

Monthly Weather Report

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September 1962 — *Cool, cloudy and rather wet.*

Weather during September was predominantly cyclonic in character apart from a week of anti-cyclonic weather on the 18th-24th and two short spells around the 1st and 13th.

The fine dry weather at the end of August continued over much of the country on September 1st, but fronts associated with a deep depression south of Iceland brought rain to all except south-eastern districts on the 2nd and 3rd; many places in eastern Scotland had more than 1 in. on the 3rd. Thundery showers and locally heavy thunderstorms interrupted sunny periods on the 4th as a depression from the Atlantic moved east across southern Scotland. The next day was generally fine and sunny, but rain spread to western districts during the night and to the remainder of the country on the 6th as a depression from the Atlantic moved eastwards across central England; there were scattered thunderstorms in the south-east late in the day in the rear of the depression.

An anticyclone to the west of Ireland brought a veer of winds to the north-west and two mainly dry sunny days on the 7th and 8th, although showers were rather frequent in Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 7th.

The 9th to 11th was a wet period. On the 9th a complex low pressure system lay to the west and north of the British Isles and a depression from the Atlantic brought rain and gales as it moved north-east across Scotland. Many places in Scotland recorded more than 2 in. of rain, but southern England remained generally sunny and dry. However, a wave on the cold front of this depression brought some heavy rain to southern England on the 10th and rain became general and heavy in many places on the 11th as an intense depression moved from the Atlantic to the Irish Sea; the rain continued in most districts throughout the night and for much of the following morning. Several places in Wales recorded 3 in. in 24 hr. Northerly winds behind the depression spread from Scotland over most of the British Isles during the morning of the 12th, the afternoon being rather showery but with some sunny periods.

The 13th was a dry sunny day with an anticyclone over the country, but the improvement was short-lived, for, although the fine weather was maintained in the south-east, most other districts were cloudy on the 14th, with outbreaks of rain, as a depression moved from the west of Ireland to the Faroes; an associated trough brought a belt of rain slowly eastward across the country on the 15th.

Two cool sunny days, with scattered showers in a north-westerly airstream, preceded a mainly dry, but rather dull, quiet spell, which commenced on the 18th as an anticyclone drifted from the west of Scotland over the British Isles. Apart from some slight showers on the 18th, there was little rain for nearly a week in England and Wales, but as the anticyclone drifted slowly southward on the 22nd, rain, associated with a depression south-west of Iceland, spread to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The anticyclone moved eastward to the Continent on the 24th and the dry spell ended for most areas on the 25th or 26th as a disturbance on an eastward-moving trough moved north from the Irish Sea to Scotland. Weather during the remainder of the month was generally unsettled. Fronts, associated with a complex depression near Iceland, brought rain to most districts on the 27th and 28th.

After a mainly fine morning on the 29th, a rapidly deepening depression to the west of Ireland moved northward bringing southerly gales and rain to western districts during the afternoon. The stormy weather, with heavy rain at times, spread to all districts during the night; many central and western districts had more than an inch of rain and Llwynon, Brecknockshire, had as much as 3 in. In the east the rain persisted well into the morning, but in the west the month ended with a generally sunny day with scattered showers.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the average everywhere, the deficit at 9 hr ranging from 1.2 mb at Stornoway to 2.7 mb at Holyhead. Surface winds were rather variable until the 6th (although mainly south to south-west on the 1st-4th), on the 12th-14th, and 21st-22nd and 26th. Otherwise they were north to north-west on the 7th-8th, 15th-20th and mainly south-westerly on the 9th-11th and from 23rd until the end of the month. Wind reached gale force on 14 days in Scotland and on the 2nd, 4th-9th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 27th-30th (14 days) in England and Wales. Gales were widespread on the 29th and 30th; a gust of 72 kt was recorded at the Lizard on the 29th and one of 77 kt at Stornoway on the 30th.

Temperature — Mean temperature was below the 1921-50 average for the seventh successive month, the deficit being 1.0°C in England and Wales, 0.7°C in Scotland and 0.8°C in Northern Ireland. The lowest day temperatures occurred generally from 17th to 23rd and air frost was fairly extensive in southern England on the 22nd.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 27.8°C at Writtle on the 3rd, -1.7°C at Santon Downham on the 18th; (Scotland) 24.4°C at Fyvie Castle on the 1st, -1.7°C at Glenshee Lodge on the 13th; (Northern Ireland) 20.6°C at Ballykelly and at Somerset Forest on the 2nd, 0.6°C at Knockmany Forest on the 29th.

Precipitation — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 136 in England and Wales, 130 in Scotland and 182 in Northern Ireland. Rainfall was above average everywhere except in the extreme south-west and south-east parts of England, the Wirral, the Lancashire Plain, along the coastal strip of the Moray Firth and locally in South Wales and north of the Great Glen. More than twice the average was recorded locally in west Sussex and in parts of Oxfordshire, Northumberland, southern Scotland and Angus.

Thunder was heard locally in Scotland on 8 days and in England and Wales on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 10th, 14th-17th, 19th, 25th, 27th and 30th (13 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 3rd and 4th.

Sleet was reported in Scotland on the 16th.

Sunshine — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 88 in England and Wales, 69 in Scotland and 65 in Northern Ireland. Sunshine was above average at a few places in southern England, the highest percentage being 116 at Bournemouth. It was the dullest September at Edinburgh since 1896.

Fog — Early morning fog was fairly frequent, it was reported from one place or another on 16 days in Scotland and on 19 days in England and Wales; it was fairly widespread on the 9th, 25th and 26th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 13 nights.