

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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NOVEMBER, 1943. — Dry on the whole; mild, then rather cold.

The weather of the month was mainly unsettled, but in spite of this, rainfall was generally below the average. Showers of sleet or snow occurred locally at times, chiefly from the 13th–18th and during the last week.

During the opening days a complex depression was centred over the south-western districts and filled up without much movement; meanwhile, an anticyclone near the Faeroes moved east and then south and intensified. Dull, mild, wet weather prevailed on the 1st and 2nd, and there was scattered rainfall, with good sunshine records locally on the 3rd. By the 4th pressure was high over the Skagerrak with a wedge extending south-west over England, while a depression approached Iceland from the south-west. A fair day was experienced over most of England, but rain fell in Scotland and Ireland. A trough of low pressure moving south-east over the British Isles was associated with rain on the 5th and subsequently showers and bright periods. Some rain or showers occurred in the west and north on the 7th, but at many places in Britain there were long sunny periods. On the 8th a trough of low pressure followed by a wedge moved east over Britain; slight rain or showers occurred on the 8th, and rain at some places in the north-west and north on the 9th. A deep depression off north-west Scotland moved north-east on the 10th and was associated with general rain, and fairly widespread gales in the west and north. On the 11th a depression off south-east Iceland moved rapidly east-south-east, and on the 12th another disturbance moved south-east from Iceland; rain or showers occurred, and there were rather widespread gales in the west and north on the 12th.

In the rear of these disturbances high pressure became established on the North Atlantic and a spell of cold weather ensued over the British Isles, with mainly northerly winds, wintry showers and local thunderstorms. Gales were reported at exposed stations between the 13th and 15th. On the 21st and 22nd the anticyclone receded south-westward, and a depression northward of Iceland moved east, while associated troughs moved south-east over the British Isles. There was slight precipitation in most areas and sunshine records were mainly poor. On the 23rd and 24th an intense depression moving east over Scotland was associated with strong winds and gales at exposed places; rain occurred and the falls were heavy in the north-west on the 23rd. In the rear of this disturbance there was another break through of polar air, with showers, bright periods and local thunder. A wedge of high pressure moved across the British Isles on the 26th; it was followed on the 27th by a trough of low pressure, which was accompanied by dull weather and general rain. On the 28th a secondary depression moved east over the north of Scotland; rain or showers occurred and there was a rise in temperature. Subsequently a depression north of the Faeroes moved south-east and behind it there was a rapid rise in pressure over the British Isles; showery weather prevailed, with bright periods, local sleet and thunder at one or two places.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the west. In Britain the deviation at 7h. ranged from +4.9 mb. at Tiree to +0.6 mb. at Yarmouth, and winds from some westerly or northerly point were thus more prevalent than usual. In Scotland there was a five days' excess of west and north-west winds. Gales were frequent in the west and north-west, being reported on 10 days at Holyhead, 7 days at St. Ann's Head and 6 days at Duntuilin, Point of Ayre and Castlerock. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 66 m.p.h. at

Paisley on the 10th, 78 m.p.h. at Lerwick and 75 m.p.h. at Kirkwall on the 13th, 74 m.p.h. at South Shields and 70 m.p.h. at Durham on the 14th, and 73 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head and 67 m.p.h. at Manchester (Ringway) on the 29th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat above the average on the whole, but it was very slightly below in England, E. and S.E. The deviations for the districts ranged from +1.5°F. in Northern Ireland to -0.4°F. in England, S.E. The first five or six days were very mild, but the period 13th or 14th to 27th was mainly cold, though day temperature was high in Scotland on the 20th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 64°F. at Cromer and Shoeburyness on the 3rd, 21°F. at Welshpool on the 17th and 19th; (Scotland) 62°F. at Edinburgh University and Kilmarnock on the 3rd, 17°F. at Braemar on the 27th; (Northern Ireland) 59°F. at Armagh on the 3rd and Castlerock on the 4th; 28°F. at Armagh on the 15th and Aldergrove on the 17th and 26th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 80 over England and Wales, 83 over Scotland and 94 over Northern Ireland. More than the average rainfall occurred in the north of Scotland, over a small part of north-west England and north-west Midlands, in a coastal strip stretching from south of Berwick-on-Tweed to the Humber and from Hunstanton to south of Lowestoft and at Margate. More than the average occurred also over part of the north and west of Northern Ireland. Less than the average was registered elsewhere, and less than half the average over much of south-east Scotland and locally in Hampshire and the London area.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

2nd	2.01 in. at Llandulas (Brecon).
9th	2.43 in. at Conaglen (Ardgour).
12th	2.04 in. at Ponterwyd (Cardigan).
23rd	2.33 in. at Kingairloch (Argyll), 2.16 in. at Conaglen and 2.00 in. at Borrowdale.

Local thunderstorms were reported rather frequently for the season, e.g., on the 6th, 11th, 13th, 19th, 24th, 25th and 28th–30th.

Showers of snow or sleet were reported at times, chiefly from the 13th–18th and during the last week. Balmoral reported the depth on the 18th as 4 inches. Braemar had 2 inches of fresh snow on the 25th and Garbat (Ross-shire) 3 inches on the 26th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was considerably below the average in the north of Scotland (except the Shetlands), Northern Ireland, parts of Wales and south-west England. In Scotland, south of a line drawn from Aberdeen to Islay, and over most of England there was an appreciable excess. The percentages of the average for the districts ranged from 76 in Scotland, N. to 120 in England, E. and Scotland, W.

Fog.—In Scotland there was less fog than is usual at this season. On the other hand at inland stations in England fog was considerable at times. The chief periods of fog were the 1st–4th, 8th–10th, 19th–22nd and 26th–28th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—In Scotland the aurora was observed on 11 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 7 days. A particularly fine parhelion was seen from Edinburgh on the morning of the 18th.