

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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JUNE, 1943.—Mainly unsettled until the 25th; then fair generally.

The first three weeks were mainly unsettled with rather frequent local thunderstorms. In England improved conditions became established on the 21st and persisted for the most part until the end of the month. In the west and north the weather continued rather unsettled until the 25th but from the 26th onwards fair weather prevailed generally.

During the opening days a complex depression and associated secondary depressions moved north-east across the British Isles. Rain or showers occurred with local thunderstorms. On the 4th and 5th depressions moved eastward over Scotland giving further rain, but on the 5th the amounts in the south were mainly slight. Subsequently, Atlantic depressions moved north-east along our north-west seaboard, while associated troughs of low pressure moved over the British Isles; a spell of rather warm, very close weather ensued with some rain in the west and north but not much in the south-east. Local thunderstorms were reported from the 10th-12th. On the 12th a depression south of Iceland moved slowly north-east and a large anticyclone off our south-west coasts spread north-east: there were showers, chiefly in the west and north but sunshine records were very good on the whole. From the 14th-16th a depression south-east of Iceland moved slowly east-south-east: a spell of cool, showery weather prevailed, with widespread thunderstorms: in some places the storms were accompanied by heavy hail, which caused considerable local damage to fruit and vegetable crops. On the 17th a wedge of high pressure passed east over the British Isles and was associated with a fair, sunny day in most areas, though a trough off the west of Ireland moving east caused rain in Ireland and the extreme west of Britain, mostly later in the period.

From the 18th-20th depressions moved east-north-east along our north-west seaboard. Rain was general, and heavy in the west and north on the 18th and rain or showers occurred in the west and north on the 19th and 20th, but weather was mainly fair in east and south-east England. Showery weather with bright periods prevailed in Ireland and west and north Scotland on the 21st and fair, sunny weather in England and east Scotland. Thereafter, high pressure off our south-west coasts spread north-east, but troughs of low pressure associated with depressions moving east-north-east on the Atlantic caused further rain in the west and north, though fair weather was enjoyed over much of England.

By the 26th anticyclonic conditions were established over the whole country and persisted for the remainder of the month. Temperature rose, particularly in the west and north and some excellent sunshine records were reported. In eastern districts sunshine was less abundant and temperature was not very different from the average.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was not very different from the average in Scotland but somewhat exceeded the average in England, the excess being greatest in the south. At 7h. the deviation ranged from -0.8 mb. at Stornoway to +4.0 mb. at Plymouth. On the whole the total run of the wind was greater than the average in the south of England but less than the average in the north of the British Isles. The prevailing winds were from between south and north-west. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 68 m.p.h. at Gorleston, 59 m.p.h. at Kingsway, London and 58 m.p.h. at St. Mary's, Scilly on the 2nd and 54 m.p.h. at both Lerwick and Kirkwall on the 21st.

Temperature.—Mean temperature somewhat exceeded the average on the whole, the excess being greatest in Scotland, E. and England, NE. where it amounted to 1.5°F. A cool spell occurred from the 13th-18th and it was rather cool at times during the first week. Warm, close weather occurred from about the 9th-12th and high day temperatures were registered at times during the last week, particularly in the west and north from the 28th-30th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 82°F. at Welshpool on the 28th and at Cullompton on the 29th, 34°F. at Castleton on the 17th; (Scotland) 84°F. at Glasgow on the 29th, 31°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 9th; (Northern Ireland) 79°F. at Armagh on the 28th and 38°F. at Aldergrove on the 17th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 94 over England and Wales, 131 over Scotland and 131 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred over most of the north-east, around Edinburgh, in the Orkneys and locally in the Shetlands. On the other hand the excess was great in the Western Highlands and the southern Uplands: more than twice the average was measured locally in the Western Highlands. In England and Wales more than the average was received over Wales, most of north-west England and a part of Devon and Somerset as well as in a strip across England from Lowestoft to north Stafford and at one or two isolated stations. Less than 50 per cent. was received over part of Hampshire and locally in Wiltshire and at one or two places on the south coast. In Northern Ireland the excess was general.

Thunderstorms occurred on numerous occasions in the first half of the month, for example from the 1st-3rd, 6th, and 10th-16th. They were widespread on the 14th-16th, and on the 15th and 16th were accompanied in some parts by unusually heavy hail.

Among heavy daily falls of rain were:—

- 1st. 1.65 in. at Cathedine Rectory (Brecon) and 1.64 in. at Crickhowell.
- 7th. 1.66 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth).
- 12th. 1.67 in. at Glenquoich (Inverness-shire).
- 18th. 4.24 in. at Machynlleth (Montgomery), 3.92 in. at Blaenau Festiniog, and 2.35 in. at Lake Vyrnwy.
- 22nd. 1.80 in. at Kingairloch (Argyll-shire).

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking sunshine was deficient in the west and north of Scotland and in south-west England and south Wales. Elsewhere in England the distribution was variable and on the whole was not very different from the average. In parts of northern England, however, particularly the north-west, there was a considerable excess. Some excellent records were made during the last week.

Fog.—There was not a great deal of fog but it was reported most frequently in the south-west, particularly on the south-west coasts and in the extreme north of Scotland. The period of most considerable fog occurred from the 8th-10th, and fog was persistent and thick at times at the mouth of the English Channel on the 4th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days. During a thunderstorm near Lowestoft on the 15th, unusually large hailstones fell, some of which had a diameter of 1½ inches. A waterspout was seen at Stornoway, in the Northern Hebrides on the 15th.