

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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JULY 1932.—Dull and Wet with widespread Thunderstorms.

The cloudy and unsettled weather of this month was in strong contrast with that of June. Except that temperature was on an average slightly above the normal, it closely resembled that of July, 1931. Up to the 10th conditions were influenced by depressions between Scotland and Ireland, but in the south-east of England the falls of rain were generally small and many sunny days were enjoyed along the South Coast; the wind during this period was mainly from between south and west. Between the 10th and 11th the situation changed rapidly, and thereafter winds from northerly directions predominated for a week but the weather remained unsettled, being frequently influenced by systems of depressions lying to the east of the British Isles. The wind tended to be more north-westerly after the 18th, and after the 24th more often from W. or S.W.; depressions were centred over or near to Scotland from the 24th to the end of the month. No large area of settled fine weather developed at any time in the month although little or no rain fell over England from the 8th to the 10th; there was no day on which some part of the country was not having wet weather.

Pressure and Winds.—Pressure was everywhere a few millibars below the normal. The strongest winds were generally felt on the first few days, on the 9th, 17th and 18th, and 26th to 29th. Those occurring on the 17th and 18th were from the north, the rest generally from between south and west. There were very few winds from the easterly half of the compass. Gale force was reached for a few hours on the 1st at Butt of Lewis and Bell Rock (Forfar), and gusts of 50 mi./hr. or more were registered in many parts of England, Scotland and Ireland on that day.

Temperature.—A warm south-westerly current that spread from beyond the Azores paved the way for the warmest period, which began about the 9th. The highest reading for the month was almost without exception on some date between the 9th and the 12th, as a rule on the 10th, but in the south-western coastal districts of England and Wales more often on the 12th. In the latter region the degree of heat was very moderate, several places having no reading so high as 70°. Over most of the inland and eastern districts of England and in parts of eastern Scotland maxima of 80° and over were recorded, the highest figures (excluding 88° recorded in a Glaisher screen at Greenwich) being 86° in London—at Regent's Park, Chelsea, and Stroud Green—86° at Pontefract (Yorks.) and Attenborough (Notts.) and 85° at Rickmansworth (Herts.), Cranwell (Lincs.), Huddersfield, Nottingham and Worksop. The 11th was the hottest day at Cranwell and Regent's Park, and the 10th at the other places mentioned. As a rule one of the few days immediately following this hot spell provided the lowest daily maximum, which in many places was below 60° and at Balmoral was only 53° on the 16th. There were cool days also around the 27th, especially in N. Wales and N.W. England. The early mornings of the 18th and 19th generally provided the lowest minima in the South, temperature falling to 34 at Rickmansworth and to 39 at Marlborough on the 19th, but in North-west England and Scotland the corresponding date was more often the 23rd.

The extremes for the month were: (England and Wales):—86° at Pontefract and Attenborough on the 10th and London on the 10th and 11th; 34° at Rickmansworth on the 19th; (Scotland):—83° at Aberdeen on the 10th; 34° at Dalwhinnie on the 23rd; (Ireland):—81° at Newcastle (Wicklow) on the 9th; 41° at Hazelhatch on the 18th.

Precipitation.—The total rainfall for the month was very variable owing to the exceptionally heavy falls that occurred in some of the numerous thunderstorms, but there was enough windy cyclonic weather for the wet climates of elevated places in the west and north to be apparent, a number of such places in Scotland having 250 mm. or more.

Among the most exceptional downpours the following may be mentioned:—

Rickmansworth (Herts).—10·6 mm. in 5½ minutes, of which 2·5 mm. fell in 49 secs., in a brief thunderstorm early in the afternoon of the 27th.

Shinfield (near Reading).—34 mm. in 40 minutes on the 11th.

Coventry.—23 mm. in half an hour on the 13th.

Stalybridge (near Manchester).—102 mm. on the 11th, most of which fell between 16 h. and 20 h. in a thunderstorm.

Cranwell (Lincs.).—130·5 mm. on the 11th; 61 mm. on the 13th.

Devizes (Wilts.).—87 mm. on the 24th.

The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 137 per cent.; the values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 144; Scotland 121; Ireland 138.

Sunshine.—A pronounced deficiency of sunshine was general except in the extreme north of Scotland. At Valentia the month's total of 71 hours represents less than half the normal, and is by 6 hours the smallest July total for at least 52 years. At Liverpool the total was 130 hours, which is only 4 hours more than the lowest since 1908.

Fog.—There was not much fog, although some occurred on the south coast of England and Wales, chiefly around the 10th; in Scotland there was dense fog on the 31st in the Shetlands.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—A small tornado left a track of fallen trees in its wake near Wych Cross, Ashdown Forest, on the afternoon of the 26th.

The solar halo was observed frequently; at Oxford on no fewer than 13 days.