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The **Flatwoods monster** (also known as the **Braxton County Monster** or **Phantom of Flatwoods**), in [West Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Virginia) [folklore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore), is an entity reported to have been sighted in the town of [Flatwoods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flatwoods,_West_Virginia) in [Braxton County, West Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braxton_County,_West_Virginia), United States, on September 12, 1952, following the appearance of a bright object crossing the night sky. Over fifty years later, investigators concluded that the light was a meteor and the creature was a [barn owl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barn_owl) perched in a tree, with shadows making it appear to be a large humanoid.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flatwoods_monster#cite_note-nickell1-1)

1. [*Nickell, Joe*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Nickell) (2 November 2000). [*"The Flatwoods UFO Monster"*](https://skepticalinquirer.org/2000/11/the-flatwoods-ufo-monster/). [*Skeptical Inquirer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skeptical_Inquirer). Vol. 24 no. 6. [*CSICOP*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_for_Skeptical_Inquiry). pp. 15–19.