

DARK WINTER

How the Sun Is Causing
a 30-Year Cold Spell

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Dark Winter: How the Sun Is Causing a 30-Year Cold Spell

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1

Moment of Revelation . . . WOW!

“And God said, let there be light; and there was light.”

— *Genesis 1:3*

MY BREATH WAS TAKEN AWAY in an instant. I made a slow, deliberate backward rock in my chair from my worktable and uttered a nearly-silent, “Wow!” And again, “Wow!” After the longest, deepest inhale and exhale, I whispered the words, “Surely, this cannot be!”

I regained my train of thought and looked at the data another time, and twice more just to be certain. There was no question now. The data was solid; the conclusions like a rock. I thought, *Had I just unlocked what may turn out to be the answer to one of the most perplexing global climate questions of the modern era?*

What I had uncovered was both inspirational and gut tightening. Extrapolating from my charts of data, I had discovered that a coming climate change would lead to a period of potentially disastrous cold. Further, it looked like it was going to start its downward spiral within the next three to, at the outside, 14 years! My

calculations said three years, but I realized we needed time to prepare. My hope was for 14.

After weeks of concerted, sunup-to-late-night effort, poring over hundreds of reports and thousands of pages of research, articles, tutorials, and reference material, I was convinced that I had just found something unique — something that everyone would want to know. For decades, we of this baby boomer generation have been perplexed — transitioning from global cooling concerns of the 1960s and 1970s to the global warming scare of the 1990s and the new millennium. Now, I've found that we're heading back to the cold again, but this time a very different kind of cold. What I stumbled upon was a particular cycle of the Sun's activity — one of its most important — that regulates when the Sun heats and then, by lessening its intensity of radiated energy, cools the Earth. Except this time, I found, the cooling is expected to be extreme. My research findings became even more ponderous as I slowly began to consider their potential impact. At once it became clear that this news might prove a resounding scuttling of the man-made global warming theory. Now, the opposite scenario for climate change, a major cold period — perhaps a dangerously cold one — was about to envelop the Earth. I was not to learn just how cold until after another three weeks of research, and when I did, I was shocked again.

Simply put, there is no one alive who has experienced the depth and extent of the cold that will soon descend upon us!

But what about the prediction of when all this would start? As soon as three years? Who could believe such a forecast? Twenty years of global warming propaganda and UN predictions of ever-increasing temperatures year after year until 2100, and now here I am, out of the blue, essentially unknown to the scientific community and not one scientific paper to my name, making such a grand pronouncement. Regardless of my space program and high-tech background, I am neither a meteorologist nor a

climatologist, but there I was, about to tell the world that Earth's climate is going to reverse course within three years! I said to myself, *No one is going to accept such a preposterous proposition! You have got to be kidding! You're not really going to come out with such a story, are you? Are you?*

The hour after my “wow” moment was humbling . . . totally. To get a grip on this discovery, I took a break and walked downstairs and out the front door of our home, a small townhouse on a beautiful cypress- and oak-lined golf course near Orlando, Florida. The warm, spring day had a slight breeze — a bit cooler than normal for the time of the year. And then I thought, *How appropriate*. Later I was to learn that, sure enough, April 2007 temperatures in the United States were slightly cooler than the twentieth century mean.¹ It would be a year later before I would see just how cool 2007 had gotten.

My pace was slow and deliberate, filled with the import of the event and its predictable aftermath. Questions began to flood my brain: How will this be received by the scientific community? By global warming advocates? By the government? And most importantly, what can I do to alert the people? And then there was the crucial commodity of timing. It seemed as though I was forever too far ahead with my goals and the technology at hand. For me, I guess I wasn't happy in any past job unless I was tackling the toughest technological challenge I could find. This time it was different. This was not the next-generation rocket, advanced language processor, space flight training center, or global communications system that was going to reform an industry (if not create a new one). This time everyone on Earth — every neighbor, every friend, every relative, every government official, every scientist, every person, rich and poor alike — was going to be affected.

Fifty paces into my post-epiphany walk, I turned the corner to gaze upon a wide open field, perhaps 400 yards by 200 yards and bordered in the distance by a great stand of bushes, tall oak trees, and huge cypress that lined the lake beyond. It is more than

a hundred acres of still undeveloped land that I had tried (unsuccessfully) to get local and state government to purchase and turn into a nature preserve. Now, I could see the land being used to build apartments and condos to house the greater numbers that would want to move south to avoid the coming cold. Coincidentally, not three weeks earlier, members from our homeowners association attended the presentation of yet another developer who wanted to show us his firm's plans for a new condo project on the land. The baby boomers like me and my wife are already nearing retirement, and the mother of all retirement floods is already supposed to be coming to Florida over the next two decades.

A milestone event of the retirement issue occurred on October 15, 2007. On that day, the first official baby boomer, Kathleen Casey-Kirschling (no relation), filed for Social Security benefits. She is the first of 80 million retirees who will start drawing from the retirement fund (or what's left of it after the 2008 Wall Street debacle).² She may also be one of those who has already planned to move south to Florida. What will the rapidly advancing, prolonged cold period do to accelerate this migration? How will an already overdeveloped Florida handle the deluge of those fleeing what for them would probably be the most bitter and unrelenting cold of their lives — one that could last for 20 or 30 years?

I had spent many days birding on this still natural, undisturbed setting, which I was concerned would be paved over. With my Indiana Jones fedora, a pair of heavy binoculars around my neck, a notepad, and a copy of Roger Tory Peterson's bird book, it was my way of enjoying nature — literally counting my blessings and getting away from it all. When you have nesting bushes, tall trees, open pasture, and water all in the same area, you have one of the best possible environments for birding. The variety of species in such a setting can be impressive. Was that enjoyment also coming to an end? Surely Florida would be spared the brunt of the cold, wouldn't it?

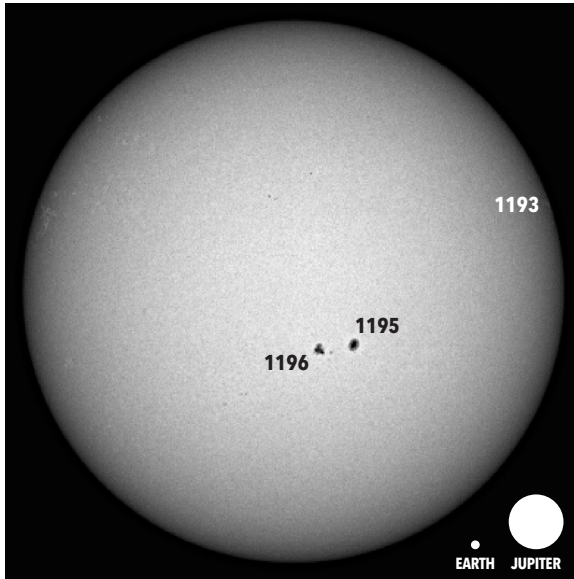
Now another line of questions rushed into my head. What would be the impact on wildlife, specifically birds, their migrations, and

their outright survival? Many species of migrating birds mate and raise new young in the northern United States and Canadian wilderness. Once reared and ready for travel, they make their way south for the winter. A favorite sight of mine is the sandhill crane. These beautiful, gray-feathered, long-legged, red-capped, graceful flyers are among the best known migratory birds in North America. They have already adapted to the ever-shrinking Florida environment and are routinely seen near highways and even in the backyards of homes built on the many thousands of lakes and ponds we have in Florida. What will be their fate when the long years of seemingly unending cold are upon us, or, in a worst-case scenario, when there is no spring or summer, like what happened in 1816, the so-called “year without a summer”?³ Will it be that bad? I had to know. I would have to go back to the data. I needed to know just how cold it was going to get. I turned back toward the house. There was more research to be done.

The initial insight into what was to become a new theory for the Sun’s heating and cooling of the Earth was like pulling on the single thread that leads to a larger unraveling. In the course of reviewing data obtained from Internet searches for another book altogether, I was particularly intrigued by a couple of charts of sunspot activity. They immediately struck me at once as having some underlying periodicity.

Sunspots had been recorded for centuries, but Galileo was one of the first to correctly interpret them shortly after he improved the telescope.^{4, 5} They have since become recognized as harbingers of the Sun’s activity level and have been studied extensively for 400 years. From this study, various cycles of the Sun have been determined. The best known is the 11-year solar cycle, also called the Schwabe cycle. This 11-year span is an average duration; it actually varies, with some cycles as short as 7 years and some as long as 17. During the Schwabe cycle, the number of sunspots reaches a maximum, and then drops to a minimum, and then reaches its next high point 11 years later (again, on average). There are many

SUNSPOTS – APRIL 25, 2011



Source: NASA/ESA SOHO Satellite

Figure 1-1. Sunspots. This April 25, 2011, photo of the Sun, which remains in its solar hibernation mode, shows a few lonely sunspots. A comparison of their size with the Earth and Jupiter are shown in the lower right.

other solar cycles, and most are much longer, far more powerful, and driven by the intricate movements of the Sun, Earth, and the other bodies in our solar system.

Most of us take them for granted, yet these natural cycles and periodicities of the Sun, or “oscillations,” as researchers call them, bring us light and darkness, warmth and cold. Some cycles are on the order of a few hundred years; others stretch from several hundred years to thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of years.

One of the longest cycles is that of the ice ages. In between a cycle of every 100,000 or so years of essentially an icebound Earth, we have what are called “interglacial warm periods.” For the past 11,000 years, we have been living in one of these rare

interglacial periods, called the Holocene warm period.⁶ We humans have found our planet hospitable enough during this era such that we could move quickly out of the caves that sheltered us from the last ice age and into “recorded” history for the first time. We have thrived and multiplied. Boy, how we have multiplied!

We all have our own apportionment of gifts and flaws. Allow me the author’s prerogative of steering clear of my many flaws and past miscues for now. Instead, let me tell you about one fortunate gift of mine that came into play that spring day. It is in pattern recognition. I could immediately see a pattern in the long-term sunspot charts. The first eye-catching relationships were from charts showing sunspot records covering the past 400 years. From that point on, all else followed a logical path of deduction and reasoning that weeks later produced what I would come to call the Theory of Relational Cycles of Solar Activity, or simply the Relational Cycle (RC) theory. In the course of developing the theory, I was to uncover astounding, yet previously obscure and little-known findings on the cycles of the Sun that would be news for the general public and many scholars as well.

In the specific field of science that I was studying, solar physics, I was also to learn, with subsequent research to confirm my findings, that the theory was always there waiting for someone to come along and put it all together. Many outstanding researchers, in fact, had gotten close to doing just that. Some had already discovered the same individual solar cycles and given them names in honor of leading scientists, including Wolfgang Gleissberg, de Vries, and Hans Suess. Others, like me, had further predicted a coming cold period. But no one had put it all together, as I had, into a working theory, and no one that I could find, at least in the United States, had taken the science to the next level in predicting the next series of climate changes. Most importantly, no one else was on a mission to get the word out about the difficult times ahead.

So what was this discovery? What revelation was it that was going to plunge the world into a long cold? The discovery was, in

essence, that among a group of relatively short cycles of the Sun, there was one specific cycle — a 206-year cycle that I came to call the Bicentennial Cycle — that was the primary scheduler for climate changes on Earth on a scale of many decades.

The Bicentennial Cycle of 206 years correlated with near 100 percent accuracy to every major cold-temperature period over the past 1,200 years. Based upon my calculations, I discovered the next cycle change was imminent, and because of the record cold it would bring, I quickly realized this could mean a rough, perhaps dangerous period for many of Earth's inhabitants. This linking of the solar cycles to Earth's temperature, coupled with the prediction of the next climate change being a potentially dangerous cold era, was the crucial finding. This was the "wow!" that struck me at 2:00 p.m., April 26, 2007. It all came together in an instant.

This was not the typical scientific finding that would require more research and perhaps decades of waiting to see if it would take place. The Bicentennial Cycle was one that we mere mortals could directly experience during the lives of our parents, our own lives, and those of our children (simultaneously, of course). These are the types of cycles of the Sun described in the RC theory — those that have real meaning and tangible impact on our lives. While, from a scientific standpoint, the research into cycles that are a thousand or more years long can be quite interesting, unless one of these major cycles is also about to turn over, they have no relevance to us in our lifetime, much less our day-to-day existence. The 206-year cycle and other smaller cycles I found are the ones that have real impact on us. These are the ones that we can relate to, as they fully account for the puzzling swings of global climate change that have perplexed us all for the past two centuries. If one can accept that major solar activity minimums have been in lock-step with significant cold periods as the physical records show, and that nothing man can do will change the cycles of the Sun, then one can only conclude that the next solar hibernation will also bring with it a calamitous cold era as it has done before.