

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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JUNE, 1926: UNSETTLED; MAINLY DULL AND WET IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IN IRELAND.

General.—Mainly dull, wet weather prevailed in most districts during the first three weeks of June. During this period day temperatures were more often below than above normal. A marked improvement took place about the 18th and except for a short period of dry and cool northerly winds between the 22nd and the 26th mainly fine, warm weather was experienced generally during the remainder of the month.

Cool, cloudy weather with occasional rain or showers marked the opening day of the month. Associated with the development of a secondary depression off south-west England heavy rain fell in Devon and Cornwall on the night of the 1st-2nd and on the following day the rain had extended generally over southern England, while a gale occurred near the Channel Isles; 50mm. (1.95 in.) were measured at Ashburton, Devon, on the 1st and 37mm. (1.45 in.) at Burgh Heath, Surrey, on the 2nd. The improvement in the rear of this depression lasted some days and maximum temperatures of 70°F. and above were registered in many districts on the 6th and 7th; at Ruthwell on the 6th and at London (Camden Square) on the 7th the temperature reached 79°F. and 77°F. respectively. Thereafter the frequent passage of disturbances and their secondaries across or in the vicinity of the British Isles maintained dull, wet and unsettled weather, over practically the whole of the country. Strong south-westerly winds were experienced on several parts of the coast and attained gale force in northern Ireland and south Wales. Thunderstorms developed locally while rainfall measurements exceeded 30mm. at times in Ireland and south Wales; 52mm. (2.05 in.) were measured at Killarney on the 8th, 76mm. (3.00 in.) at Delphi lodge, Mayo, and 40mm. (1.57 in.) at St. Michaels-on-Wyre, Lanes., on the 10th. Heavy rain fell again in northern England on the 14th and 15th and in the southern part of the country about the 17th. At Norwich 13mm. (0.52 in.) of rain and hail fell in about 5 minutes during a thunderstorm about noon on the 17th.

On the 18th an anticyclone over the Bay of Biscay began to spread north-eastwards and during the next few days fair warm weather was experienced generally except in the north-western districts of Scotland; maximum temperatures of 70°F. and above were recorded in several districts on the 19th, 20th and 21st. On the 22nd pressure was high over the eastern Atlantic and during the next few days winds were northerly and cool. On the 27th the anticyclone moved eastwards across the British Isles to the continent, causing a renewal of fine warm weather which continued until the end of the month.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport.—A very sunny and rather dry month with temperature nearly normal and an unusual prevalence of light north-westerly sea breezes. West Kirby.—A very fine dry sunny month. Rather cooler than usual. Huddersfield.—A very normal month. Light winds and good visibility. Copdock.—The first 17 days continued all the unpleasant experiences of May: rain fell on 14 days out of the 17 and sunshine averages less than 4 hours a day: the maximum temperature was generally in the low sixties, and on three occasions the thermometer failed to reach 60. On the other hand, though the day temperatures were low, the cloudy skies prevented radiation and the minimum temperature on the grass at 38 is higher than in any other June. Totland Bay (I. of Wight).—The wettest June since 1912 and the wettest quarter (April, May, June) since 1897. Dublin.—During the first three weeks of June very changeable weather prevailed although isolated fine days gave a promise of summer. A short warm spell which commenced on the 18th was followed by a spell of cool, northerly winds on the 22nd. Very fine dry weather was established after the 24th.

Pressure and Winds.—For the third consecutive month, the mean pressure was everywhere below normal. The deviations of monthly means of pressure at fixed hours varied from 4.1 mb. at Tynemouth to 1.3 mb. at St. Mary's (Scilly). The highest recorded pressure was 1031 mb. at Cahirciveen on the 26th and the lowest, 978 mb., at Malin Head on the 11th. With the exception of a gale at Scilly (St. Mary's) on the 9th, in which the winds reached a speed of 51 mi/hr. in a gust, no gales were recorded during the month at any anemometer station in the British Isles. The highest recorded gust was 52 mi/hr. at Lypne at 13 hr. 10m on the 10th.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of Districts 1-10 was 55.2°F. and was 0.8°F. below normal. That of every District was below normal with the exception of Scotland N., but in no District did the mean temperature differ greatly from the normal. The warmest periods generally were the 4th to the 9th, the 19th to the 22nd and the last three or four days of the month. In the intervening periods, day maxima were often rather low for the time of year.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 79°F. at Cleethorpes, Wakefield and Worksop on the 20th, 31°F. at Houghall and Comondale on the 2nd; (Scotland) 79°F. at Ruthwell on the 6th, 32°F. at Balmoral on the 1st and at Logie Coldstone on the 4th; (Ireland) 79°F. at Dublin (Glasnevin), Newcastle and Kilkenny on the 20th, 34°F. at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 2nd. Ground frosts occurred at a number of stations. The largest numbers reported were eight at Rhayader and five at Balmoral.

Precipitation.—Unlike June, 1925, which was so remarkably dry, particularly in England and Wales and in Ireland, June, 1926, was wet over the greater part of the British Isles. In each of the constituent countries precipitation was above normal; expressed as a percentage of the normal for 1881 to 1915 the values were:—England and Wales, 125, Scotland 122, Ireland 114, British Isles 122. A comparison of the value for the British Isles with the corresponding values for previous years indicates that June, 1926, was the first really wet June generally since 1912 when the value was 168. In England and Wales it was the wettest June, relative to the normal, since 1912, but in Scotland June, 1916, and June, 1919, with 126 per cent. and 137 per cent. of the normal respectively were wetter and in Ireland June, 1924, with 139 per cent. of the normal was also wetter.

With regard to the distribution in each of the countries monthly aggregates were above the normal in the eastern and southern districts of England and below the normal generally in the north-western districts and in Wales. In Scotland there was an appreciable excess in the eastern districts; Balmoral had fully twice the normal while the month in the upper Dee Valley was the wettest June since 1897. In the western districts the distribution was rather irregular, while in the south-west and north-west there was a decided deficiency. In Ireland there was a deficiency of precipitation in the north-eastern districts but elsewhere monthly aggregates were generally above normal, the excess being greatest in the western districts.

In nearly all districts most of the month's precipitation was accounted for during the first three weeks: after the 17th relatively dry weather prevailed generally, precipitation being mainly in the form of thundery showers. At Redruth there was no measurable rain after the 17th.

Thunderstorms occurred on the average on one to three occasions at several stations particularly in the eastern and midland districts. The largest number of thunderstorms reported was seven at Raunds. Hail occurred in one or two occasions at some stations. Snow fell in Scotland on the Cairngorm mountains as late as on the 24th.

Sunshine.—The mean daily duration of sunshine was below the normal in all Districts except in Scotland W, England N.W. and S.W. and in the Channel Isles. The greatest excess, 1.22 hours, occurred in England S.W. (mean daily duration 8.01 hrs.) and the greatest deficit 1.25 in Scotland N. (mean daily duration 3.92 hrs.). The first week and the last few days were the sunniest periods of the month. Amongst the largest daily measurements were 15.3 hrs. at Aberdeen, 15.2 hrs. at Torquay and 15.0 hrs. at Hoylake and Southport on the 3rd, 15.0 hrs. at Cardiff and Llandudno on the 4th, 15.1 hrs. at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 5th, 15.5 at Bude and Falmouth on the 24th and 15.4 at Norwich on the 30th.

Fog.—Apart from coastal fog, which occurred on a few occasions on various dates, little fog was reported during the month.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—A sun pillar visible for about 20 minutes was observed at Worcester at 8h. 10m. on the 3rd. Parhelia were observed at Oxford on the 10th and at Dublin on the 29th. A line squall was reported at Southport at 16h. 10m. on the 13th. Intense gloom occurred at Ross-on-Wye between 20h. and 22h. on the 3rd.