

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1969 — Sunny but with some heavy rain at times

For most of the first fortnight high pressure was centred in the North Sea. Thereafter depressions to the west or north-west of the British Isles were predominant until high pressure returned to the southern half of the country near the end of the month.

Weather — The weather was unsettled at first in the west and north but it became fine and dry nearly everywhere by the end of the first week. However, from mid-month it was changeable; rainfall was sometimes heavy and thundery and a number of exceptional falls were reported. Dry weather returned to southern districts on the 26th. The opening day of the Wimbledon tennis championships (23rd) was cancelled due to rain, the first time that there has been no play on the first day since 1922. East Midland and East Anglian farmers continued to be hampered by wet fields and an estimated 80,000 acres in these areas intended for cropping had not been planted. On the other hand very dry conditions existed in parts of western Scotland.

Wind — The frequency of gales was everywhere about average. They occurred locally on 4 days in England and Wales but otherwise were reported only on the 26th, from west Scotland. A few gusts approached 50 kt in south-west England on the 17th and 18th during a spell of strong southerly winds.

Temperature — Monthly mean temperature was near the normal in most districts but it was about 1 deg C above average in parts of north Scotland and around 1 deg C below average in places in eastern England.

It was cool at first especially at night and slight air frost occurred in a few places; another cool spell lasted from the 19th to 25th. Among the minima recorded during the month were: -4.4°C at Moor House (Westmorland), 556 m, on the 7th; -3.9°C at Grantown-on-Spey (Moray), 229 m, and -2.2°C at Alwen (Denbighshire), 335 m, on the 5th; -1.0°C at Loughermore Forest (Co. Londonderry) on the 4th.

It was very warm by day in most areas during the second week and also in the south during the last week. Maxima for the month included: 27.9°C at Strabane Convent (Co. Tyrone) on the 11th; 27.4°C at Southampton on the 13th; 26.7°C at Paisley (Renfrewshire) on the 11th, at Ceins (Montgomeryshire) on the 13th and at Poolewe (Ross and Cromarty) on the 15th.

Rainfall — Less than half the average rainfall occurred in parts of Sutherland, Moray (where it was the driest June at Gordon Castle since 1932), Banffshire and central Wales. About half the normal amount fell over large areas of the south Midlands and central southern England. In contrast nearly twice the average rainfall occurred in parts of the counties of Berwick, Stirling and Clackmannon and in places in north-east England. At Dumfries it was the wettest June since 1948. In Northern Ireland rainfall was generally above average except near the coasts.

The month began rather wet, especially in the north and north-west but it became mainly dry in most areas from the 5th to 13th. The dry spell ended in the northern half of England on the 14th when thunderstorms occurred. At Worsbrough Dale, two miles south of Barnsley (West Riding of Yorkshire), over 59 mm of rain fell in 45 minutes; this constitutes a 'very rare' fall of rain and, statistically, may be expected to occur only on 1 day in about 160 years. The next day more heavy rain occurred in many areas. At Dudley (Worcestershire), nearly 35 mm fell in 18 minutes; this is classified as a 'remarkable' fall of rain which can be expected to occur only, on average, on 1 day in about 40 years. Also on the 15th, more than 11 mm fell in 6 minutes near Newcastle-under-Lyme (Staffordshire). Local flooding followed the heavy storms and power failures occurred in northern England and southern Scotland.

During the next ten days or so further heavy rain occurred at times in widely separated places. On the 17th a 'daily' fall of more than 52 mm was recorded at Maxwellton House (Dumfriesshire) and rain was widespread and heavy in South Wales and south-west England. Another 'remarkable' rainfall occurred at Leigh Holt, near Street (Somerset), on the 18th where almost 59 mm fell in 3 hours.

At Tollymore Park Forest (Co. Down) 63 mm were recorded in the 24-hour period ending 0900 GMT on the 20th. Although the south was mainly dry after the 25th more heavy rain occurred at times in Northern Ireland, Scotland and extreme northern England.

Thunder was reported locally on 11 days in England, 10 days in Scotland, 6 days in Wales and 4 days in Northern Ireland. On the 14th and 15th thunderstorms were very severe in the Midlands. Lightning strikes occurred in many places; a youth was killed in Staffordshire, people were injured in a number of places and property was damaged. At Barnsley, on the 14th, the Press reported hailstones "as big as pennies" which wrecked gardens.

Sunshine — Sunshine amounts were above average everywhere with the sole exception of St. Andrews (Fife) where slightly less than normal was recorded. At the London Weather Centre it was the sunniest June since records began in 1929 while at many other places it was the sunniest June for 10 years or more. Sunshine was particularly abundant during the second week.

Fog — Sea fog affected many east coast areas from the 10th to 15th and persisted all day in a few places.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — A number of excellent displays of optical phenomena were observed during the month both by day and by night. Noctilucent clouds were seen in west and south-west Scotland on the 11th and 25th and at Bracknell (Berkshire) on the 19th but there were no reports of the aurora.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES, June 1969

| DISTRICTS | AIR TEMPERATURE °C | | | | | EARTH TEMP. °C | | RAIN DAYS | RAIN-FALL | SUNSHINE |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | *Highest Max. | *Lowest Min. | Max. | Min. | Mean | Mean 30 cm. | Mean 122 cm. | | | |
| | Difference from Average | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 SCOTLAND, N. | 22.6 | 1.0 | +1.0 | +0.1 | +0.5 | +0.3 | -0.5 | -3 | 86 | 116 |
| 1 SCOTLAND, E. | 25.0 | 2.2 | +0.6 | +0.1 | +0.4 | +0.5 | +0.1 | -1 | 101 | 115 |
| 2 ENGLAND, N.E. | 24.4 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.9 | -0.6 | +0.3 | -0.1 | -1 | 155 | 129 |
| 3 ENGLAND, E. | 25.6 | 2.2 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -1 | 96 | 126 |
| 4 MIDLANDS | 26.7 | 1.7 | -0.2 | -1.0 | -0.6 | +0.2 | 0.0 | 0 | 100 | 137 |
| 5 ENGLAND, S.E. | 25.6 | 1.5 | -0.5 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -2 | 68 | 119 |
| 6 SCOTLAND, W. | 25.3 | 0.9 | +0.3 | -0.6 | -0.1 | +0.3 | +0.0 | -1 | 111 | 120 |
| 7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales | 24.6 | 1.7 | +0.1 | -0.7 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -1 | 118 | 129 |
| 8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales | 25.6 | 1.1 | +0.1 | -0.6 | -0.2 | -0.4 | 0.0 | -1 | 89 | 129 |
| N. IRELAND | 25.0 | 1.7 | +0.4 | -1.3 | -0.5 | - | - | -1 | 111 | 120 |
| SCOTLAND | 25.3 | 0.9 | +0.6 | -0.1 | +0.3 | - | - | -2 | 97 | 117 |
| ENG. and WALES | 26.7 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -0.8 | -0.5 | - | - | -1 | 102 | 128 |

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