

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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September 1969—*Very dry in eastern England; wet in north Scotland*

High pressure predominated in many areas until the 10th and again around mid-month, more especially in the north. At other times low pressure resulted in disturbed conditions in some areas, notably in the north and west around the 11th and during the last 10 days and occasionally in the south from the 12th to 19th.

N. Scotland.

Weather — It was a wet month on the whole although it was mainly dry in many places from the 14th to 19th. There were a number of very stormy days and on the 28th high winds caused damage to property in the Orkney Islands. Snow settled on the highest mountain peaks during the last few days.

Wind — Gales were reported locally on up to 12 days and were severe and widespread on the 21st, 25th and 28th. On these days many gusts over 80 kt occurred particularly on the 28th. At Cairngorm, 1090m, (Inverness-shire), gusts of 104 kt and 106 kt were recorded on the 21st and 28th respectively.

Temperature — Monthly mean temperature was a little below average. It was warm during the third week and minimum temperatures remained near 14°C from the 18th to 20th. Around mid-month and also during the last week it was cooler than average; -2.2°C was recorded at Achentoul (Sutherland) on the 15th.

Rainfall — Over one and a half times the normal rainfall occurred in many areas and nearly twice the average fell in the Hebrides. It was the wettest September at Lerwick (Shetland) since 1917 and at Stornoway (Hebrides) since 1950. Heavy rain was widespread on the 9th and, after a drier spell, heavy rain occurred again on the 21st when a 'daily' fall of 75 mm was recorded at Kinlochewe (Ross and Cromarty). Heavy rain or showers occurred at times during the last 10 days and thunder was reported on the 26th.

Sunshine — Amounts of sunshine were mostly a little below the normal and at Kirkwall (Orkney) only 68 per cent of average was recorded.

E. and W. Scotland, England, Wales and N. Ireland.

Weather — It was exceptionally dry in eastern England where, in some areas, it rivalled the dry September of 1959. In parts of west Scotland the continuing low rainfall amounts resulted in a water shortage described as 'acute' in the Glasgow area where water rationing was introduced. During a stormy period on the 28th/29th tides along the east coast rose to over 2 m (7 feet) above normal causing, according to the Press, the worst flooding since 1953 at several places. Wintry showers fell in the Grampians on the last few days.

Wind — The frequency of gales was rather above average in northern districts. They occurred on about 9 days in Scotland and England and on 6 days in Wales. It was stormy in western districts around the 10th and in northern districts on the 21st/22nd and 28th when very strong gusts occurred in many areas. On these two days gusts of 90 kt or more were recorded at Earl's Hill (Stirlingshire) and many gusts in excess of 80 kt occurred as far south as Yorkshire. The strong winds caused the temporary cessation of air traffic at Turnhouse Airport (Edinburgh) on the 28th.

Temperature — Mean temperature was mostly a little above average. It was generally warm on the first 12 days and during the third week and there were some very warm days around the 12th and 25th in East Anglia and south-east England. Among the highest temperatures recorded were: 28.3°C at Dartford (Kent) on the 12th; 24.4°C at Dundee on the 5th; 23.9°C at a number of places in Wales on the 3rd; these places included Ceinws (Montgomeryshire) where this value occurred again on the 24th; 22.2°C at Murlough (Co. Down) on the 21st.

It was cooler in southern districts for a few days at the beginning of

the month and in most areas around mid-month, but it was cold everywhere during the last few days. On the 30th frost occurred in many places in eastern England and also in a few areas elsewhere. Minima during the month included: -5.6°C at Santon Downham (Norfolk) on the 30th; -2.2°C at Corwen (Merioneth) and Haverfordwest (Pembrokeshire) on the 30th; -1.7°C at Knockmany Forest (Co. Tyrone) on the 29th.

Rainfall — Although rainfall was about 50 per cent above average in a small part of Somerset less than half the normal amount fell over wide areas. Many places in East Anglia and the London area recorded under 5 mm of rain during the entire month; this is less than a tenth of the average amount. Rainfall in Northern Ireland was, in general, the lowest since 1933. It was the driest September at Hastings (Sussex) since 1941 and in many other areas since 1959.

Except for some light drizzle, most places were mainly dry for the first 9 days and although heavy rain occurred at times in the north-west, very little rain fell in eastern and southern England after the 19th. At Mepal (Cambridgeshire) only 0.25 mm of rain were recorded during the month all of which fell on the 16th. Rain was heavy in Wales and northern districts from the 9th to 11th causing local flooding. On the 18th heavy thundery rain occurred in southern England and 26 mm of rain fell in 30 minutes at Inkpen (Berkshire). Nearly 65 mm were recorded at Taunton (Somerset) in the 24-hours ending 0900 GMT on the 19th.

The frequency of thunder was average in England and Wales and was reported locally on 12 days. In Scotland thunder occurred on 4 days — this is somewhat below the normal. Thunderstorms occurred widely on the 12th in the Midlands and eastern England and on the 17th in southern counties where lightning damaged property in Redruth (Cornwall).

Sunshine — Less than average sunshine was recorded in most areas with some places in Wales and western England recording barely half the normal amount. The lowest percentage of average was 53 per cent at Newton Rigg (Cumberland). There were only a few places in west Scotland and south-east England that had excess sunshine.

Fog — Morning fog occurred in many parts of England and Wales during the first 10 days. Hill fog was widespread from the 13th to 18th particularly in the Midlands and south-east England; for much of this period air traffic at Luton Airport (Bedfordshire) was severely curtailed causing much inconvenience to holidaymakers.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen on 6 nights in Scotland.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, September 1969

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 122 cm.			
	Difference from Average							% of Average		
0 SCOTLAND, N.	20.0	0.7	0.0	-0.5	-0.3	+0.6	+0.2	-1	147	92
1 SCOTLAND, E.	24.4	2.8	+0.4	+0.7	+0.5	+0.7	+0.6	-4	68	90
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	22.8	1.1	-0.1	+0.4	+0.2	+0.8	+0.6	-2	76	81
3 ENGLAND, E.	24.1	-1.7	-0.2	+0.6	+0.2	+0.5	+0.2	-7	9	85
4 MIDLANDS	23.3	-1.3	-0.5	+0.2	-0.1	+0.6	+0.5	-3	58	79
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	26.1	-0.9	+0.4	+0.7	+0.5	+0.1	-0.3	-6	29	84
6 SCOTLAND, W.	20.8	1.8	0.0	+0.4	+0.2	+1.0	+0.6	-4	47	88
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N.Wales	21.8	3.3	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+0.9	+0.3	-5	59	72
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S.Wales	22.2	-2.2	-0.4	+0.3	0.0	+0.7	+0.4	-2	52	66
N.IRELAND	21.1	-0.6	+0.1	0.0	+0.1	-	-	-7	41	73
SCOTLAND	24.4	0.7	+0.1	+0.2	+0.1	-	-	-3	98	90
ENG. and WALES	26.1	-2.2	-0.1	+0.5	+0.2	-	-	-4	52	78

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.