

# Declaration on the Ropen

By Jonathan David Whitcomb ([living-pterosaur expert](#))

Of all the sighting reports, of apparent living pterosaurs, that I have received since the year 2003, the great majority have been from the eyewitnesses themselves. Most of those reports have been emails from the persons who encountered those flying creatures and found me from my online publications. A significant minority of those persons I have been able to interview face to face and others through phone conversations.

This update mainly contains those sightings reported to me (Jonathan Whitcomb) since the middle of 2014, although some of the early significant reports are included. As I have time, I'll update this "Declaration on the Ropen."

A minority of the overall sightings have been of featherless flying creatures that seemed to have been less like the ropen and more like the pterosaurs known from fossils as *Pterodactyloids*. This "Declaration on the Ropen," however, is about the ones that are more like *Rhamphorhynchoids*, those pterosaurs with longer tails. For a listing of both types of modern pterosaur, see the page "[Declaration on Eyewitness Reports of Apparent Living Pterosaurs](#)," which also has a list of some of the persons who support research in this new narrow field of cryptozoology.

These sightings of apparent ropens are organized by year of encounter, but within each year they are by alphabetical order, by country. Most were in the United States.



## Partial List of Ropen Sightings

### 2017

England, Shropshire: Sep— multiple eyewitnesses; [three ropen sightings](#)

USA, Arkansas: Mar 16— ropen had a flange at the end of its long tail

USA, California, Long Beach: “very long tail ... end shaped like a horizontal triangle”

USA, California, Long Beach: Aug— “in front of Long Beach Yacht Club”

USA, California, San Fernando Valley: pterosaur flying over Los Angeles

USA, Indiana: June 10— living pterosaur: a long tail with “a triangle tip on the end”

USA, New York: July 21— the huge ropen had a “slender elongated tail”

USA, North Carolina: multiple sightings, multiple eyewitnesses of ropen(s)

USA, Pennsylvania, Chalfont: “ropen sighting” - diamond shape at end of the long tail

USA, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia: Sep 9— apparent ropen sighting in Gladwyne

USA, South Carolina, Richburg: Nov 15— “giant flying pterodactyl” (green-grey)

USA, Texas, between Houston and Nederland: in evening; all black; long tail

USA, Texas, Irving: Oct 10— tail “stretched a bit beyond the legs” on “pterodactyl”

USA, Utah, [Draper](#): June 21, close to 11:00 p.m.— “hammer” appearance of head

### 2016

Australia, east from Melbourne: “about 1.2 - 1.5 m wingspan with long tail”

Canada, Ontario, North York: brown pterosaur with “appendage on its tail's tip”

USA, California, Murrieta: massive “dragon” had a long tail - “NOT A BIRD”

USA, Georgia, near Loganville: two eyewitnesses - “It didn't have any feathers”

USA, Massachusetts: (camping trip) - “wingspan was 3-5 meters” - it had a long tail

USA, Oklahoma, Broken Arrow: “long neck, long tail and a ball at the end of the tail”

USA, Oklahoma, Edmunds: “had a long tail, pointed wings straight to the side”

USA, Pennsylvania, Pottstown: three eyewitnesses; long tail “had a knob at the end”

USA, Virginia, Rhoadesville: Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:45-8:05 p.m. - “Tail has a arrowhead shape”

## 2015

Canada, Alberta, Edmonton: tail was “Long and skinny with a spade shape on the end”

USA, Ohio, Columbia Station: “no feathers and a long tail with a ball at the end”

USA, Oregon, Medford: “long tail with a triangular thing on the end” - two eyewit.

USA, Virginia, Hanover County: July 5th— “large wingspan and long pointy tail”

USA, Virginia, Richmond: “about 10 feet across ... tail was long with a triangle point”

USA, Washington, Randle: July 17th— pterosaur “NOTHING like a BIRD or a BAT”

USA, West Virginia, Harrison County: May— “glowing green . . . yes it had a tail”

## 2014

USA, California, Atwater: Dec 12th— “A big beautiful thing” with a long tail

USA, Iowa, Colfax: flying creature with a “lizard/snake like body with a long tail”

USA, New Mexico: two amateur astronomers see a glowing ropen

USA, Ohio, Columbus: two eyewitnesses of a huge “pteradactyl” that had teeth

USA, Oklahoma: “leathery wings and a long tail with a lion tuft type of thing”

USA, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh: “there was a layer of hair but it wasn't feathers”

USA, Washington, Roy: “appeared to be a hairless [and generally] brown colored . . .”

## **2013**

Papua New Guinea, Bougainville: ropen had a long tail with “triangle” at the tail's end

USA, North Carolina, Raleigh: 5-6-ft wingspan; “a LONG tail with a spade at the end”

## **2012**

USA, Florida, Crestview: a “[Huge rhamphorhynchus](#)” was observed by a professor

USA, [Oklahoma](#): truck-driver eyewitness - “Part of the back of the wing was rounded”

## **2010**

Canada, [British Columbia](#): “It was larger than any bird I have ever seen”

USA, Alabama: two eyewitnesses, while driving, see a living pterosaur

USA, Georgia: two persons saw two pterosaurs; wing motion was very slow

USA, Oregon: two eyewitnesses – it “appeared to have no feathers” - it had a long tail

USA, Texas, Austin: “long large webbed wings, long tail with like a triangle tip”

## **2009**

Nicaragua: “Long neck and tail . . . [big and featherless](#)” - seen by two eyewitnesses

## **2008**

USA, Georgia: eyewitness Sandra Paradise saw a huge ropen fly in front of her car

## **2007**

USA, North Carolina, Raleigh: “the tail & the head shape is what stood out the most”

## **2006**

USA, Pennsylvania, Woodland: “ball shape figure” at the end of a long tail

## **2004**

USA, California, Lake Los Angeles: Pterosaur; “I really thought It was a dragon”

USA, Ohio: “I never told anyone but my mother who thought I was nuts.”

## **2003**

USA, New York, Massena: “bulbous head, no feathers, with long spade tail”

## **1997**

Australia, Perth: two eyewitnesses saw a long-tailed pterosaur: wingspan 30-50 feet

## **1996**

USA, Wisconsin, Edgerton: “not at all like a bird” - long “whippy” tail

## **1995**

USA, [Minnesota](#): 19-20 foot wingspan; in a shallow cave, it was eating a fish

## **1994**

USA, Louisiana, north of Metairie: Enormous [creature flew over Lake Pontchartrain](#)

**1992**

USA, California, Anaheim: “pterodactyl” had “long tail that ended as a diamond shape”

**1984**

USA, South Carolina, Bishopville: no feathers - dark grayish brown “pterodactyl”

**1981**

USA, Oklahoma, Tulsa: “No feathers” - 9-10 a.m. (sighting in early 1980's)

**1980**

Canada, Saskatchewan: two “pterodactyls” walked on the ground before their flight

**1979**

Australia, western: two eyewitnesses (fishermen) saw pterosaur the size of a Piper Cub

**1977**

USA, Arkansas: a ropen was startled by a teenager dropping rocks off a cliff

**1975**

USA, Texas, Pharr: “we saw this huge blackish bird ... PTERODACTYL ... flying low”

**1972**

USA, New Mexico, Los Lunas: July 4th— tail was about twice the length of the legs

## **1971**

Cuba, Guantanamo Bay: two large “pterodactyls” were seen clearly by a U.S. Marine

India, Kerala: a green “snake” that was 18 inches long flew by flapping its wings

Papua New Guinea, Bougainville Island: Brian Hennessy saw a large ropen

## **1969**

USA, Illinois, near Park Forest: Five eyewit.; smooth long tail but tuft of hair at tail end

## **1968**

USA, Illinois, Lansing: “pterodactyl” had teeth in an open mouth; “a spade ending tail”

## **1965**

Cuba, Guantanamo Bay: large ropen flew up out of the grass; teeth were visible

## **1944**

New Guinea, near Finschhafen: Duane Hodgkinson saw a gigantic ropen in daylight