

Mothman

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Mothman's red eyes and wings belong to a documented wave of West Virginia reports. Later writing gathered other mysteries around them, making one uncertain figure carry an entire town's unease.

STATUS	Documented sighting wave; later connections remain interpretations
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	West Virginia, USA
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Point Pleasant reports, 1966-1967; later book and film retellings

THE ACCOUNT

Beginning in November 1966, reports around Point Pleasant, West Virginia, described a large winged figure with red eyes. Many centered on the abandoned munitions works locally known as the TNT area. The West Virginia Encyclopedia records a concentrated run of sightings over the following year. Other unusual experiences accumulated around the creature, and writer John Keel gathered them into the account that became The Mothman Prophecies. A disturbing outline in an abandoned industrial landscape became the center of a much larger narrative.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The encyclopedia documents the reports and their literary afterlife, including suggestions that a large bird contributed to the sightings. It also identifies Keel's role in connecting separate kinds of strange events. Those connections are part of his interpretation, not independent proof of a supernatural visitor. The later association with the Silver Bridge disaster does not establish that a creature predicted or caused the tragedy.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The abandoned works give Mothman a setting with its own unfinished history. Buildings made for one purpose remain after that purpose disappears. A red-eyed shape there seems to occupy the gap between what the place used to be and what visitors can no longer explain about it.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

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e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia / West Virginia Humanities Council
<https://wvencyclopedia.org/entries/1369>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Mothman

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.
<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-029>