovering in place, but one of the targets broke away from the group and moved out of sight. According to the observer, the objects did not match the description of a drone.

After this there was a short close observation, where an observer reported seeing a 70 cm diameter object hovering above the ceiling gray-black, a round and partially translucent vessel. When he zoomed while filming it with his cell phone camera, the ship disappeared and was replaced by the creature he had been filming. Eye contact with the creature made him stop filming, and the creature disappeared shortly after.

The researcher says he interviewed the observer twice for a total of over three hours. The observer has remained consistent in his account and firmly believes that the events occurred as he described. The investigator also drew attention to observation time to the length that the observer had checked on the clock, even though his own experience of time had seemed considerably shorter.