

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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SEPTEMBER, 1943.—Unsettled.

The unsettled weather experienced in August persisted throughout September. It was very wet in a belt extending from Devon and Cornwall across Wales to Durham and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

During the opening days a large depression was situated south of Iceland, while secondaries passed east over the British Isles; general rain occurred on the 1st and showers in the west and north on the 2nd. By the 3rd an anticyclone had developed over the English Channel: this system moved north-north-east to the North Sea, while a shallow disturbance affected southern Ireland and a deep Atlantic depression approached north-west Ireland. The latter moved north, and associated troughs crossed the British Isles: there was general rain in the west and north on the 4th, occasional rain or showers at most places on the 5th, and showers, chiefly in the west and north, on the 6th. The depression east of Iceland moved slowly north on the 7th and an associated trough moved east over the British Isles causing further showers in most districts, particularly the west and north.

A change in the pressure distribution occurred on the 9th when pressure became low south-west of the British Isles. Thereafter pressure remained low to the south-west and high north-east of these Islands. On the 13th the depression spread north-east and dominated conditions over the whole country. The period 9th-14th was warm and there were widespread thunderstorms in England and Wales; in Scotland also, thunderstorms were widespread on the night of the 13th-14th.

Subsequently pressure became high south-westward of the British Isles and a depression moved north-east along our north-west seaboard. Meanwhile secondary depressions or troughs crossed the British Isles causing occasional rain or showers. On the 19th a deep depression east of Iceland moved east and a small disturbance south-west of Iceland moved rapidly east-north-east. Rain fell in most places, and was heavy locally in Scotland; in the rear of these depressions cold polar air flooded the country. By the 21st a large anticyclone covered most of the north Atlantic and thereafter depressions moved east over Iceland. Behind them cold, northerly air flowed over the British Isles. This was particularly noticeable on the 25th and 26th and on the morning of the 27th severe frost occurred. On the 27th and 28th a vigorous depression moved south-east over Britain. Rain occurred generally and falls were heavy on the 27th, particularly in the west and north. On the 29th a series of depressions in the far north moving east brought a return to westerly winds and a consequent rise in temperature, and the month closed with milder weather and slight rain or drizzle in most districts.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was somewhat below the average, the deviation at 7 h. ranging from -3.2 mb. at Stornoway to -0.6 mb. at Lympne and Plymouth. Local gales were reported on a number of days, particularly in Scotland, mainly from the 4th-6th, 10th, 15th-16th, 19th-20th, 27th-28th and 30th; the gale on the 28th was rather widespread in England. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 64 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 5th, 61 m.p.h. at Spurn, 62 m.p.h. at Holyhead and 64 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory on the 28th and 67 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 30th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was not very different from the average on the whole, but it was below the average in south-west England. The first half of the month was rather warm, particularly the period 9th-14th; 75°F. was reached or somewhat exceeded at numerous places in England from the 11th-14th. In Scotland and Northern Ireland the 1st was also a warm day. A rather cold spell occurred roughly from the 19th-28th, night minimum temperatures

in particular being low. The night of the 26th-27th was notably cold; 23°F. was registered in the screen at Peebles and Eskdalemuir and 24°F. at Prestwick and Glenlee. A grass minimum of 12°F. was recorded at Eskdalemuir; it was the lowest value recorded there in September since observations were first taken in 1917.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 80°F. at Canterbury on the 11th, 25°F. at Milford on the 27th; (Scotland) 72°F. at Kilmarnock on the 9th, 23°F. at Peebles and Eskdalemuir on the 27th; (Northern Ireland) 68°F. at Castlerock on the 1st, 35°F. at Aldergrove and Hillsborough on the 27th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 133 over England and Wales, 115 over Scotland and 109 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland, less than the average occurred over much of the country south of a line from Glasgow to the Firth of Forth, in the Great Glen, locally in Ross and Cromarty and at Stornoway, in the Northern Hebrides; more than 150 per cent. occurred in a few widely separated areas, one of which was situated in the south in the neighbourhood of Eskdalemuir. In England less than the average was received over most of the area south of the Thames as far west as east Dorset, Wiltshire and Gloucester and across the Midlands from Gloucester and Birmingham to the Norfolk border and Bury-St-Edmunds. On the other hand over much of a belt covering part of Devon, north Cornwall and Wales and stretching across Cheshire to the coast of Yorkshire and Durham more than 175 per cent. of the average occurred and in small areas within this belt 200 per cent. or more. In Northern Ireland the percentages ranged from 92 at Omagh to 132 at Londonderry.

Among heavy daily falls were:—

4th	4.40 in. at Fofanny Reservoir, Mourne Mountains and 2.35 in. at Kingairloch and Ardrishaig (Argyll).
10th	2.71 in. at Larne (Co. Antrim).
13th	2.09 in. at Hartland Point (Fosfelle).
14th	2.10 in. at Dawlish and 1.90 in. at Ferriby Sluice (Lincolnshire).
19th	2.08 in. at Kinlochquoich (Inverness-shire).
27th	3.02 in. at Llanbryde (Moray) and 2.25 in. near Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth).

Severe and rather widespread thunderstorms occurred from the 10th-14th; heavy rain caused considerable flooding and there was local damage due to lightning. Local thunderstorms were reported on other occasions.

The first snow of autumn fell on the hills near Fort William and in Shetland on the 20th and thereafter snow fell daily on high ground in Scotland except on the 23rd and 30th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was considerably below the average in the west of Scotland and in Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the distribution was variable but on the whole the duration was not very different from the average; there was a slight excess in England, N.E. and a deficiency in western districts. The 8th was a notably sunny day locally in south and south-west England; at Totland Bay 11.9 hours were registered, the longest duration there for any day in the second week of September during the last 42 years.

Fog.—The most considerable fog occurred during the period 9th-14th. It occurred also on the 19th and 29th-30th; there was a little at times outside these periods.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 22 nights, more than in any other September during the last 10 years. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 18 days.