

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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JUNE, 1942.—Dry; sunny except in Scotland.

The weather of June was distinguished by a scarcity of rainfall except in parts of west and north Scotland, where there was an excess; the deficiency was notable in parts of England and Wales and Ireland. Sunshine was excessive over England and Ireland.

In the opening days an anticyclone centred over the Bay of Biscay moved north-east, while depressions moved north-east along our north-west seaboard; rain occurred in Scotland and a little in Ireland on the 1st and 2nd and in the extreme north of Scotland on the 3rd. By the 4th the anticyclone covered most of the British Isles and there was practically no rain on the 4th and 5th; temperature rose on the 3rd and an unusually warm spell occurred from the 3rd-6th. On the 6th the anticyclone receded eastward and a shallow trough of low pressure moved across the British Isles; the weather was very warm and there were scattered thunderstorms. Thereafter a depression near Iceland moved eastward and an anticyclone became centred westward of the British Isles, while troughs of low pressure moved south over Scotland. A spell of cool weather ensued, with north-westerly winds veering north, while scattered rain, mainly showers, occurred in the north and north-west. Subsequently an elongated depression, situated off southern England on the 12th, moved slowly north and was associated with rather unsettled conditions until the 15th. From the 16th-18th a rather deep depression moved east-south-east from the north of Iceland to Norway, while an associated trough moved slowly south-east across the British Isles. There was slight scattered rain on the 16th and 17th and temperature rose a little but weather continued mainly cool. In the rear of this disturbance an anticyclone moved slowly eastward over the British Isles, giving a fair day generally on the 19th. The fair weather persisted over most of England with a rise of temperature, during the following days but in the north there was considerable rain at times as troughs of low pressure, associated with a depression moving east off the north of Scotland, crossed our northern districts. During the next few days an anticyclone centred westward of the British Isles maintained mainly fair weather generally. Subsequently the anticyclone receded southward and conditions again became somewhat unsettled in the north, though fair weather persisted over England. In the closing days of the month a shallow trough of low pressure extending from the North Sea to north Wales moved south-east and became almost stationary over south-east England; thunderstorms, heavy locally, were reported in the south-east on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the excess at 7h. ranging from 3.4 mb. at Aberdeen to 4.9 mb. at Tiree. Wind reached gale force in exposed situations in Scotland on the 2nd and 7th, but none of the anemometers registered a mean hourly velocity of more than 38 m.p.h. (see Table II). Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 60 m.p.h. at Paisley, 56 m.p.h. at Stornoway and 54 m.p.h. at Kirkwall all on the 7th.

Temperature.—On the whole mean temperature did not differ greatly from the average but broadly speaking, it was somewhat below the average in the west and north-west of Scotland and above the average elsewhere. The deviation from the average for the districts ranged from -0.8°F . in Scotland, N. to $+1.6^{\circ}\text{F}$. in the Midland counties of England. There were, however, large variations in temperature during the month. An unusually warm spell occurred from the 3rd-6th, during which temperatures of 80°F . or above were recorded in all three countries and in England and Wales temperatures approaching 90°F . were registered locally. It was warm again in England from the 21st-23rd and 29th-30th. A cold period occurred roughly from the 8th-16th, both day and night temperatures being very low at times. The lowest screen minimum

temperatures of the month (including some of 32°F . or below) were registered mainly on the 1st, 10th-12th, 14th, 16th and 19th, while severe ground frost was registered locally on a number of occasions.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 90°F . at London (Camden Square) on the 6th, 26°F . at Thetford on the 11th; (Scotland) 82°F . at Peebles on the 5th, 29°F . at Dalwhinnie on the 12th; (Northern Ireland) 82°F . at Armagh on the 5th, 33°F . at Aldergrove on the 10th.

Precipitation.—A marked feature of the weather of the month was the notable scarcity of rainfall over much of England and Wales and Ireland. At Abergavenny (Monmouthshire) there was no measurable rain throughout the month and at Birmingham (Edgbaston) the total, 4 mm., is the lowest for June since before 1893.

The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 31 over England and Wales, 74 over Scotland and 20 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland, more than the average rainfall occurred in the Shetland Islands and in a belt extending from north-west Sutherland to the Isle of Islay; less than 50 per cent was received in the neighbourhood of the Moray Firth and over a considerable area in the south and south-east. In England and Wales the deficiency was general; the percentage of the average ranged from more than 75 in parts of east and north-east England to less than 10 per cent over a large area in the Midlands, a part of Wales and of south-east England and locally in north Devon. In Northern Ireland the percentages ranged from 7 at Armagh to 40 at Garvagh. During the latter half of the month, an absolute drought was experienced at the majority of stations in England and Wales. At a large number of stations in England and Wales measurable rain fell on only two days and at a few stations on only one.

Daily falls exceeding 1 inch were registered at a number of stations and among the heaviest daily falls were 2.94 in. at Broadford (Skye), 2.26 in. at Kinlochourn (Inverness-shire) and 2.02 in. at Loch Carron (Ross and Cromarty) all on the 1st.

Thunderstorms were not very frequent for June but scattered storms occurred at times; they were most widespread in England and Wales on the 14th. Local thunderstorms occurred also on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 24th and 30th. The storm on the 14th was very severe in the Stour valley and large hailstones caused great damage to fruit and vegetable crops. Hailstones, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, were observed during a storm in the Stroud area on the 6th and large hailstones were also reported in the thunderstorm in the London area on the 30th.

Snow fell on the mountains in Scotland between the 8th and 13th. Ullapool reported a heavy fall of snow down to low ground on the 11th and 12th; this is exceptional for June.

Sunshine.—Sunshine considerably exceeded the average in England and Wales and was somewhat excessive in Northern Ireland. In Scotland, there was a deficiency which was notable in the north-west; at Stornoway it was the dullest June in a record back to 1881. The chart of mean daily sunshine shows values ranging from less than 3.0 hours over much of north-west Scotland to more than 10 hours at a number of places on the south coast of England from Swanage to Hastings.

Fog.—Fog (mainly morning) occurred at times chiefly on the 2nd, 5th-6th, 20th-23rd, and 29th-30th. It was thick and rather persistent at St. Abb's Head on the 5th and at Sumburgh on the 6th. It was rather persistent on the south-west coasts of England on the 20th, 21st and 29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—A complex solar halo phenomenon was observed at Fort Augustus on the 1st. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on five days.