

9 – Jonathon Edward Caldwell



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Jonathon Edward Caldwell was born in Hensall in 1883, he would major in mechanical engineering at Oregon State College. Described as a self-taught aeronautical engineer, Caldwell would design the first of a series of bizarre craft in 1923 with the Cyclogyro, a craft that featured airfoil blades on a rotating wheel. By 1928, Caldwell applied for a patent on yet another craft, the human-powered Ornithopter, which as suggested by the name, featured bird-like wings. His company Gray Goose Airways managed to raise up to \$10,000.00 in stock to fund the building of a prototype of the ornithopter, but he still had failed to get the ornithopter off the ground and he began to run into legal problems when shareholders started to complain.

In 1934, Caldwell turned his attention to a Disk Rotor plane that would be capable of taking off and landing in small spaces and which, he envisioned, would be priced less than the cheapest car. Briefly achieving flight this craft would crash. Closing Gray Goose in 1939, Caldwell focused on a new company Rotor Planes his new designs resembling a rudimentary helicopter.

By the age of 57, Jonathon Edward Caldwell was penniless, with his dreams in tatters and creditors in pursuit. At this point he disappears from history, where he went and when he died is unknown.

The remains of his craft were found by authorities in a barn in Maryland and raised no small amount of controversy following his disappearance. Jonathon Edward Caldwell

remains a favourite topic of U.F.O fans to this day.



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