

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1932.—Mainly wet; very dull in Southern and Eastern England; warm spell from 14th to 17th.

In contrast with that of August the weather of this month was mainly wet, and was very dull in southern and eastern England.

During the first twelve days conditions were generally unsettled with depressions moving eastward. The main disturbances were mostly centred to the north of Scotland but associated secondaries developed further south. Heavy rain fell at times and the wind was mainly from between south and west-north-west. Subsequently the Azores anticyclone moved north-east and the best weather of the month occurred from the 14th–17th inclusive. Temperature rose to 75° F. or above in many places and touched 81° F. at Birmingham (Sparkhill) on the 15th. A vigorous cyclonic development south of Iceland on the 17th preceded a period of much colder weather. The onset of northerly winds was accompanied by local rainstorms in the south-east late on the 18th. Thereafter depressions developing near Iceland moved in an east-south-easterly direction, while pressure was high on the Atlantic south of Greenland and was frequently low over the Bay of Biscay. Cool, unsettled weather prevailed generally, but a wedge of high pressure gave a beautiful day in most places on the 21st. About the 27th the Atlantic high pressure began to move south-eastward across the British Isles and sharp ground frosts occurred, particularly in northern districts, on the 28th. A depression over the Bay of Biscay moving northward caused a renewal of unsettled weather with rain in the south on the 29th and more general rain later.

Pressure and Wind.—In accordance with the unsettled nature of the greater part of the month, pressure was everywhere below the normal, the deficit ranging from 8 mb. at Lerwick and 7.5 mb. at Wick in the extreme north to 2.7 mb. at Valentia in south-west Ireland. Winds from between south and west-north-west prevailed generally during the first half of the month except on the 8th and 9th when a complex depression passed directly over the British Isles and variable winds occurred. From the 18th to the 28th cold winds from some northerly point frequently prevailed.

Gales occurred locally on the 8th, 11th, 18th and from the 25th–29th.

Temperature.—Mean Temperature on the whole differed little from the normal but in north and west Scotland the mean was a little more than one degree below the average and in S.W. England rather more than one degree above the average.

There were, however, two warm spells, both due to tropical air round anticyclones situated off our south-west coasts. The first occurred around the 2nd when day temperature rose to 77° F. locally in E. and S.E. England. The nights of the 1st and 2nd were extremely mild, with minima of from 60° F. to 65° F. in many places. At Kew Observatory, the 24 hour minimum temperature of 64° F. on the 2nd, was the highest recorded there in September since observations were first taken in 1868, apart from a reading of 65° F. in 1880.

The second warm spell lasted from about the 14th to the 17th. Notable maxima during the period were 81° F. at Birmingham (Sparkhill) and 80° F. at Attenborough and Worksop on the 15th and 80° F. at Tunbridge Wells on the 16th. With the onset of northerly winds a period of much colder weather began about the

18th or 19th. Day temperature remained well below 60° F. and some low minima were registered particularly on the 21st and 22nd and again on the 28th. On the 28th temperature in the screen fell to 22° F. at Linlithgow and 24° F. at Eskdalemuir, while at Renfrew temperature on the grass fell to 18° F. on the 20th and 17° F. on the 21st.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 81° F. at Birmingham (Sparkhill) on the 15th, 26° F. at Houghall on the 21st. (Scotland) 76° F. at Craibstone and Balmakewan on the 15th; 22° F. at Linlithgow on the 28th. (Ireland) 76° F. at Waterford on the 13th; 29° F. at Markree Castle on the 21st and 22nd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 135; the corresponding figures for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 144, Scotland 137, Ireland 109.

Although the general rainfall exceeded the normal for each of the constituent countries and falls exceeded twice the normal in parts of Devonshire, Somerset, Northumberland, Lancashire and Sutherland, there were isolated areas where there was a deficit. This was particularly the case in Southern Ireland, locally in east and south-east England, and in a small area in Scotland, chiefly confined to Central Perthshire. At Waterford, for example, the fall was only 59 per cent. of the normal. On the whole the heaviest rain fell during the first half of the month, notably from the 1st–3rd, the 7th–8th and on the 10th. Local thunderstorms occurred at times mainly between the 3rd and 10th and again on the 5th and 2nd.

Heavy falls in 24 hours include 71 mm. at Tynywaun (Rhondda Valley) and Stonyhurst on the 2nd, 70 mm. at Borrowdale on the 1st, and about 60 mm. in south-east Wigtownshire on the 8th. The fall of 71.1 mm. at Stonyhurst on the 2nd is the largest daily rainfall there in September for the last 84 years.

Fresh snow was observed on the Cairngorms on the 20th, on the hill tops at Glencoe on the 24th and 25th and at Achnashellach on the 19th and 20th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was deficient in all districts except north-east England and east Scotland. The deficiency was most pronounced in Southern and Eastern England. At Eastbourne the total of 113 hours was the lowest recorded in September between 1887 and 1932, while at Gorleston 109 hours was the lowest September figure since records began there in 1908.

Fog.—Fog occurred on the 1st and 2nd, locally in England on the 5th and 6th, on the 9th when it was widespread in Eastern Scotland, from the 14th–17th and 21st–23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Aurora was observed at Lerwick on the 8th, 24th and 28th, at Wick on the 6th and at Eskdalemuir on the 14th and 25th. The solar halo was observed at Oxford on 10 days.