

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SIGNS OF FALL

Many are the signs of fall. One of the most talked of is the honking southward flight of geese. Far more conspicuous, however, is the honking southward procession of automobiles from northern woods, mountains and lakes. The stream of autos is densest on Labor Day, no matter what the weather, while the strings of geese appear to have some immediate or remote connection with the advent of cool spells.

The weather signs of fall that have already begun appearing are lowland frosts in northern districts, lowland and lake fogs of clear mornings, heavier dews, decreasing number and intensity of thunderstorms, increasing frequency of all-day rains and of strong, shifting winds, more pronounced changes of the weather, occasional crisp days.

Lower temperatures are directly associated with the retreat of the sun; the other features have no such obvious connections with the decreasing sunshine. The fogs are low temperature phenomena, resulting from the condensation of vapor over lowland meadows or warm lakes during the lengthening nights. The heavier dews are also associated with the longer nights. Thunderstorms are decreasing because of the reduction in available vapor and the decreasing occurrence of instability due to strong heating of the air near the ground. The general storms and more pronounced weather changes are functions of the increasing temperature contrasts between north and south.

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