

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

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June 1962 — *Sunny; generally dry and rather cool.*

The month began and ended with anticyclonic weather but during the 9th-25th a series of relatively weak frontal systems, followed by pronounced ridges, moved eastwards across the country.

The first two days were cold with northerly winds, an anticyclone covering the country being centred over or near Ireland. Weather was generally dry and sunny during the first week except for slight rain in some eastern coastal districts on the 2nd and 3rd. At night ground frost was fairly widespread early in the week and there was local air frost on the 1st-4th. The anticyclone soon moved south-east and by the 3rd was centred over the North Sea where it remained until the 7th. With backing winds weather became warm almost everywhere except in south-east England where easterly winds kept temperature below average; in parts of Scotland afternoon temperatures rose to 25°C but only 12°C was reached on the east Kent coast. The fine spell with almost unbroken sunshine in many places (Tynemouth recorded 16.5 hr on the 5th) lasted until the 8th when the anticyclone moved west to become centred over southern England.

On the 9th, Whit Saturday, a small depression gave some slight rain in Scotland and that evening thunderstorms broke out in East Anglia and south-east England. The anticyclone moved further west becoming centred off south-west Ireland on Whit Sunday; it brought, to most of the country, a return of northerly winds with generally dry sunny weather. Bank Holiday Monday, however, was dull with frontal rain spreading to most areas. During the next few days a complex low pressure system remained quasi-stationary off the south of Iceland, and associated weak frontal belts gave rain in many northern districts but most of southern England remained dry with prolonged sunshine; the 16th and 17th were fine sunny days almost everywhere as a ridge of high pressure moved across southern England to the North Sea.

A rather stormy period followed with gales in the north on the 18th, 19th, 23rd and 24th. On the 18th a vigorous depression deepened still further as it approached the Hebrides where gales became unusually strong for the time of year; rain was widespread, and heavy in parts of Scotland. Warm front rain spread to most districts from the west on the night of the 19th/20th and in the warm air behind the front, extensive low cloud and sea fog formed in coastal areas of south-west England, the English Channel and the Irish Sea on the 20th and 21st. The 23rd was a fine sunny day but that night a vigorous depression approaching the north of Scotland brought rain to all districts and severe gales to parts of Scotland; at Lowther Hill a gust of 84 kt was recorded. Rain was locally heavy in Scotland but only slight in Southern England. A showery north-westerly airstream spread over the British Isles on the 24th as the depression moved eastward towards Denmark, but a belt of rain spread south-eastwards across the country the next day.

Northerly winds set in on the 26th on the eastern flank of an anticyclone which became established off western Ireland where it remained until the end of the month. Weak rain belts moved southwards over the country but amounts in the south were small or negligible. Temperature in the north was well below average—air frost was recorded locally in Scotland on the 27th—but in sheltered southern districts it was around average.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was above average everywhere, the excess at 9 hr ranging from 1.9 mb at Lerwick and Wick to 6.3 mb at Scilly. Surface winds were northerly or variable at first becoming predominantly south-easterly on the 2nd-8th and northerly again on the 9th and 10th after which winds were mainly south-westerly until the 23rd and then north-westerly for the remainder of the month. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 13 days and in England and Wales on the 14th and 18th-24th (8 days). Gales were widespread in the west and north on the 24th when a gust of 74 kt was recorded at Durham and one of 68 kt at South Shields; the previous highest gusts at these stations since records began 24 and 49 years ago were 46 kt and 54 kt respectively.

Temperature — Mean temperature in Scotland was equal to the 1921-50 average but over England and Wales and Northern Ireland temperature was below the average for the fourth successive month the June deficit being 0.7°C. The first two days of the month were the coldest in most districts; the warmest days were around the 7th and 8th. During the second half of the month afternoon temperatures nearly everywhere were below the average.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 26.7°C at Wakefield on the 8th and at Wisley on the 9th, -5.6°C at Santon Downham on the 1st and 3rd; (Scotland) 26.1°C at Glamis on the 8th, -3.2°C at Coalburn on the 1st; (Northern Ireland) 24.4°C at Armagh on the 8th, -2.2°C at Pubble Forest on the 1st.

Precipitation — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 31 in England and Wales. This made it equally dry with June 1940, 1942 and 1949, these taking second place to the driest June this century in 1925. Rainfall was 91 per cent of the average in Scotland and 66 in Northern Ireland. Less than the average rainfall occurred over the whole of England and Wales except for parts of the Lake District. Less than 25 per cent of the average was recorded over most of England south of a line Severn to the Wash, over Lincolnshire and over the coastal regions of Yorkshire.

Thunder was heard on 6 days in Scotland, and on the 9th and 10th in England and Wales; thunderstorms were rather widespread in east and south-east England on the 9th.

Sunshine — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 119 over England and Wales, 99 over Scotland and 103 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland sunshine amounts were above the average in most eastern parts of the country but below average in the north-west. In England and Wales it was mostly above average and as much as 40 per cent above in parts of the south-west.

Fog — In Scotland fog was reported on 11 days; hill fog also occurred on 11 other days at the high level station Lowther Hill in Lanarkshire. Early morning fog was fairly widespread in the Midlands and South-west England on the 20th and 21st, and there was coastal fog in the English Channel and Irish Sea on these dates; fog was also reported from one place or another on 10 other days.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was not observed during the month. A minor tornado caused some structural damage at South Croydon on the 9th.