

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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JUNE, 1935.—A wet month with frequent thunderstorms; two very warm sunny spells after the 21st.

The dry weather that had prevailed during most of May was breaking up on the first day of the new month, with the advance of a large depression from the Atlantic, and for three weeks cyclonic conditions prevailed. For the first nine days the British Isles lay within a complex system of depressions that extended roughly from the Azores to Russia. Then for a week the centre of lowest pressure was often over or near to the British Isles; on the 7th pressure was below 986 millibars within the two centres of a low pressure system that moved north-eastwards across Northern Ireland and Scotland. There was a decided improvement on the 21st. On that day the clouds that had enveloped most of the country during a day or two of rather sultry and damp weather with southerly winds, began to break up, and temperature exceeded 70 deg. widely over England, and rose to about 70 deg. locally in Scotland and Ireland. In the more abundant sunshine of the following day it reached or exceeded 85 deg. locally both in the south and north of England, but it was cool and wet in the west of Ireland. It was generally fine again on the 23rd until the evening, when thunderstorms broke out in Southern Scotland and Wales near the margin of an area of very high temperature that extended across England up to Southern Scotland. Temperature continued to reach very high values over England on the 24th and 25th, but the hot spell was broken by a widespread outbreak of severe thunderstorms over the southern and central parts of England on the afternoon of the 25th. Over England the fine weather returned next day and temperature gradually rose, to reach high levels once more during the last two days after an anticyclone had developed over Northern France and moved north-eastwards to the North Sea.

Pressure and Wind.—Pressure was generally below the normal, the deficit being over 8 mb. over most of Ireland. The highest pressures were generally reached on the 28th or 29th, when 1,030 mb. was exceeded in some parts of England. The wind was most frequently from South or South-west, and was generally strongest over England on the 7th, when it reached 73 mi./hr. in a gust at Pendennis, 65 mi./hr. at Scilly, and 62 mi./hr. at Cranwell. At Pendennis the highest mean speed for an hour was 51 mi./hr., a very exceptional figure for June. In Scotland the highest hourly wind was 39 mi./hr. at Bell Rock on the 21st and in Ireland 33 mi./hr. at Dunfanaghy Road on the 7th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was generally rather above the average, by three or four degrees at a few English stations, but was near to the average in the more southerly counties of Ireland. The warmth of the last ten days was in contrast to the coolness of the first twenty. Temperature reached its highest point at many places in the North on the 22nd, when it touched 84° at Dunbar and Kelso in Scotland and 88° in Manchester (Oldham Road). It also attained 88° at Brighton and in London (Camden Square) on the 24th, and again at Huddersfield on the 29th. For Ireland the 25th was more commonly the warmest day, with maxima between 75° and 77° at a number of places in the South. The lowest readings were generally obtained on the mornings of the 1st or 9th, when temperature fell to 32° or even lower at a number of places in Scotland and the eastern half of England. There were some notably warm nights, that of the 23rd to 24th being the warmest for this month for at least 65 years at Kew, where temperature did not fall below 66°, and at Totland Bay the following night with a minimum of 63° was the warmest for June for at least 50 years.

The extremes for the month were: (England and Wales) 88° at Manchester on the 22nd, at Brighton and London (Camden Square) on the 24th, and at Huddersfield on the 29th, 28° at Rickmansworth on the 9th; (Scotland) 84° at Dunbar and Kelso on the 22nd, 29° at Wolfelee on the 1st; (Ireland) 77° at Waterford on the 25th, 35° at Dublin on the 9th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 158, the values for the constituent countries being: England and Wales 149, Scotland 146, Ireland 196.

In a few parts of Scotland and the north-east of England, rainfall was below the average, but generally it was much in excess, being in many instances between two and three times the average. At Valentia the total was 207 mm. which is the highest for June there since records began in 1866. The number of days with rain was notably large, numbering 24 at many places in Scotland and Ireland. During the unsettled weather of the first three weeks there were many thunderstorms in the North, and during the month thunder was reported from some part of Scotland on seventeen days. Thunderstorms were responsible for most of the very large falls of rain on individual days. In Scotland a fall of 108 mm. at Aberfeldy (Perthshire) on the morning of the 24th nearly all came between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and at Glasgow (Springburn Park) on the same morning 78 mm. fell between midnight and 9 a.m. Severe storms in North Wales at about the same time yielded large measurements, e.g. 79 mm. at Bangor on the 23rd. Another at Castle Cary (Somerset) on June 16th was notable for the heavy hail that accompanied it, and for the reported occurrence of funnel shaped clouds of tornado type in the vicinity. The most violent of all, and those associated with the worst flooding, developed on the 25th. Between Bath and Devizes, part of the main London road was destroyed by the flood, which at Beanacre, 1 mile N.W. of Melksham, carried a large elm trunk along the Bath road. At the Manor House, Swainswick, 153 mm. were reported to have fallen between 13h. and 16h. G.M.T. Unusually violent storms occurred also on that day around Northampton and Market Harborough (Leicestershire) and in Surrey (83 mm. at Ewell, and 53 mm. in 40 minutes at Sutton). A heavy storm with flooding was also reported from Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

Sunshine.—There was more than the average amount of sunshine over an area that included most of the central and eastern parts of England, this excess being due mainly to the prolonged sunny spells after the 20th, but elsewhere there was a general deficiency. Among the largest amounts recorded on individual days were 15.6 hours at Valentia on the 23rd and at Torquay on the 28th, and 15.5 hours at Nottingham and Norwich on the 24th.

Fog.—There was a good deal of fog on the east coast of Scotland from the 23rd to the 26th and it extended inland at times. Fog was prevalent on the south-west coasts of England on the 2nd, from the 17th to the 21st, and from the 23rd to the 27th. The fog off our south-west coasts caused delay to shipping on the 20th and 21st. At Scilly it was present every day from the 17th to the 26th, with the exception of the 24th. At both Scilly and St. Annes Head the fog was thick at 1 h. G.M.T. on four occasions.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—A solar halo was observed at Oxford on 13 days and a sun pillar on the evening of the 29th.