

Monthly Weather Report

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

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September, 1951 - Rather warm; dry in east and extreme north; wet on the whole south and west.

The weather was rather warm generally; it was dry in north and east Scotland and north-east England but wet on the whole in the south and west. Sunshine was notably above the average in east Scotland but deficient on the whole elsewhere.

In the opening days a depression north-westward of Scotland moved irregularly east and filled, while small secondary depressions moved quickly east-north-east along the English Channel. Heavy rain and local thunderstorms occurred in the south of England on the 1st and in the Channel Islands again on the 2nd. On the 3rd and 4th a very deep depression moved rather quickly north-east from mid Atlantic and gales were recorded locally on our north-west coasts on the 4th. Meanwhile a trough moved north-east across the British Isles causing rain, which was considerable locally in the west. Associated with this depression a warm air stream from south of Bermuda crossed England and Wales and temperature rose to 75°F. or above at a number of places on the 4th. Thereafter a weak trough moved very slowly south-east over England giving rain in east and south-east England and the Midlands. Rainfall was very variable; at Oxford a fall of 3.34 in. was registered, mainly during heavy thunderstorms on the night of the 6th-7th. Between the 6th and the 9th an anticyclone moved north-east across Scotland to Scandinavia and a spell of mainly dry weather prevailed, though local thunderstorms occurred in the south-west on the 9th. A period of very unsettled weather ensued from the 11th to the 14th, when a deep, almost stationary depression was situated to the south-west of Iceland. On the 11th and 12th a trough associated with this depression moved slowly east across the British Isles and rain fell in most parts but it was rather scattered in the south of England. On the 13th a vigorous secondary off south Ireland moved rapidly north-north-east and on the 15th another disturbance (originally a tropical hurricane) moved north-east across England to the Baltic. During this spell rain occurred daily and was heavy at times and thunderstorms were recorded at numerous places on the 12th and 13th. Winds reached gale force at many places in England and Wales on the 13th. Subsequently an anticyclone off the west of Ireland moved south-east, later turning east-north-east across England to Germany, and a period of settled weather occurred apart from slight rain at times in the extreme west and north. The fair spell was broken on the 22nd when a depression to the south-west of the British Isles moved north and became almost stationary off the west of Scotland. Secondary disturbances swinging round the main centre were associated with frequent rain, heavy locally at times. Thunderstorms occurred locally on most days and were rather widespread on the 27th. On the closing days a ridge of high pressure gave fair weather, apart from fog, over most of Great Britain.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deficiency being greatest in the west; at 9h. the deviation ranged from -4.9 mb. at Stornoway, Tiree and Armagh to -1.3 mb. at Lympne. Winds from some southerly point predominated and, except in the south, the total run of the wind was below the average. Winds reached gale force at times at exposed stations, chiefly around the 4th, on the 13th-15th, 24th-25th and 29th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 66 at Scilly, 63 at Southport, 61 at Lizard and 58 at Pendennis on the 13th and 60 at Plymouth on the 25th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1906-35 by 1.6°F. in England and Wales, 1.4°F. in Scotland and 1.6°F. in Northern Ireland. The coldest week was that ending on

the 22nd and some low minima were registered locally also on the 28th and 29th. The warmest days occurred generally between the 4th and the 12th or 13th, the 4th in particular being warm.

Extreme temperatures in the screen included:—(England and Wales) 80°F. at Sprowston on the 4th, 31°F. at Kielder Castle on the 20th and at Lyonshall on the 29th; (Scotland) 73°F. at Banff, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh (Botanic Gardens and Davidson's Mains), Dunbar and North Berwick on the 4th, 28°F. at Glenlivet on the 20th; (Northern Ireland) 71°F. at Castlerock, Garvagh, Aldergrove and Armagh on the 4th, 36°F. at Garvagh on the 28th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 141 over England and Wales, 87 over Scotland and 97 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in an area extending north-north-west from the Solway Firth across the Clyde and Argyllshire. Less than half the average occurred over much of the north-east and the extreme south-east of the country. At Nairn it was the driest September since 1884. The total precipitation was less than 1 in. locally in the drier regions but amounted to 10 in. locally in the west. In England and Wales less than the average occurred in a coastal belt in the north-east from the Scottish border to the Humber, over much of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and part of Warwickshire as well as locally in the north-west. More than the average occurred on the whole elsewhere and more than twice the average around the Thames Estuary and over part of east Kent, in south Devon, in the neighbourhood of Oxford and in the Lake District. In Northern Ireland more than the average was received in the west of the Province and less than the average in most places elsewhere. Local daily falls of 1 in. or more occurred frequently, mainly on the 1st-4th, 6th, 13th, 14th, 24th, 25th and 27th.

Among the largest falls in 24 hours were:—

1st	2.92 in. at Rye and 2.70 in. at Whitstable.
3rd	3.76 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth) and 2.85 in. at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon.
4th	3.67 in. at Llydaw Intake, Snowdon.
6th	3.34 in. at Oxford (the heaviest in 24 hours since observations began in 1815).
14th	2.64 in. at Ambleside and 2.60 in. at Cwm Dyli.
24th	4.53 in. at Thirlmere and 3.16 in. at Haweswater.

Thunderstorms occurred fairly frequently for September; for example, on the 1st, 5th-14th, 16th, 18th, 23rd-25th and 27th-28th; they were rather widespread on the 13th and 27th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for 1906-35 was 79 in England and Wales, 103 in Scotland and 81 in Northern Ireland. Broadly speaking sunshine was plentiful for the time of the year in east Scotland and less than usual elsewhere, particularly in the southern and Midland districts of England.

Fog.—Fog occurred rather frequently for the time of year, mainly on the 1st-12th, 15th, 21st-23rd, 26th and 28th-30th. It was somewhat widespread on the 6th-7th, 10th-11th, 23rd and 28th-30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 15 nights; it was widely reported on the night of the 25th-26th, when it was observed as far south as St. Eval, near Newquay. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 15 days.