

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER FACTS

An early morning mist or light shower is known in England as "the pride of the morning," and is supposed to foretoken a fine day.

When railroads were a novelty they were accused of upsetting the weather, and the same charge has been brought in recent years against radio. One idea is as absurd as the other.

The world record for frequent thunderstorms is held by Baliburg, in the former German colony of Kamerun, where these storms average 212 a year. The opposite extreme is represented by Antarctica, where no thunderstorm has yet been recorded by explorers.

The bird commonly called a "rain crow" in North America is not a crow but a species of cuckoo. Its cries are supposed to foretell rain.

The most spectacular duststorms in the world are the "haboobs" of the Egyptian Sudan. In these storms a dense cloud of sand, sometimes more than 3,000 feet high, advances rapidly along a front of 12 to 18 miles, its passage occupying from half an hour to several hours. At Khartoum about 20 of these storms occur, on an average, each year.

At least three times in recent years -- once in Cuba, once in Porto Rico and once in Santo Domingo -- good-sized boards have been driven entirely through the trunks of palm trees by hurricanes. The strongest winds in such storms have never been measured instrumentally.

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