

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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JUNE, 1923: COOL, DULL AND DRY.

General.—The cool, dull weather, so prevalent during the last three weeks of May, characterised the greater part of June. During the first week, pressure was low over Scandinavia, while an anti-cyclone was situated off the western coasts of the British Isles. Moderate to fresh winds between north and north-west prevailed, and the weather generally was cool, cloudy, and showery with alterations of bright periods. Up to the 24th, a series of depressions passed eastwards with a consequent backing of the wind towards the south-west, and cloudy weather with frequent showers or drizzle. In the rear of these depressions, the anti-cyclone off the south-west of Ireland spread repeatedly northwards bringing temporarily fair weather, while winds were frequently north-westerly in direction. During the last week, the weather over the British Isles was mainly fair to fine, cool, and dry, except in the north, where, associated with the passage of secondaries, dull, cloudy conditions, accompanied by drizzle, prevailed at the beginning and end of the week.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes and returns:—Leyland (Lancs.),—The driest June yet recorded here since January, 1910. Meltham (Yorkshire),—The temperature of the one foot and 2 feet thermometers in the ground was lower than in any other June since the record began in June, 1885. Southport (Lancs.),—A June of unprecedentedly strong and persistent north-westerly and westerly winds and low day-time temperatures. It was also one of the driest Junes on record. The mean daily range of temperature had the smallest June value in the 52 years' history of the Observatory. Ipswich (Suffolk),—Sun and rain are both badly needed in this part of the world for almost every purpose. Walton-on-Naze (Essex),—An extra dry month, great absence of sunshine, an excessive amount of overcast days and temperature much below normal. Wakehurst (Sussex),—Cold, dry and dull month. Newquay (Cornwall),—Very cold. Dublin,—A sunless June with almost constant north-westerly winds, scanty and infrequent rainfall, and a small mean diurnal range of temperature—only 11·4°F.

Pressure and Winds.—The mean pressure of the month was above normal except in Scotland N. The departure of the monthly means of pressure at fixed hours varied from—1·8 mb. at Lerwick to +9·1 mb. at Valencia. The isobars of mean pressure trended north-west and south-east. With one exception, the paths of all the primary-depressions lay to the north of the Hebrides. The depression of the 10th (Track F) passed close to the north coast of Scotland, giving rise to strong winds and occasional gales between south-west and west in the north of the British Isles. In the rear of the depression of the 13th (Track G) gales occurred at Fleetwood and Southport (Lancs.). The stormiest period of the month extended from the 8th to the 13th. The strongest recorded gust of the month was one of 63 m.p.h. at Eskdalemuir (Dumfries) on the 10th. Other high gusts were 62 m.p.h. at South Shields, 61 m.p.h. at Rosyth (Fife) 60 m.p.h. at Edinburgh, all on the 10th, and 57 m.p.h. at Southport on the 13th.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of districts 1 to 10 was 53·7°F. The mean temperature of each district was below normal, the deficiencies ranging from 3·3°F. in England E. (mean temperature 53·8°F.) to 0·7°F. in Ireland S. (mean temperature 55·9°F.).

In Scotland very cold conditions prevailed from the 3rd to the 18th. At Braemar and Balmoral, the minimum thermometer in the screen registered readings of 26°F. and 27°F. respectively on the morning of the 15th. At Nairn, the maximum temperature on the 15th reached only 50°F. From the 18th onwards temperature was at a higher level. The period April-June was, in Scotland, the coldest in any year since 1879.

Ground frosts occurred at several places during the month, and in some parts were decidedly low for the time of year. At Cambridge on the 3rd the reading of a grass minimum thermometer exposed over grass was 26°F.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 80°F. at London on the 23rd, and 30°F. at Luton and Porton on the 3rd. (Scotland) 80°F. at Perth on the 28th, 26°F. at Braemar on the 15th. (Ireland) 73°F. at Lisburn on the 23rd, 34°F. at Dublin on the 2nd.

Precipitation.—The general distribution of rainfall in the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal was as follows:—England and Wales 31, Scotland 88, Ireland 44, British Isles 51.

The precipitation of the month was below normal everywhere except in the north of Scotland, where there was a moderate to a large excess. Thus, Loch More (Sutherland) had considerably more than twice the normal precipitation, Glenquoich (Inverness) and Fort William (Inverness) 190 and 110 per cent. respectively of the normal. Amongst the largest rainfall measurements were 25 mm. at Onich (Inverness) on the 7th, 20 mm. at Ford (Argyll) on the 7th and 12th, and 18 mm. at Achnashellach (Ross-shire) on the 10th.

In central and southern England, precipitation amounted to only 20–30 per cent. of the normal, and along the east coast to 30–40 per cent. In the western parts of Britain, Dolgelly (Merioneth) had the largest rainfall with 76 per cent. of the normal. In Cumberland, Seathwaite had 77 per cent. of the normal. In the north of England, precipitation amounted to 40–50 per cent. of the normal.

In Ireland only one station, Londonderry, had a rainfall total above normal (103 per cent.). The south of Ireland was drier than the north, and in a small area centred around Cork (co. Cork) the monthly total rainfall did not exceed 5 per cent. of the normal.

The month was remarkable for its dryness. At Torquay rain fell on four days only, and only once since 1892, viz., during the extremely dry summer of 1921, has the month's total been below 6 mm. At Ipswich, the six month's total of 208 mm. was lower than any previous record except 1921. In 31 years, Newquay had only one drier June (1921), whilst during the last 50 years only twice previously, in 1895 and 1921, has the total rainfall in June been as low as 6 mm. at Kew. Southport, with a monthly total of 14 mm., experienced one of the driest Junes on record. At Southampton (Calshot) and Liverpool (Bidston) the monthly totals amounted to only 7 mm. and 8 mm. respectively.

On the 14th there was a slight fall of snow on the Cairngorms.

The general conditions were not favourable for the development of thunderstorms.

Sunshine.—The duration of sunshine was below normal in all districts, the defect from normal ranging from 2·89 hours in Ireland N. to 0·34 hours in the Channel Isles and Scilly.

In Scotland the general deficiency was more marked in the west than in the east. At Stornaway the month was the cloudiest June on record, but at Edinburgh the duration of sunshine was normal. At Rothamsted, the deficiency for the six months ending June amounted to 225 hours (normal, 811·9 hours) or 1½ hours per day, the lowest aggregate for these six months recorded at this station since records were first taken in 1891.

Amongst the largest daily amounts of sunshine recorded were:—16·5 hours at Lerwick on the 26th, 16·1 hours at Harrogate on the 11th. The sunniest days were the 11th, 23rd, 26th and 29th.

Fog.—Thick fog was experienced at the mouth of the English Channel on the 9th and 15th, and at Shoeburyness on the 27th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were again frequently observed. A Lunar halo was observed at Oxford on two occasions. Aurora was seen at Yarmouth on the 5th. At Lincoln a sun pillar was observed on the 4th and 17th, and at Oxford on the 7th.