

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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APRIL, 1935.—Wet; dull on the whole.

The most notable feature of the weather of the month was the excessive rainfall, the excess amounting to more than 100 per cent. of the average at many places in England and Wales and east and south-east Scotland: in north-west Scotland and at a few rather isolated places in Ireland, however, there was a deficiency. On the whole, sunshine was deficient and mean temperature somewhat exceeded the average.

During the first five days pressure was high to westward and north-westward of the British Isles and low to eastward. Cold, squally, northerly winds prevailed with showers of snow, sleet, hail and rain.

A depression approached Ireland from westward on the 6th, and from the 7th until the 23rd the weather was controlled by complex Atlantic depressions, the centres of which sometimes passed directly over the British Isles. Rain fell frequently throughout this period and was heavy at times, while local thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence, notably on the 14th and from the 20th to 22nd. Widespread gales on the 10th and 11th were associated with a deep depression which moved north-east across the north of Scotland. A wedge of high pressure caused a temporary break in the unsettled weather on the 12th.

On the 24th, an anticyclone off our western seaboard moved north-east and thereafter anticyclonic conditions prevailed, for the most part, until the end of the month. A depression over Germany, however, caused general rain in south-eastern districts on the 25th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure for the month was everywhere below the average, the deficiency at 7 h. varying from 2.7 mb. at the Scilly Isles and 2.9 mb. at Stornoway to 6.0 mb. at Tyne-mouth and Spurn Head.

The most widespread gales occurred around the 10th and 11th. During the first five days the northerly wind reached gale force at times locally, mainly in the north of Scotland, and a gale was registered at a few exposed places around the 16th and 17th. Among the highest speeds attained in gusts were 77 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory, 76 m.p.h. at Abbotsinch (Renfrew) and at Bell Rock Lighthouse, and 73 m.p.h. at Dunfanaghy Road on the 10th, and 74 m.p.h. at Eskdalemuir on the 11th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature usually somewhat exceeded the average for the month, the only districts giving a negative deviation being Scotland, N. and Scotland, E. (See Table I). Northerly winds of polar origin were responsible for the cold spell from the 2nd to the 5th or 6th. Maxima below 40°F. were registered at numerous stations on the 4th or 5th: on the 4th the maximum temperature was only 35°F. at Dalwhinnie, Braemar and Craibstone, and 34°F. at Balmoral. Minimum temperatures of 25°F. or below were recorded locally on one or other of the days 5th to 7th, and low readings were also recorded on the mornings of the 12th and 13th. The remainder of the month was generally mild: maxima of 60°F. or above occurred locally almost daily from the 20th to 30th. Unusually high minimum temperatures were registered on the night of the 9th to 10th, many stations in the southern half of England recording a minimum of 50°F. or above: at Ipswich, the value 52°F. is the highest recorded in April during the last 35 years.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 68°F. at Newport, Isle of Wight, on the 30th, 20°F. at Rickmansworth on the 13th; (Scotland) 66°F. at Ardtornish on the 26th and at Dunoon on the 22nd, 16°F. at Balmoral on the 7th; (Ireland) 67°F. at Cork on the 28th and 26°F. at Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 12th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881-1915 was 162, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 186, Scotland 144 and Ireland 116.

In the north-west of Scotland and at some rather scattered places in Ireland, less than the average rainfall was registered but in England and Wales and most of the east and south of Scotland a very considerable excess occurred, which amounted to more than 100 per cent. in many places. (Ilfracombe 191 per cent. excess and Marlborough 179 per cent.).

In some parts, thunderstorms were unusually frequent; for example, they were reported on 6 occasions at Attenborough and on 5 occasions at Cranwell, Bingley, Huddersfield (Oakes), Wakefield and Mayfield. Local thunderstorms occurred from the 7th to 10th, on the 14th, 17th and from the 20th to 24th. They were widespread on the 14th and from the 20th to 22nd. At Durham, hailstones about the size of marbles fell during a storm on the 21st and on the same day a thunderstorm persisted for about 5 hours at Glencoe.

Snow or sleet fell at times over a wide area during the first five days, particularly on the 4th and 5th. In Scotland, most of the country was covered in snow on the 4th and 5th, and on the 6th the snow was 7½ inches deep at Balmoral.

Among the heaviest falls of rain in 24 hours may be mentioned:—

- 8th 52 mm. at Trecastle (Brecon).
- 9th 50 mm. at Treherbert (Glamorgan), 48 mm. Llyn Fawr Reservoir (Glamorgan) and 42 mm. at Glenbranter.
- 11th 52 mm. at Lochgoilhead (Argyll).
- 23rd 49 mm. at Denshaw (Yorkshire) and 41 mm. at Huddersfield.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was deficient on the whole. In Scotland, the deficiency was general: in England and Ireland, totals were more variable, but the only district for which the mean exceeded the average was England, N.W. with 107 per cent. of the average (see Table I). Among sunny days may be mentioned the 6th, 11th, 12th, 23rd and 26th.

Fog.—Little fog occurred during the first part of the month. It was reported locally on the 14th, 15th, 20th to 23rd and during the anticyclonic régime from the 25th-30th. On the 26th and 27th, fog was chiefly confined to the north and north-west but later it developed further south, with the southward movement of the anticyclone.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was seen in some northern districts of Scotland on the 9th and 12th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 17 days, chiefly between the 4th and 21st. The zodiacal light was observed at Stonyhurst on the 4th and a sun pillar at Oxford on the 2nd.