

Storms cause widespread flooding

August was a cold, wet and windy month. Any hopes of an improvement in this summer's weather were washed away in the storms of the 5th/6th and the 25th/26th. Kerry and west Cork were most affected by the heavy rain on the 5th. New records for 6 and 12 hour rainfall totals were set at the Observatory in Cahirciveen and considerable damage was caused by flooding in Tralee, Bantry and many other places. The later storm on the 25th/26th - an offshoot of Hurricane Charlie - gave its heaviest rain in the south and east and the midlands. (see satellite picture inside) Again new rainfall records were established and again the heavy rain caused widespread flooding, particularly in parts of Dublin and in Bray. Coincidentally, Bray suffered the same sort of flooding on the same date in 1905, and in the Phoenix Park precisely the same amount of rain - 85.1mm - was recorded on the 25th August in both years.

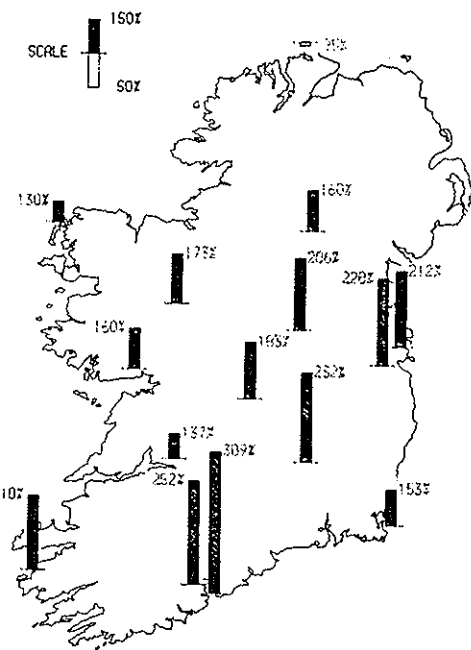
HEAVY RAIN AT TIMES

Rainfall amounts were substantially above normal everywhere except in the extreme north of the country. In many parts of the south and east more than twice the normal August rainfall fell. At Roches Point on the south coast near Cork, the total rainfall was 238.3mm, more than three times the average for the month. By contrast, Malin Head at the other end of the country recorded 83.9mm, which is 5% below normal.

Much of the rain was associated with the storms of Tuesday 5th and Monday 25th. In western areas the 5th was the wettest day of the month: Cahirciveen measured 85.6mm of rain...between midnight and midnight that day. To put that amount in perspective, the normal rainfall total for the whole month of August at Cahirciveen is 98mm. Cork Airport recorded 55.4mm on the 5th and seven other stations, mainly in the west and south, had over 30mm of rain that day.

The 25th was the wettest in the east and south of the country. Roches Point got 84.4mm that day. Casement Aerodrome 72.4mm, Cork Airport 64.8mm, Rosslare 61mm and Dublin Airport 58.9mm. Six other stations had more than 30mm of rain. In the mountains south of Dublin totals of over 190mm were reported, which if verified would set a new Irish record for the greatest fall of rain in a day.

The number of raindays (days with 0.2mm or more) varied from 14 in Rosslare to 22 in Claremorris, which is about average for the month and a significant improvement on the previous month. In July it rained more often but amounts were mostly small; in August rain was less frequent but

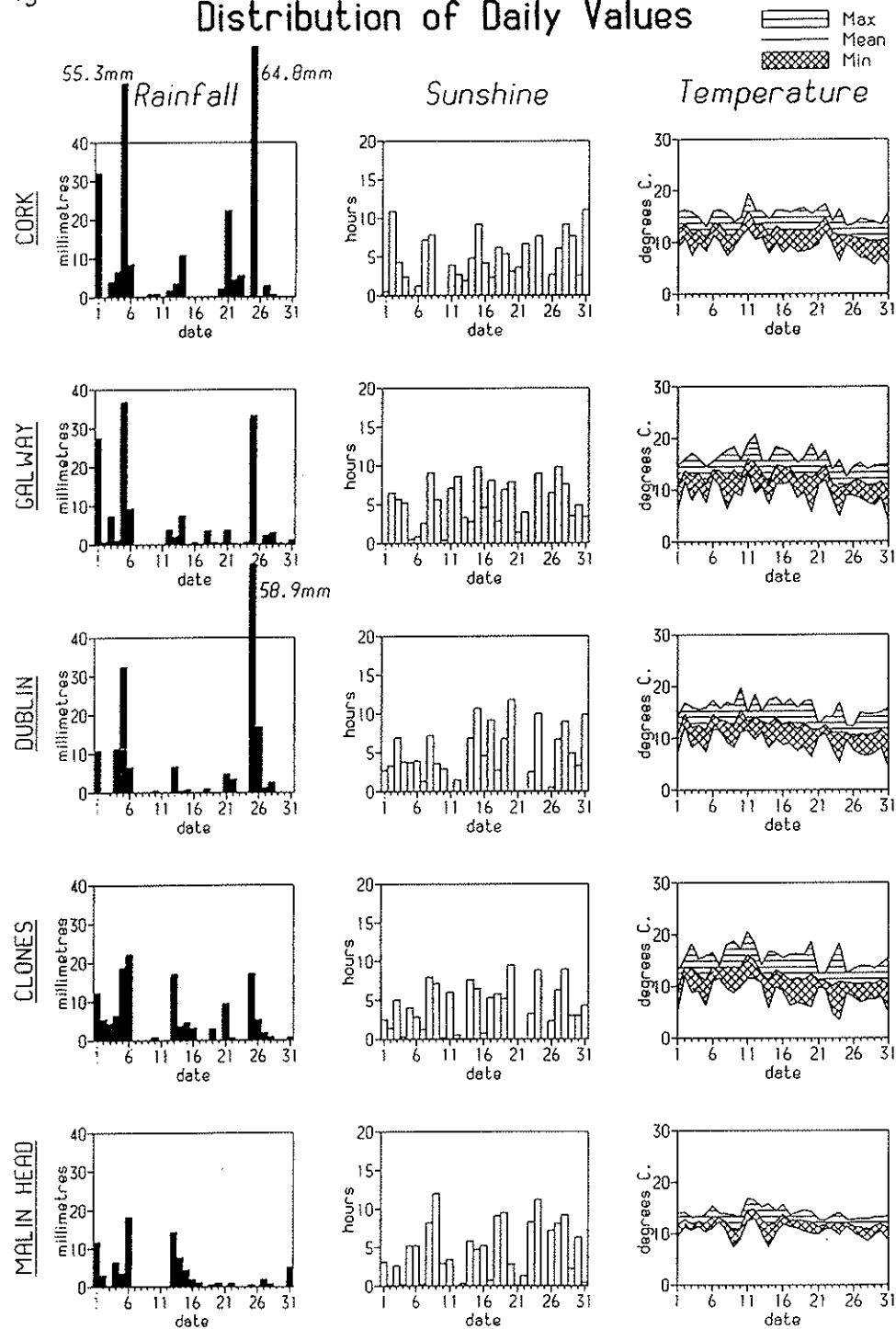


Rainfall percentage of (1951-1980) normals.

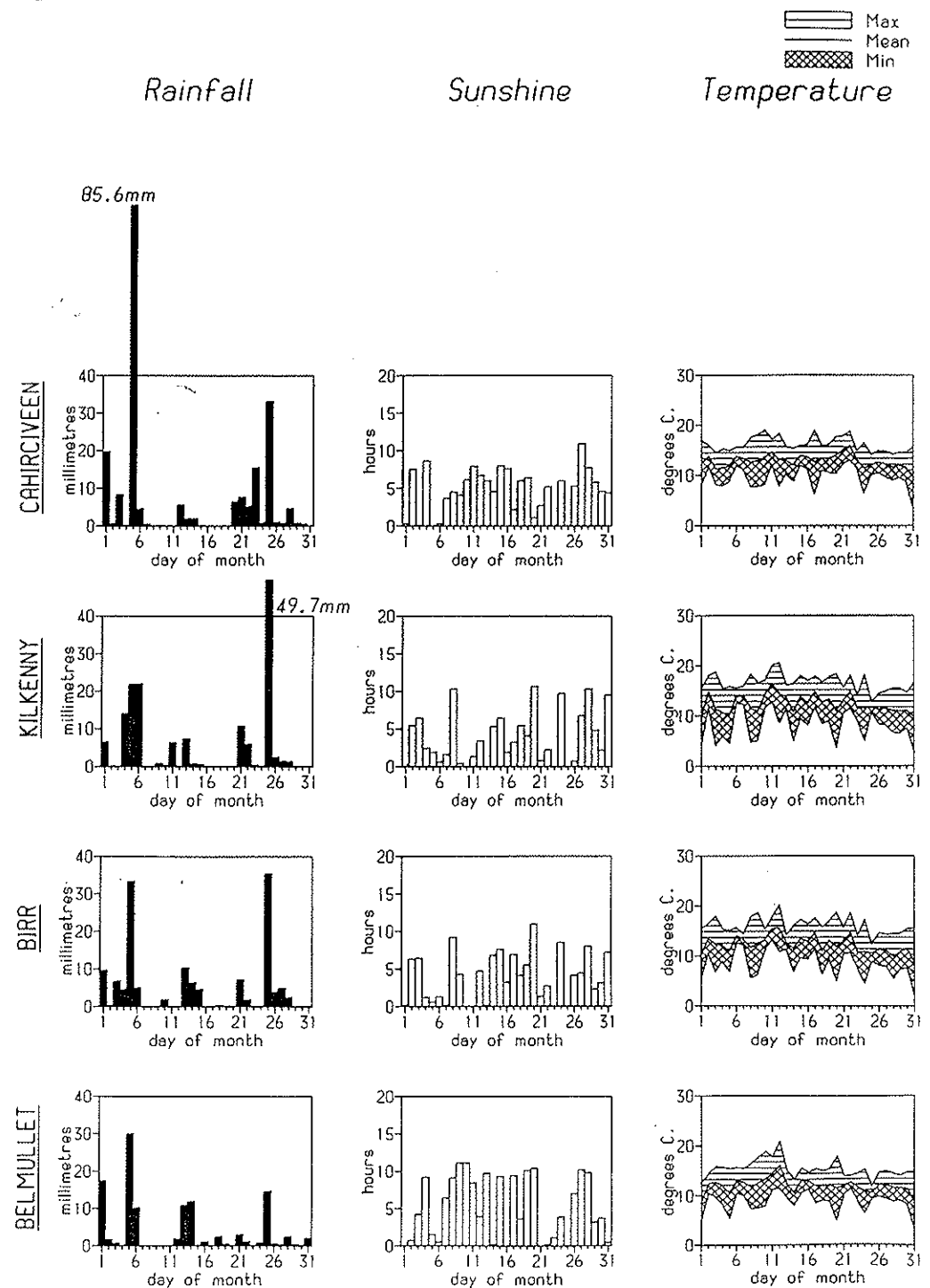
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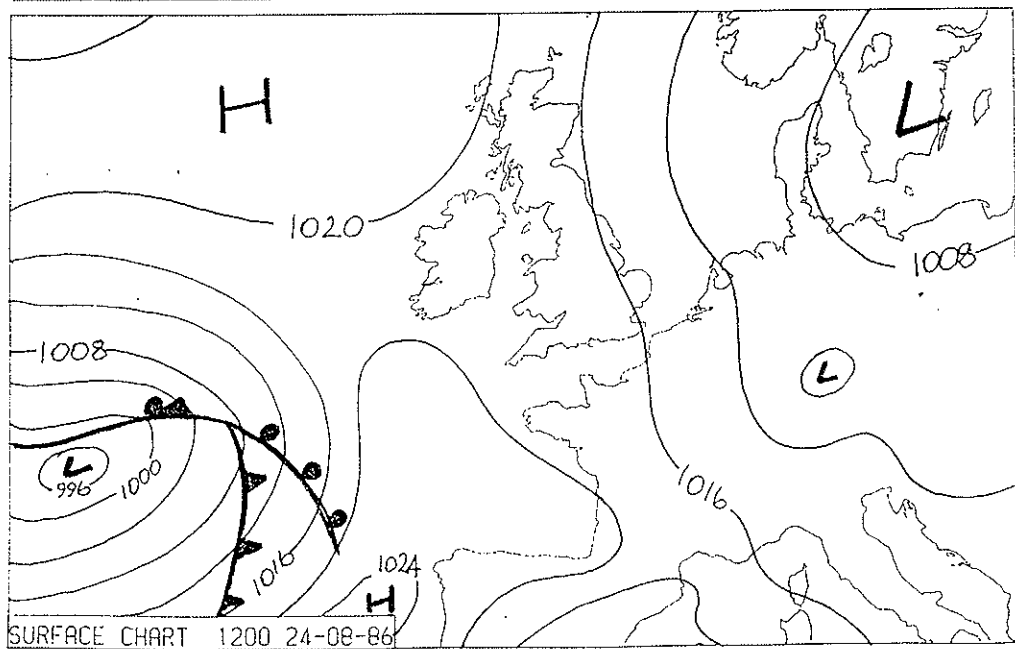
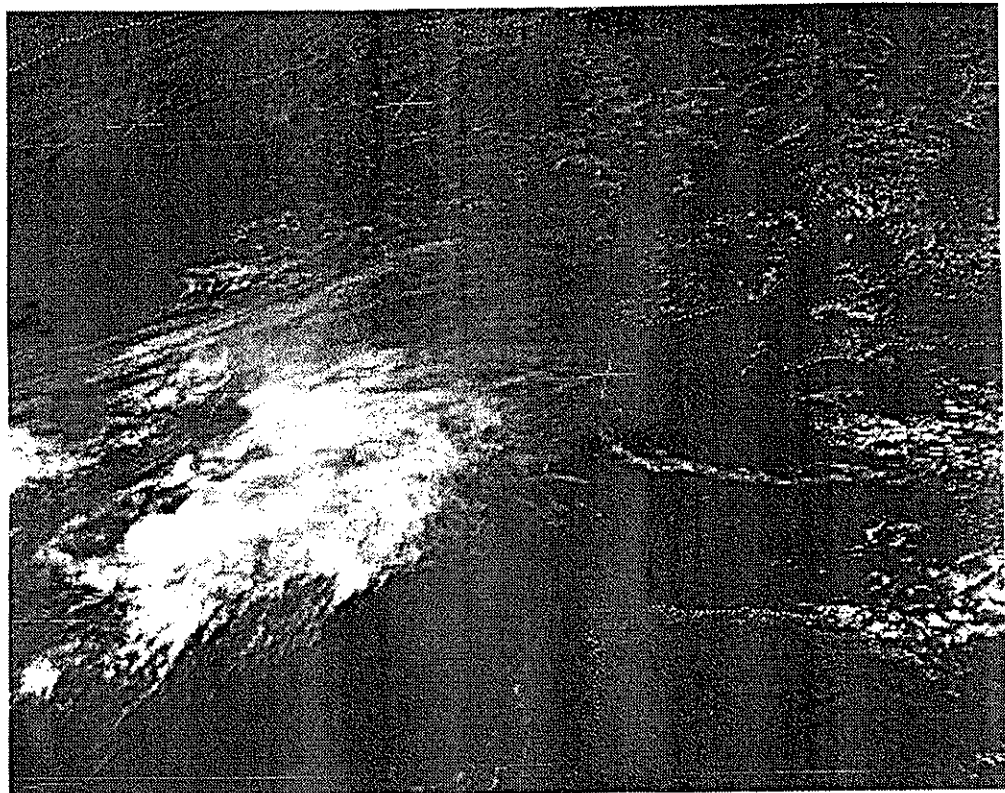
Distribution of Daily Values



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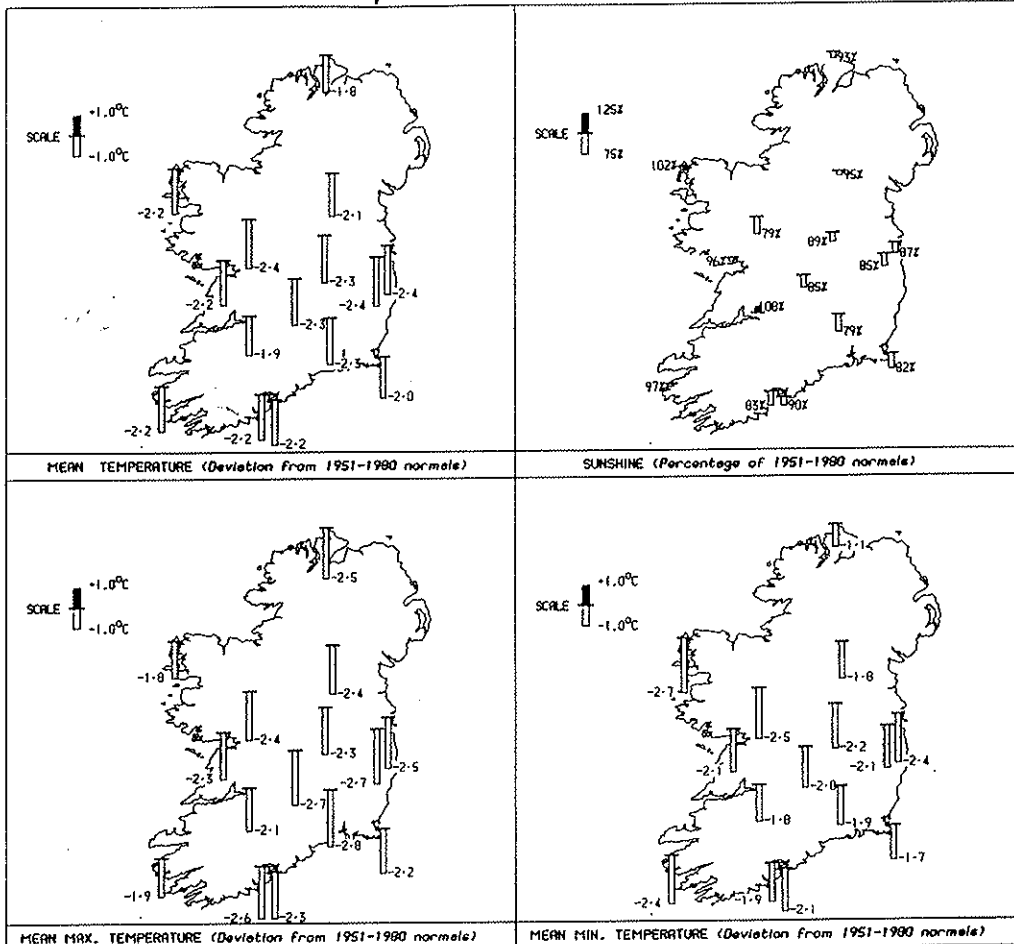


Sunny Sunday 24th August - Storm approaching



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Totals, Means and Extremes



Station	Rainfall		Air Temperature								Sunshine			Wind		Number of days with							
	Total	Most in a Day	Means of		Mean	Extreme Temperature				Total	Most in a Day		Max Gale Gust	Rain	Snow	Frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale Gusts			
		Amount	Date(s)	Max		Min	Highest	Date(s)	Lowest		Date(s)	Amount									Date(s)		
Balmullet	114.7	30.0	5	15.4	8.7	12.1	21.0	12	3.1	31	159.3	11.1	9,10	45	21	-	-	-	-	-	4		
Birr	139.4	35.5	25	16.1	8.4	12.3	20.3	12	2.0	31	121.1	10.9	20	46	17	-	-	1	-	3	6		
Cahiriveen	205.9	65.6	5	16.1	9.5	12.8	19.0	10,17	3.3	31	144.3	10.9	27	60	21	-	-	-	-	-	9		
Casement	159.3	72.4	25	16.1	8.1	12.1	19.9	12	2.7	31	130.1	11.5	15	55	16	-	-	-	1	2	7		
Claramorris	160.5	42.8	5	15.7	7.4	11.6	19.8	12	2.6	31	101.9	8.5	17	44	22	-	-	1	-	3	5		
Clones	137.7	22.1	6	15.7	8.3	12.0	20.6	11	3.5	24	119.6	9.5	20	49	19	-	-	-	-	4	5		
Cork Airport	226.9	64.8	25	15.5	9.0	12.3	19.6	11	5.3	31	135.4	11.1	31	55	18	-	-	-	-	2	7		
Dublin Airport	158.7	58.9	25	15.9	8.8	12.4	19.8	10	4.1	31	140.3	11.8	20	53	15	-	-	-	1	2	6		
Galway	145.7	36.8	5	16.2	9.0	12.6	20.9	12	3.8	31	148.4	9.8	15,27	43	21	-	-	1	-	-	8		
Kilkenny	153.3	49.7	25	16.7	8.2	12.5	20.6	12	2.9	31	117.6	10.6	20	50	18	-	-	-	-	3	6		
Malin Head	83.9	18.2	6	14.0	10.4	12.2	16.8	11	7.3	9,14	135.5	12.0	9	62	20	-	-	-	-	-	13		
Mullingar	162.7	41.7	25	15.6	7.7	11.7	19.4	12	2.1	31	125.7	11.5	20	50	20	-	-	-	-	4	6		
Roches Point	238.3	84.4	25	15.8	10.0	12.9	19.1	11	7.2	31	148.6	11.6	31	60	16	-	-	-	-	1	10		
Rosslea	111.6	61.0	25	15.6	10.6	13.1	17.7	22	7.4	27	149.9	12.4	31	53	14	-	-	-	-	1	8		
Shannon Airport	113.7	35.3	5	16.9	9.8	13.4	20.4	11	5.7	31	157.2	11.5	19	56	20	-	-	1	-	2	7		

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres. Temperatures in Degrees Celsius. Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots. Gale = Gust of 23.5 knots. - = days with 0.2mm or more.

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tended to be much heavier when it happened. The dates of notable rain were the 1st, the 4th-6th, the 13th and 14th, 21st and 22nd, and the 25th and 26th. The relatively dry periods were between the 7th and 9th, the 11th and 12th, the 15th-20th, the 24th, and the 29th-31st.

COLDEST AUGUST

It's been the coldest August since records began at most stations. At almost all the stations with long-term records you have to go back to 1912 to find a colder end to the summer. Mean temperatures for the month are about 2°C below normal everywhere. Both daytime highs and nighttime lows were well down. Shannon Airport was the warmest spot overall: it had the highest mean temperature for the month - 13.4°C. Claremorris was the coldest station: its mean for the month was only 11.6°C.

The lowest air temperature recorded during August was 2°C at Birr on Sunday 31st. The last day of the month was the coldest almost everywhere with ground frost reported from stations in the midlands and west. The highest temperature was 21°C, recorded at Belmullet on Tuesday 12th. The period from Sunday 10th to Tuesday 12th was the warmest: almost all stations measured highs between 19°C and 21°C. However these values are a few degrees down on the normal maximum temperatures for the month of August.

SUNSHINE

August was an improvement on one of the duller Julys ever but most stations still had below average sunshine. Amounts ranged from an average of 5.1 hours a day at Belmullet to only 3.3 hours at Claremorris. (Both the sunniest and duller stations are in the one county, Mayo.) Overall, sunshine amounts varied from 79% of normal at Kilkenny and Claremorris to 100% at Shannon Airport. Generally speaking, northern areas and places along the west coast got the best of the sunshine, with stations in the south-east faring worst. Rosslare had the sunniest day of the month with 12.4 hours of sun on Sunday 31st. The 25th was a complete wash-out with no sunshine recorded anywhere.

WIND AND OTHER ELEMENTS

Strong winds accompanied the heavy rain during the periods 1st/2nd, 5th/6th, 14th/15th and 25th/26th. Gales were recorded at a number of stations on these dates, mainly coastal stations, while storm force winds were reported from sea areas. The strongest gust was 62 knots which was recorded at Malin Head on the 1st. Cahirciveen and Roches Point had gusts of 60 knots. At Cork Airport the previous record for a gust in August - 50 knots - was exceeded not once but four times during the month.

Thunder occurred in Dublin on the 4th in association with some very heavy showers. Hail was reported from a few stations on the 27th and 28th. There was some fog during the first three weeks of the month, mainly at inland stations. Ground frost was reported on the last day of the month.

7-DAY FORECAST

[from 1st to 7th September]

It will be dry apart from a little drizzle or light rain in southern areas at first. There will be good bright or sunny spells especially over the northern half of the country. Rain in all areas on Tuesday 2nd, persistent for a time and possibly heavy before clearing from the northwest by evening. Dry apart from scattered light showers on Wednesday 3rd and part of Thursday 4th with good bright spells especially in the south.

Further rain will spread from the northwest late on Thursday or early Friday 5th and the weekend will remain rather unsettled. West to northwest winds, occasionally fresh but light for a time around midweek. Temperatures will continue a little below normal with a slight risk of local night frost in places around midweek.

FOR LATEST FORECAST RING

Dublin area : 1199
Leinster and Caven/Monaghan : (01) 425555
North Munster/South Connaught : (061) 62677
South Munster : (021) 964600

Rainfall

