

BIRDS OVER BOULDER

GLEN SOUTHWORTH, Colorado Video Inc, Box 928, Boulder, Colorado. 80306

An unusual 20 minute time exposure using advanced video techniques allows observation of flight patterns and other activity of birds in a suburban location of Boulder, Colorado. The television system used is unique in that it may be used in broad daylight to accumulate information in a single composite image over an extended period of time.

A high quality, solid state, television camera producing a conventional video signal was first focused on an area of anticipated bird activity. The output of the camera was then fed to a special digital video "memory" which initially "freezes" a picture of the scene and then continues to add new information to the original background. The resulting image was then

displayed on a TV monitor and photographed.

While conventional photographic film records only light, the video "memory" was set to continuously capture objects darker than the original image, thus providing a capability previously unavailable in research. The special video system may also be used to provide "time exposures" of subject lighter than the background, and has proven to be useful in the daytime observation of lightning strokes.

At present this unusual means of extending human perception seems like a classic case of a solution looking for a problem! Suggestions anyone?



