

Mysterious Rains of Fish, Frogs, other Small Animals and Inorganic Substances

by Dirk Gillabel

The following is my own analysis of a large collection of strange and bizarre rains and falls of animals and inanimate matter. I am not interested in proving anything. You have to judge for yourself if the following provides a valid explanation of this phenomenon. The extensive collection of news report you will find in see chapter 6 is unique and is not available anywhere else.

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A little introduction: I have gathered about a hundred pages filled with reports of anomalous rains of animals and inorganic substances. The amount of cases of such a strange phenomenon is immense. Most of these cases are coming from the English speaking countries. There must be far more events of anomalous rains happening in all the other countries in the world.

1. It is not what you are told

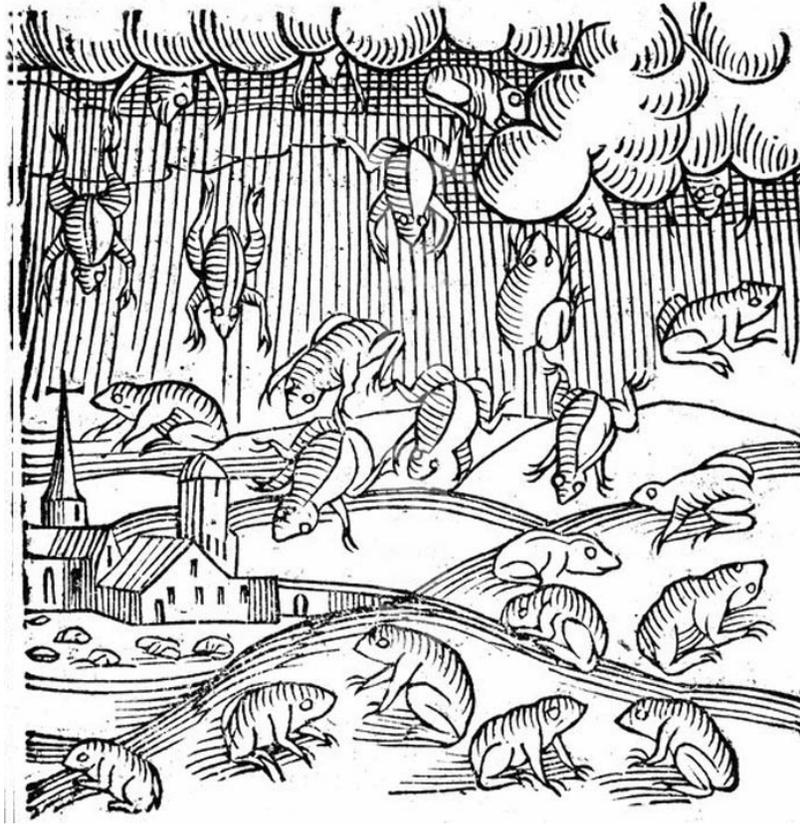
What they teach us in schools and universities is only a small part of reality. It is a limited knowledge that creates a nice, safe and predictable world. However Reality is different. Especially on planet Earth. Lots of things are happening, and have been for a long while, that are outside of the belief system of mainstream science, the science that is allowed for the general public. It is a system that keeps itself in check. A scientist has to keep himself strictly to the rules of his profession. If he dares to talk of a reality outside the self-established borders of science, his reputation is tarnished, and his career is over. It is that simple. It has happened to scientists who did have an interest in what is considered weird, strange, non-existent. The media is not much better. They have always ridiculed any strange phenomenon, or allowed only the word of the all-knowing scientists who offer their point of view to make any strange phenomenon fit their own scientific standards. They lie between their teeth. They have to, because they cannot admit that there are phenomena that defy any of their explanations or knowledge of the world. Ordinary people know what they have seen, what they have experienced, though they sometimes don't know how to interpret it by lack of knowledge. Scientists don't even try to investigate strange phenomena, they even don't listen to what the witnesses have to say. Scientists have standard explanations that they repeat over and over again. This is especially the case with all the stuff that is falling out of the air, that is impossible in a natural world, but it is a Reality.

I grew up in Belgium, and I worked a number of years in the Royal Meteorological Institute. I am familiar with climatological phenomena, but also with how meteorologists or climatologists deal with phenomena that can't be explained by conventional science. They will come up with a complete unscientific explanation claiming it to be true and normal, without even examining the data. They even will believe their own fake explanations.

One time, in an area at the Belgian-German border, everything, houses, streets and cars were covered with a fine yellow dust. As usual the press turned to the meteorologists for an explanation. Official statement: sand from the Sahara that was lifted up from the desert, drifted hundreds of miles high up in the atmosphere, and then came down in the Belgian countryside, in a small area. A lot of people accepted this absurd statement, because they don't know better. Sand is quite heavy and does not float upwards, nor travel with the wind at any altitude for any distance. And if the meteorologists had taken the time to listen to the witnesses, or had gone at the location, they would have found that it was not sand but fine yellow dust. It had come down in large volumes and was limited to a small area.

People always know what they have seen, and they have been witness to peculiar details of the strange fall and rain phenomena. Although the explanation for these unnatural phenomena might remain elusive, a true scientist should first study it in depth before reaching a conclusion. However they have decided to stay into their limited world.

Thus it is up to us, ordinary people to do the research. When the reports are starting to pile up, one can come to some preliminary conclusions based on certain characteristics that show up again and again.



Rain of frogs in Scandinavia recorded in 1355.

From Prodigiorum ac ostentorum chronicon by Conrad Lycosthenes. (Basel, 1557).

2. The unscientific explanation of scientists

It is a phenomenon that has bewildered people all around the planet for many, many centuries: living beings and inert materials fall out of the sky as an unnatural phenomenon. A lot of things:

- fish
- frogs
- worms
- seeds and grains
- apples
- dry flakes of apparent organic matter
- gelatinous masses
- colored dust
- colored rain
- colored ice
- colored snow flakes
- ice blocks
- unusual shaped hail stones
- all kinds of stones

When we are talking about rains in this article, this applies to all the different animals and inorganic substances that are 'raining' down, accompanied or not by water precipitation (or what we normally understand by rain).

Unable to find a rational explanation for this strange phenomenon, people just leave it a mystery, or they explain it away by what seems to be the most plausible solution, the water spout or tornado. However, it certainly is not a meteorological phenomenon.

It is important to understand that these anomalous rains have been going on for millenia. The oldest written account is that from Athenaeus, a Greek rhetorician and grammarian. He was a native of Naucratis, a Greek city in Egypt, and he wrote the Deipnosophists in the early part of the 3rd century A.D. (I have put text in bold that points to characteristics typical for the anomalous rains):

"I know also that it has **very often** rained fishes. At all events, Phoenias, in the second book of his Eresian Magistrates, says that in the Chersonesus it once rained fish **uninterruptedly for three days**; and Phylarchus, in his fourth book, says that people had often seen it raining fish, and often also raining wheat, and that the same thing has happened with respect to frogs. At all events, Heracleides Lembus, in the twenty-first book of his History, says: "In Paeonia and Dardania it has, they say, before now rained frogs; and **so great has been the number** of these frogs that the houses and the roads have been full of them; and at first, for some days, the

inhabitants, endeavouring to kill them, and shutting up their houses, endured the pest; but when they did no good, but found that all their vessels were filled with them, and the frogs were found to be boiled up and roasted with everything they ate, and when besides all this, they could not make use of any water, nor put their feet on the ground for the heaps of frogs that were everywhere, and were annoyed also by the smell of those that died, they fled the country."

(<http://www.attalus.org/old/athenaeus8.html>)

Where does such a tremendous amount of frogs suddenly come from, before falling from the sky? Fish and frogs are the most common anomalous rains, and they can come down in huge amounts. This short report already has some interesting characteristics. They occur 'very often', and thus these rains were not rare or isolated events. In one place it was raining fish for three days solid. This shows that it was not a natural event. Three days is a very long period for these anomalous rains. He also remarked that the amount of frogs was immense. Fish and frogs rains can bring down thousands, if not ten thousands of these animals, sometimes in a small area, so that the ground is literally covered with them. Where do all these animals come from? We will see that the unusual characteristics that accompany these rains and falls clearly show that the 'scientific' explanation of the tornado or water spout sucking up these animals is a complete myth.

First I have to debunk the scientists, something I don't like to do, but they have been getting away with it for too long. That is, the 'unscientific' explanation by scientists of the water spout, tornado, or whirl wind as the cause of the anomalous rains. It is not new, it was already postulated many centuries ago, when people started to turn to 'learned men', or scientists, for an explanation. There is one thing that makes scientists absolutely horrified: they will never admit that they can't explain something. A scientist who admits he has no clue about a natural phenomenon, will lose his reputation. After all, he is supposed to know everything.

So, why is it not possible for a water spout, tornado, or whirl wind to cause the phenomenon of the anomalous rains? The winds cause a rotation of the air currents, and a funnel is formed. When the rotating air currents move upward, they move around in a circular, spiraling way, moving, or sweeping up loose debris on the ground. The debris will be swept up and move around the central funnel in a spiraling way, but it will not go that far up, because the centrifugal force will throw the debris immediately outwards. That is why all the debris is all around the path of tornado. The funnel itself can contain dust and some very light debris moving upwards. Anything that is picked up and whirled around will not get that high up before it is throw outward again. The clouds at the top of the funnel create a downdraft, which will pull any light debris that would have made it that high up by the spiraling winds, down towards the ground, around the tornado itself. The fall of fish and frogs, for example, usually are confined to a very small area. A tornado or water spout would throw anything around in an area around itself.

A strong tornado can develop high wind speeds that can destroy a lot of things on the ground, and even move heavy things around, but only in its immediate path of action.

Most tornado's last less than ten minutes. If anything got sucked up by the spiraling vortex, it goes down to earth again within this period. The debris is strewn around, and **not** sucked up to high altitudes, where it then is supposed to travel happily around for many, many miles, and for a long period, and then falling down somewhere else. This can only happen for very light items, such as paper, but not fish. If a tornado or water spout were able to lift fish or frogs out of water, they would immediately fall down again. These animals cannot be lifted to cloud level, hover around for a while, or be transported (by what?) at that high altitude for any distance, against the force of gravity, and then come down all in one spot, undamaged and alive. The raining of fish that are already dead on hitting the ground is actually rare. The sometimes huge amount of fish or frogs that come down out of the sky cannot have come from a local water pool or lake, simply because there are not thousands of fish or frogs in there to begin with.

This is the physics of tornado's, water spouts and whirl winds. Meteorologists know this very well, and they lie between their teeth when they explain that "it is normal" that a tornado or water spout "picks up fish out of a pond" (and fish only), lift them high up into the atmosphere, where the fish are then transported over long distances (staying together), and ultimately dropped in another location, many, many miles from where the fictitious tornado took place. They lie because they have to give an explanation to save their reputation, and they know that most people will believe them. They never go to the trouble to go investigate the matter, or even read the reports of people who witnessed the phenomenon. I have read media reports which had two lines about the rain of fishes, and a whole page about the tornado theory.

Based on what really happens with the anomalous rains:

- In 99.9 % of the time no tornado or water spout was reported in the vicinity, or the weather did not allow for the formation of one.
- Water spouts or tornado's do not lift fish or frogs out of the water.
- Water spouts or tornado's do not lift fish or frogs out of the water by the thousands, even tens of thousands. In some cases the immense number of animals that came down just are not present in one body of water.
- Water spouts or tornado's do not lift only one species out of the water, and leave the other species, and anything else present in the water behind.
- Water spouts or tornado's do not lift them high up into the air.
- Water spouts or tornado's do not transport them over many miles, even hundreds of miles as is sometimes claimed by scientists. In the anomalous rains, we only have small fish. Small fish can survive out of the water for only ten minutes, at most. When fish fall alive and well, it must have travelled at many hundreds of miles an hour if that tornado was hundreds

of miles away. Don't scientists ever do the math?

- Water spouts or tornado's do not keep the fish and frogs alive during their supposed transport high up in the air. (in most cases the animals are alive and well when they came down, and not bruised.)
- Water spouts or tornado's do not drop a multitude of these animals neatly in one spot. (in most cases the fall is limited to a very small area)
- Water spouts or tornado's do not create one single cloud in a clear sky out of which these animals fall (in several of these cases).
- A tornado cannot scoop up thousands of earth worms (only) and deposit them elsewhere in a very small area, and even on top of the snow. Not to mention that it didn't scoop up any dirt.

When you look at the details of the eyewitnesses' accounts, it clearly shows that these anomalous rains are not a natural weather phenomenon.

"Amongst these fish, many were found rotten, without heads, and others fresh and perfect; and amongst the number which I had got, five were fresh and the rest stinking and headless...Some of the fish were fresh, but others were rotten and **without heads**." ([The Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal](#); December 1833, page 650 to 652)

3. The typical characteristics

When an anomalous rain happens, it doesn't tell you much by itself. One mysterious event doesn't give you a clear view of what the cause might have been. However, when many of these events are compiled and compared, a pattern starts to emerge, and interesting characteristics show up. Strange, unusual characteristics that point us into a direction we might not have considered. An origin that lies outside the well-established doctrines of the scientific world, and the superficial news media. These two establishments will never accept this explanation in spite of the evidence.

Here is a list of the typical characteristics of the numerous anomalous rains:

- The phenomenon of the anomalous rains is worldwide, and has been reported by all cultures and in all ages.
- No tornado, water spout, or whirl wind, nearby at the time or before the phenomenon. Although scientists will claim that it was possible that there was one, sometimes even going as far as saying that it was related to a tornado or storm hundreds of miles away.
- Most of the time people mention that the rain or fall of the items happened during an unusual violent thunderstorm, or very heavy rain. This is mentioned in almost every account. The thunderstorm is described as unusual, violent, with dark clouds, sometimes suddenly appearing. Something was clearly very different from a normal thunderstorm. Nevertheless, sometimes these things fall down during a normal rain, or in clear weather, sometimes the unusual rain or fall happened from a blue sky.
- When, for example, fish fall down, it is of only one kind of species. A water spout cannot selectively pick out one species of fish out of a pond, at the same time neglecting to pick up any other life forms, or leaves, or other debris. Rarely more than one species fall together.
- Most of the time, the fish and frogs (which are more easy to identify) are common to the local area, but there are plenty of cases in which the species is totally unknown in that area. Sometimes the species of animal is not known to the country, and being native to a distant place many hundreds and even thousands of miles away.
- Most of the time, it is small fish, small frogs, although sometimes large size fish have fallen too.
- An anomalous rain can be over a very wide area, especially with the colored dust, probably because the wind carries the dust around before it reaches the ground. With live animals it is usually over a very small area. It is not uncommon that this area is as small as one's back yard. There are also reports that the fish or frogs came down in one straight line.
- Some falls repeat themselves over the exact same area, even if this area is extremely small. A second fall can happen, for example, ten minutes later, or two hours. Sometimes people remember the same area had the same

kind of fall several years or decades before. An example:

- "Quotation from a letter from Prof. Campini to Prof. Matteucci:
That, upon Dec. 28, 1860, at about 7 a. m., in the northwestern part of Siena, a reddish rain fell copiously for two hours.
A second red shower fell at nine o'clock.
Three days later, the red rain fell again.
The next day another red rain fell.
Still more extraordinarily:
Each fall occurred in "**exactly the same quarter of town.**"
- Sometimes people report other unusual phenomena that accompanied the anomalous rain. Loud sounds, explosions, a flash of light, point to characteristics of something else than just the thunderstorms or rain.
- There are a small number of cases where a small reddish or dark cloud appeared in the otherwise clear sky, out of which the fall of fishes was seen to occur.
- The fish and frogs are usually alive. People have picked them up, and put them in buckets and in ponds, and they survived. People have eaten them too. After all, it is free food. In rare cases, it does happen that they are all dead when they hit the ground.
- The fish and frogs cannot have fallen from very high up, because then they would splatter into pieces when hitting the ground.
- In a few rare cases, there were up to four or five species of fish in one fall. However, mostly it rains only one species of fish. Frogs, worms, snails, even mussels, are always of one species. This is the biggest obstacle for the tornado or water spout theory. If it is even possible for a tornado or water spout to lift out animals from a body of water, it cannot be selective to lift out one species and nothing else.
- Sometimes the amount of live animals is so great that everything is literally covered by them: roof tops, gutters, streets... In one case, a fall of little frogs happened covering the streets three inches thick, that is a massive amount of animals. When you have thousands and thousands of one kind of fish or amphibian, you can easily rule out any water spout. In some cases people estimated the amount of frogs in the millions.

Not a typical characteristic, but rather a rare occurrence, is the fall of two different things together. It is nevertheless significant, because it makes the unnatural character of the anomalous rain more prominent. Here is an example: "Some of the hail-stones, says the Fredericksburg News, during the **hail storm** which passed over that section on the 1st instant, weighed **six pounds**. About 100 **frogs were also rained down** on the devoted city of Fredericksburg." Source: [The Western Democrat \(Charlotte, North Carolina\), 21 July 1857, front page](#)

We will go into some of the details when quoting reports, because it is the details

that shed more light upon the unusual characteristics of these phenomena.

People have collected samples of these rains, be it rain with colored dust in it, or samples of fish, and sent them to scientists for identification. Identification of fish and frogs is easy. But with the dust or colorants inside rain, or gelatinous masses, or dry sheets of apparent organic masses, it seems to be a lot more difficult. Charles Fort (1874-1932) mentioned many times, that chemists tried to identify the materials, and got conflicting results. They were not able to come to any conclusions, or just plain lied, because they had to come up with what was acceptable to the then prevailing science.

4. Intelligence Behind the Phenomenon

Apart from the fictitious tornado, I haven't encountered any other explanation for how this phenomenon works, why it works, or what is behind it. However an analysis of the characteristics can give an idea. For the rest we can only speculate.

There is one phenomenon that also knows unnatural showers: poltergeist. Let me first clarify that the latest research in poltergeist has revealed that all the strange phenomena that happen with these cases, are not the result of some disgruntled spirit. They are actually centered around one person with repressed emotional issues (to put it simply). Why the phenomena happen, and why they only last a short time, is not quite clear, but there seems to be involved certain transient electro-magnetic energies welling up from the earth, sometimes in combination with a heightened earth's magnetic field. Somehow the person's emotional energy, in combination with these E-M fields is transformed in kinetic and other kinds of energies causing the multitude of phenomena. Among these phenomena is the sudden rain of stones (even gravel, and mus) pelting the house, or materializing inside the house out of thin air. The appearance of water inside the house is also a common feature, from drips, water puddles, or walls getting extremely damp.

With poltergeist the falling stones were in one case proven to be from the immediate environment of the house. With the fall of fishes, we also see that the fish, in most cases, is also from the same region. The appearance of water in the house can be attributed to a sudden drop in temperature, as this is also one of the things that happen with poltergeist. When the temperature drops, water condensates.

The difference between poltergeist and anomalous rains is that with poltergeist we only have the manipulation or appearance of inorganic substances, while with anomalous rains we also have living beings. So far, there has been no ties between the anomalous rains and a person with emotional issues. It does not seem to be centered around a person.

Intelligence

With poltergeist there is clearly an intelligence behind it. The phenomena are centered around one person, and often directed towards the other people with whom the central person has emotional issues with. With the appearance of stone showers (or gravel or mud), it is clear that these substances have first been dematerialized from a place nearby, and then materialized just outside or inside the house. In other worlds, they have been teleported.

With anomalous rains of inorganic substances and animals, they seem to have been teleported. Nobody has ever seen them rising up from one place, flying through the air and landing at another place. They literally fall out of the sky, and from a low altitude, as when fish fall, they are alive and unharmed (except in a few rare cases, when they were dead). Materialized out of the thin air, but they

had to come from somewhere.

Teleportation is still considered science fiction, although teleportation of the quantum state of photons has been achieved from a laboratory to a satellite. However, in Hindu philosophy or religion, teleportation is a Siddhi, a natural ability present in all people, but dormant. It can be awakened by spiritual progress, or by magical means. Certain shamans are also able to perform teleportation of objects.

Teleportation implies that there is an intelligence behind it. The remaining question is who or what is this intelligence? And what is the purpose behind those showers?

Teleportation

Dematerialization and materialization, or teleportation, is the manipulation of energy, and energy leaves a signature. As anomalous rains happen unexpectedly, it is not possible to bring out measuring equipment. However we can look at certain features.

There is a physical phenomenon that precedes most of the anomalous rains. Almost all reports mention that the anomalous rain happened during an unusually violent thunderstorm, or heavy rains with very dark clouds. Sometimes loud explosive sounds are heard or there are strange light flashes, different from normal lightning. Thunderstorms by themselves are electric phenomena. They might facilitate the manifestation of the animals and inorganic substances. But if an intelligence is behind it, it might mask the manifestation by making it happen during a thunderstorm, not wanting to reveal its presence. A sudden manifestation in the air will displace a certain air mass instantly, resulting in the creation of explosive sounds, and bright light flashes. We see that sometimes with the appearance of UFOs.

The heavy rains can be explained by a sudden temperature drop in the area, causing a lot more condensation of water in the atmosphere. In the fish-rain section (see below) you can find a report where there was a sudden drop of 17°F in just a few minutes (at ground level) at which a violent thunderstorm broke out. This drop in temperature is not intentional, but is the result of one of the characteristics of the technology used. This sudden and large cooling of the surrounding air will increase the condensation of humidity in the atmosphere and intensify the already present rains. It will also increase the electrical potential between Earth's surface and the clouds, and thus initiate or intensify lightning discharges.

Temperature drops are well known with paranormal events. We find it in poltergeist cases, in haunted houses. It is usually attributed to the presence of spirits, but more likely, it is sudden appearance of a transient energy field emitted from the earth.

If an intelligence is behind the anomalous rains of animals and inorganic substances, it most likely is using some type of technology, or at least is manipulating different energies, to make teleportation happen, of which the

temperature drop is one of the effects.

There are a couple of cases in which the small animals were found inside very large hailstones. This could have happened when the released animals found themselves (when teleported at their destination) in a several temperature drop in a very high humid atmosphere that suddenly cooled down to below freezing temperatures, encasing the animals with ice.

In this case they must have been released from very high up where the temperature was cold enough to condense the water vapor into ice around them. They are also more scattered in larger areas. In one case the hailstones contained pebbles. What were these pebbles doing high up in the atmosphere, if not released from an ET water tank?

Selectivity

A clear indication of an intelligence is the fact that in most cases the rain of animals or inorganic substances is limited to only one kind. There is no natural phenomenon that can take out of the water only one kind of fish, disregarding the other species, but also not taking out any water plants, algae, leaves, sticks, or other aquatic beings. There are a few cases in which more than one type of fish rained down, but again, nothing else that might have been in the water from where they were taken. The same with for example seeds and nuts.

An intelligence must be behind this selectivity, to limit the limit the fall to only one, or a few, species. Somehow it must have the ability to dematerialize only the selected species from its environment.

Periodicity

Another fact to consider in regard to an intelligence behind the phenomenon is that some areas, even very small as one's own backyard, have known more than one rain or fall. Sometimes there are a couple of minutes or hours in between, sometimes a couple of years or decades. That is indicative to a habit.

Furthermore, when the fallen animals are found in a narrow strip of several yards wide and, for example, 80 yards long, it looks more that they were dropped from a very low height, and while the craft was slowly moving along. A tornado, water spout or another natural phenomenon would spread out its debris all around itself. The rain of animals in a narrow strip or very small area is actually more common than you would think.

It is inconceivable that tornadoes would dump their load of fish, frogs, etc. in the same spot after a certain amount of time. The formation of tornadoes is a variable weather event, and does not have the intelligence to dump their load where a previous tornado has done so.

This particular feature of the anomalous rains clearly suggests an intelligence behind it. It could be a habit, or a fixed location that is used to dump its load at a certain time interval.

Food Substances

When you look at the list of what falls down, you will notice that they are all food substances: fish, frogs, lizards, snakes, worms, mussels, periwinkles, shrimp, meat, fruit and seeds. Why does it not rain dogs, cats, cows or shoes? They are always small animals that produce well. Small animals are also easier to manage. Fruit and seeds are also easy to produce. Is this a food source for some intelligence and it is discarding excess production? There are also falls or strange vegetable matter, that seems to have been processed.

5. Who is Behind It All?

Well, here I have to speculate. It is by no means an explanation, but rather a possibility.

Little known, but widely occurring all over the planet as observed by witnesses, is the stealing of water by UFOs, by sucking the water up via a hose, or drawing water up by an energetic mechanism. Some of those UFOs are probably physical craft, but others who are luminous seem to be one end of a dimensional wormhole (by lack of better terms; maybe one could say teleportation). In the latter case the water gets drawn upwards and disappears through this entry point and must appear at another point most likely inside a larger spaceship somewhere in our solar system. So, it is possible that those aliens, or extraterrestrials, also draw up fish and other small animals. Maybe that is the purpose, aside from needing water to begin with. After all, they need to eat too. Water animals are not the only animals they steal. Wherever UFOs appear, land animals disappear: cows, horses, deer, elks, even pets. Some witnesses have this actually seen happening. Some abductees have seen these animals aboard their ship.

Large animals are too difficult to keep onboard a spaceship for breeding. But small animals like fish and frogs can easily be kept in tanks for breeding purposes, and thus are a sustainable food source. Once in while, they have to get rid of excess, or when cleaning their tanks. So, they can teleport the animals or seeds or other substances from their spaceship to certain locations on Earth. Being creatures of habit, they would do so periodically at fixed locations, although they could choose any place if they like.

Another possibility could be that they come into our atmosphere and just release the dump load directly into the air, preferably in a thunderstorm or heavy rain to mask their presence.

I guess, they are sometimes a little lazy and don't wait for a thunderstorm to appear. There are cases when the anomalous fall of fishes came out of a single cloud, in an otherwise blue sky. This is really interesting, although there are only a few cases like this. All of the following examples, taken from original reports mentioned in this article, happened in an otherwise clear sky:

- **A yellowish cloud** attracted the attention of several people, **both from its color and the rapidity of its motion**
- Towards nine o'clock **a small cloud appeared** on the horizon and a quarter of an hour afterwards rain began to fall when to the horror of everybody, it was found to consist of black worms...
- **...a black cloud appeared** hiding the sun, and several **bright flashes of lightning came from the cloud**, after which the fish were seen glistening and lively, evidently much disconcerted by their surroundings.
- Tremendous number of little toads, one or two months old, that were seen to fall **from a great thick cloud** that appeared suddenly **in a sky that**

had been cloudless,

- It was a stifling hot night and **suddenly a blue-black cloud appeared** on the north-west horizon. **With amazing rapidity the sky became black and overcast, followed by a fierce electrical storm.**
- **Suddenly a dense, black cloud** made its appearance, and it soon began to discharge a **copious rain** upon our unprotected heads.

Why is there an anomalous cloud associated with these falls? A cloud is a condensation of water vapor. When a portal is created as the target area for the teleportation of the fishes, then this localized area could experience a sudden drop in temperature, resulting in the formation of a cloud. A spaceship could also create such a temperature drop around itself as a means to hide itself from view.

6. Original news and magazine reports of anomalous rains

Older accounts of past centuries often contain many details of other phenomena that accompanied the anomalous rains. Especially in the countryside, people were more keen observers of what happened around them, especially the weather. Even the media in those times were more open to something unusual, strange or weird. Nowadays, the media ridicules everything out of the normal, and will only pay attention to what meteorologists have to say. Nevertheless sometimes there are still some good present-day reports with many details, especially in the more localized press.

Wherever possible I have looked for the original accounts. Many newspapers and scientific and governmental magazines and publications have been digitized and made accessible online. It takes a little effort to find these original reports, but it is worth it, as they often show details that are not present in books or magazines about mysterious rains. Most of these reports are from English spoken countries. As it is a world wide phenomenon, we are looking at just the tip of an iceberg. Considering that I have limited myself primarily to public domain American and Australian newspapers from before the passing of copyright law (before 1923 in the USA and before 1955 in Australia), the number of anomalous showers over the past two centuries must be far greater than what I have collected.

I have grouped the reports or accounts of the anomalous rains into several pages. In regards to animals, fish are the most common of these anomalous rains. I have collected number of accounts of fish rains on a separate page. Fish rains are the most known of the anomalous rains, but certainly not the only ones.

As you can see from the following links, and as I have mentioned in the above, the animals are all lower life forms, and a good source of protein.

[Rain of Fish](#)

[Rain of Frogs](#)

[Rain of Lizards](#)

[Rain of Snakes](#)

[Rain of Worms](#)

[Rain of Other Animals](#)

[Rain of Meat](#)

[Rain of Processed Organic Substances](#)

[Rain of Fruit and Seeds](#)

[Rain of Inorganic Substances](#)





When fish fall on people's head, on the rooftops of houses, on the streets, people really pay attention, wondering where they come from. The fish (there are also falls of frogs, snails and worms) mostly fall during unusual heavy rains or violent thunderstorms. However, some fish rains happen with a sudden blast of high wind accompanied with a little rain.

Sometimes the amount of fish falls over a large area, but mostly it is confined to a very small area. Most of the time the fish are alive and not hurt or damaged by the fall, so they could not have fallen from very high. Fish have been scooped up and put into buckets and ponds were they survived Sometimes these fish have been eaten without any ill effects. Sometimes the fallen fish are all dead and even dry! Occasionally, all of the fallen fish are dead or show signs of decomposition. Forget about the water spout or tornado theory. It just doesn't hold up.

It also happens that fish fall from the sky on more than one occasion in the same locality.

Some of rains of fishes are very unusual as the fish does not come down scattered about as one might expect but in a very narrow straight line. The following examples are taken from Rains of Fishes, by E. W. Gudger, 1921 (see chapter 4):

With a rain of fishes in India in 1856 as, the fishes were not scattered over the country but were found in a long, narrow, and fairly straight row. "This brought with it so many fish that the ground was literally covered, and some were even found on the tops of haystacks." Not compatible with a tornado theory.

In 1939, also in India, an Englishman reported a strange fish rain on his property: "The most strange thing that every stuck me in connection with this event, was, that the fish did not fall helter-skelter, everywhere, or 'here and there'; but they fell in a straight line, not more than a cubit in breadth."

In Scotland, year not given, many fish fell down in two rain showers ten minutes apart, and each lasting ten minutes. In the first one "They were jumping all about. They covered the ground in a long strip of about 80 yards by 12 yards, as we measured afterwards."

[Reports from before 1800](#)

[Reports from the 1800s](#)

[Reports from the 1900s](#)

[Reports from the 2000s](#)

[Rains of Fishes, paper by E. W. Gudger, 1921](#)

Reports from before 1800

The oldest written record of a fall of fishes from the sky appeared in a work called *The Deipnosophistae* which is the Latin title of an early 3rd-century AD Greek work. The title translates as "The Dinner Sophists/Philosophers/Experts", and it was written by the Greco-Egyptian author Athenaeus of Naucratis. It is a long work of literary, historical, and antiquarian references set in Rome at a series of banquets held by the protagonist Publius Livius Larensis for an assembly of grammarians, lexicographers, jurists, musicians, and hangers-on. It is sometimes called the oldest surviving cookbook.

"I know also that it has **very often** rained fishes. At all events, Phoenias, in the second book of his Eresian Magistrates, says that in the Chersonesus it once rained fish **uninterruptedly for three days**; and Phylarchus, in his fourth book, says that people had often seen it raining fish, and often **also raining wheat**, and that the same thing has happened with respect to **frogs**. At all events, Heracleides Lembus, in the twenty-first book of his History, says: "In Paeonia and Dardania it has, they say, before now rained frogs; and **so great has been the number** of these frogs that the houses and the roads have been full of them; and at first, for some days, the inhabitants, endeavouring to kill them, and shutting up their houses, endured the pest; but when they did no good, but found that all their vessels were filled with them, and the frogs were found to be boiled up and roasted with everything they ate, and when besides all this, they could not make use of any water, nor put their feet on the ground for the heaps of frogs that were everywhere, and were annoyed also by the smell of those that died, they fled the country."

Source: <http://www.attalus.org/old/athenaeus8.html>



Woodcut from Book XX, Ch. XXX, Albertus Magnus's *Description of the Northern Peoples* (1555), entitled, "On falling fish, frogs, mice, worms, and stones."

Letter from Robert Conny published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London* in 1698:

"On Wednesday before Easter, anno 1666, a pasture field at Cranstead, near Wrotham, in Kent, about two acres, which is far from any part of the sea, or branch of it, and a place where there are no fish-ponds, but a scarcity of water, was all overspread with little fishes, conceived to be rained down, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder and rain : the fishes were about the length of a man's little finger, and judged by all who saw them to be young whittings. Many of them were taken up, and showed to several persons. The field belonged to one Ware, a yeoman, who was at that Easter sessions one of the grand inquest, and who carried some of the fish to the sessions of Maidstone, in Kent, and showed them, among others, to Mr. Lake, a bencher of the Middle Temple, who procured one of them, and brought it to London, The truth of it was averred by many that saw the fishes lie scattered ail over the field. There were none in the other fields adjoining: the quantity of them was estimated to be about a bushel."

Source: [in modern day English](#)

'Parishes: Stansted', in The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 5 (Canterbury, 1798), pp. 1-5:

"About Easter, in the year 1666, a pasture field in this parish, which is a considerable distance from the sea or any branch of it, and a place where there are no fish ponds but a scarcity of water, was scattered over with small fish, in quantity about a bushel, supposed to have been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder, hail, wind, etc. These fish were about the size of a man's little finger; some were like small whittings, others like sprats, and some smaller like smelts. Several of these fish were shown publicly at Maidstone and Dartford."

Reports from the 1800s

"ChapterXXXI

Various anecdotes, viz. fish falling in a shower of rain; deer bounding over soldiers heads in a line of march; a young woman carried off by a tiger in sight of the army.

BEFORE I leave Madras, I will relate a few anecdotes, of matters, that occurred during any residence in the service. In a **heavy shower of rain**, while our army was on the march, a short distance from Pondicherry, a quanta small fish fell with the rain, to the astonishment of all. Many of them lodged in the men's hats; when General Smith, who commanded, desired them to be collected, and afterwards when we came to our ground, they were dressed, making a small dish that was served up and eaten at the general's table. These were not flying fish, they were dead, and falling from the common well-known effect of gravity ; but how they ascended, or where they existed, I do not pretend to account. I merely relate the simple fact."

Source: [Struggles through life, exemplified in the various travels and adventures in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, of Lieut. John Harriott, Volume 1, 1808, page 154](#)

II. Showers of Fish

"In Prince of Wales Island, in the East Indies, the inhabitants usually catch the rain-water in tanks placed on the tops of their houses. Frequently these tanks are completely dry for weeks together. When the rainy season comes, they are speedily filled with water. Some fishes are found swimming about in this water, which gradually increase, and acquire the length of several inches. I have been told that the same thing happens in Bengal. **These fishes must come down with the rain.** It is a matter of some curiosity to be able to explain the source from which these animals are derived. . . . My information was obtained from an East India Captain, who assured me that he had seen the fishes frequently, though he was ignorant of their name, and could not describe their appearance with sufficient precision to enable us to make out the species."

Source: [Annals of Philosophy, 1816. July-December, page 70](#)

". . . the testimony of many has enabled me to ascertain that a shower of herring fell in Lorn [Scotland], about the year 1796, yet I have not met anyone who could inform me of the particulars concerning it. **In the same district, and near the same place**, on a small eminence above Melford House, a shower of herring fell in 1821, in every respect so large and good, that the tenants by whom they were found were induced to send some of them to their landlord, then residing in Edinburgh. In regard **to the state of the weather, I could learn no more than that it was exceedingly boisterous**; while the hill on which they were found is exposed to the southwest wind, which blows along Loch Milford, an arm of the sea in which herrings are frequently found. "In the month of March, 1817, strong gales of wind from the north were experienced in Appin. Upon the evening of the second day of their continuance, rain fell in abundance; and next day being very warm and sultry, some children observed a large quantity of herring-fry scattered over a moss a little to the northeast of the ferry of Shien. There might have been about three barrels or more of these, and measuring from 1½ to 3 inches in length. Now, the place in which they were found is only 300 yards north of Loch Creran, an arm of the sea running east and west, from which several supposed the fry must have been raised. The wind, however, being from the north, renders this a seeming impossibility; and it may, perhaps, be more safely concluded that they must have been ejected from the Linnhe Loch, another arm of the sea, extending southwest and northeast, about 3 miles north of the place in which they were found. A range of moorland, about 300 feet above the level of the sea, intervenes; but it is easier to suppose the cause which originally elevated these fry to be so powerful as to carry them this height and distance, than that they should obtain a course contrary to the general body of air. They exhibited no appearance of being bruised by the fall."

Source: [Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal for 1826, page 186-187](#)



A rain of fish was recorded in Singapore in 1861, when during three days of torrential rain numerous fish were found in puddles.

Rain of fishes, an earthquake in Singapore, letter of M. de casteneau.

After an earthquake on the 16th of February, 1861, which was followed by **heavy rains** the following days. The 22nd it rained so hard that one could not see anything three steps ahead. "When the sun came out again I saw members of Malays and Chinese filling their baskets with fish contained in the pools formed by the rain. They told me the fish has 'fallen from heaven,' and three days later, when the pools were all dried up, there were still many dead fish lying about. I found them to belong to the *Clarias batrachus*, which can live a considerable time out of water, and even move to some distance on dry land. As they lay in my courtyard, which is surrounded by a wall, they could not have been brought in by the overflowing of a torrent, nor is there any considerable one in the neighborhood. The space covered by these fishes might be about fifty acres. They were very lively and seemed to be in good health. I have particularly remarked the singular occurrence of the fish, having already, during my stay at the Cape of Good Hope, had occasion to mention to the Academy the fact of several new species of fish being found after an earthquake. Is it permissible to suppose that a waterspout, in passing over some large river of Sumatra, had drawn up the fish and carried them over? It is not without diffidence that I venture this hypothesis."

Source: [Comptes rendus hebdomadaires des séances de l'Académie des sciences](#), January 1, 1861.

A Strange Sight in Alabama

We have often beard of fish being rained from the cloud but have never seen an eye witness of the phenomenon until last week. N. P. Thompson, one of our

leading prairie planter, assures us that on the twelfth of October last, he saw three fish of the perch variety fall into his front yard during a shower of rain. Mr. T. gathered up the fish, which were still alive, notwithstanding their long and rapid journey through space toward the centre of gravity, and after satisfying himself that they were only ordinary perch, placed them in no adjacent stream, where they swam of as lively as if terranean streams and not celestial vapors were their natural element. Mr. Thompson says that he is not a natural philosopher enough to explain this strange occurrence, but that he is absolutely certain that the fish did fall from the clouds.

Source: [Centre Democrat \(Bellefonte, Pennsylvania\), 23 Nov. 1882, page 4](#) and [Juniata Sentinel and Republican \(Mifflintown, Juniata County, Pennsylvania\), 15 Nov. 1882, page 2](#)

A shower of fish, large and small. rained down on the farm of Geo. Knight in Knox county, Ind.. the other day. Mr. Knight gathered up near a wagon load of the fish as proof of the occurrence.

Source: [Northern Tribune \(Cheboygan, Michigan\), 07 May 1885, page 5](#)

Extraordinary Showers

From the Washington Star.

On the 14th of June last the people of Harvard, a town in Clay county, Nebraska, were startled by a rain storm, which was accompanied by a fall of fishes, apparently from the sky. These fishes, which were alive, fell in **large quantities**. Many of them were picked up by residents of the place and preserved in aquaria or in alcohol. Mr. May, fish commissioner of the state of Nebraska, happening to be in the neighbourhood of Harvard, secured some of the fishes, and as he had business with Prof. Baird in this city, brought the fish with him to Washington for the purpose of having their identity fixed. A Star reporter inspected the fish in Dr. Tarleton H. Bean's laboratory next the Smithsonian. There were half a dozen young fish about an inch and a half in length each, preserved in alcohol. "We often hear of its raining fishes," said Dr. Bean, as the Star reporter examined the bottle containing the fishes. "This is a case about which there is no doubt, and which proves that the story about showers of fish are not mythical. I am glad that we have had opportunity, not only to prove the fact that fishes are rained down, but to investigate and explain I what appears to be out of the natural order of things. These fish prove to be a common species of that region—the fat-head or black-head min now. ...

Source: [Little Falls Transcript \(Little Falls, Morrison County, Minnesota.\), August 20, 1886, Page 6](#); and [The Bolivar Bulletin \(Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee\), September 03, 1886, page 4](#)

Crawfordville, Ind., July 15. During a storm Sunday night a number of **fish and angle-worms** fell from the clouds. The fish were from two to four inches long, and many of them were **eyeless**, like those in Mammoth cave.

Source: [The Evening Bulletin \(Maysville, Kentucky\), 15 July 1890, front page](#)

Rained Fish and Frogs.

Leavenworth, Ind., Aug. 1. Minute **fish and frogs** fell here Thursday in a regular shower. The fish were three fourths of an inch in length, and the frogs less than one-half inch. Many were preserved in alcohol by the citizens, to convince, skeptics that the phenomena really occurred.

Source: [The Evening Bulletin \(Maysville, Kentucky\), 01 Aug. 1891, page 4](#)

For fifteen minutes fish rained on the farms north of Janesville, Wis., recently. When the rain storm with which they came ended the ground was covered with them. There were **thousands**, and the cattle tracks, pools, wagon ruts and wherever water could settle were alive with them. They were all the common "shiner."

Source: [The Anderson Intelligencer \(Anderson Court House, South Carolina\), 09 June 1892, page 2](#) and [Pittsburg Dispatch \(Pittsburg, Pennsylvania\), 01 June 1892, page 4](#)

Reports from the 1900s

Fish Fell from the Sky.

John S. Fogg, a cattleman and farmer, brought a dozen small fish to the city today and told in an interesting manner of finding them floundering about on the hot, dry prairie at noon, having apparently fallen from the sky, **a black cloud appeared** hiding the sun, and several **bright flashes of lightning came from the cloud**, after which the fish were seen glistening and lively, evidently much disconcerted by their surroundings. They are small specimens of the perch family, and Mr. Fogg's idea that they fell from the cloud is fully believed by men of experience. Mr. H. E. Amboid said it is no uncommon thing for a fish to fall out of a passing cloud.

Source: [Mexico Weekly Kedger \(Mexico, Missouri\), August 09, 1900, front page](#)

A RAIN OF FISH.

Jamestown Alert: R. E. Wallace and son took five barrels of different kind of fish

from the water holes along side the road near the Mutz school last week and put the young fish in Spirit wood lake. Several of the varieties were sent to the fish commissioner at Washington, with an account of the circumstances. It is supposed that the young fish rained down as no other means of propagation are known to have been used. There are said to be millions of the fish left in the little slough. While the superintendent, in charge of the government fish car, was here last year he stated that there was no doubt that young fish, frogs and lizards were deposited in rain fall.

Source: [Bismarck Daily Tribune \(Bismarck, Dakota \(North Dakota\)\), August 20, 1902, page 3](#); and [Jamestown Weekly Alert \(Jamestown, Stutsman County, D.T. \[N.D.\]\), 21 Aug. 1902, front page](#)

Rained Fishes and Frogs.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 26. The report comes from Fort Scott that in one of the **heaviest storms** which ever visited that section of Kansas thousands of small fishes and frogs fell from the sky. The market place was covered and thousands of the fishes were taken from pools of water left by the rain.

Source: [The Salt Lake tribune \(Salt Lake City, Utah\), June 27, 1904, Page 11](#) ; and [The Sun \(New York, New York\), June 22, 1904, Front Page](#)

Shower of Fish

Waco Oct 29. Small fish of several varieties rained from the clouds On the premises of Special Officer Curry a number of small catfish tumbled down from the sky during a brisk shower one weighing two ounces drop ping close to the front door.

Source: [Palestine Daily Herald \(Palestine, Texas\), 29 Oct. 1904, page 5](#)

Rained Fish at Groom.

The Groom correspondent of the Daily Panhandle reports a fish rain at that place on the evening of May 30th. He says: At 5 o'clock in the afternoon the clouds began to cluster in the northwest. They swirled together in an upward direction and **banked in a confused mass for an hour** before the rain began to fall. At about 0 o'clock the rain began to fall in perfect torrents. The clouds at the same time were moving south. **In the cloud mass was a streak of greenish blue** where the clouds seemed to shoot upwards and climb over each other. **To one side of this dividing streak scarcely any rain fell and on the other, hardly a hundred yards away, the downpour was so violent that the air was as dark as in the densest fog.** On J. M. Alexander's farm one mile from Groom, fish, some of them being almost a foot in length, fell during the storm. How far these fish came, or where they came from cannot be discovered, but it is supposed that they were sucked up into the clouds and carried a considerable

distance before being let down out of the whirl. At any rate the fish came during the rainstorm.

Source: [Canyon City News \(Canyon City, Texas\), 07 June 1907, front page](#)

A fish story

Cripple Creek, Colo., Aug. 25. It actually rained fish here to day. During a short **shower of rain and hail thousands of fish** from one and a half to two inches long fell in the vicinity of Union baseball park. More than four bushels, of the finny downpour were swept up in and around the yard of John Peters, a carpenter. Some of the fish were taken to Mayor A. F. Hassenplug, who is considered an authority and he pronounced them full grown specimens of the Alesco family of the Pacific ocean and said they must have been drawn up by a water spout and carried thousands of miles in the clouds. He expressed the further opinion that the fish were alive when they fell to the earth.

Source: [The Morning News \(Estancia, New Mexico\), 29 August 1911, front page](#) and [Bisbee Daily Review \(Bisbee, Ariz.\), 27 Aug. 1911, front page](#) and [El Paso Herald \(El Paso, Texas\), 26 August 1911, section 2 page 10](#)

[can you believe that 'authority' said "thousands of miles"?)

Chicago Has Minnow Shower Covering Two Blocks

CHICAGO. In the 1200 and 1300 block of School street weather talk isn't the last resort of bored social victims. Weather is the one hot topic. Books and bets are being made on it. Not any of that easy phenomena like equinoctial storms or typhoons, either. It's a piscatorial shower that has fussed up the neighborhood. It rained fish in those two blocks. Citizens of impeccable veracity assert it And they produced between 60 and 70 tiny minnows plucked out of the snow after the morning's rain to prove it. The little fish were burled in the snow as if they bad fallen a considerable distance. Little Robert Hellwlg was the first to discover the "fish rain." He ran into the house with two or three children began to find minnows their hunt. In yards facing School street dozen of the small fish were found. Excited discussion developed as to how the minions made their appearance. It was pointed out that the fishing season is closed, hence the improbability of "the shower" being bait thrown away by some Izaak Walton. One man advanced the theory that the minnows were drawn up Into the clouds in some warmer clime and there held by density until their filmy conveyance was driven northward to dissolve in rain Others reminded that it was an that it rains little frogs. Prof. C. L. Mitchell of the United about it "Bunk!" said he. "It doesn't rain should say the fish got on School street just by natural finny affinity for schools eh?

Source: [The Spanish American. \(Roy, Mora Co., New Mexico\), 17 Feb. 1917, page 3](#) and [Tensas Gazette. \(St. Joseph, Louisiana\), 09 March 1917, page 10](#)

Rain Fish During Storm Out In Kansas Town

Lawrence. Kan., June 27. — The champion "fish story" is told here by residents and verified by professor F. E. Kester of the University of Kansas that it rained fish during a storm. Following a **heavy storm** the other morning, **a large number** of minnows an inch or so long were found floating in the gutters. Their bladders were bursted. Professor Kester, in commending on the fact said that it was perfectly possible for minnows to be rained from the sky. He explained that they were carried into the air by water spouts, or whirlwinds over creeks. and held there by strong air currents in the same manner as clouds. The bursting of the bladders was due, he said, to the fact that the air pressure in the higher altitude is lower than on the earth or in the water.

Source: [El Paso Herald \(El Paso, Texas\), 27 June 1919, page 4](#)

RAINED FISH AND EELS.

Natches, Miss., April 27.-During an unusual heavy rain here Tuesday fish and eels fell from the sky and were picked up alive, according to a number of persons. Several of the fish and eels were brought to the office of the Natches Democrat and the occurrence has created much speculation as to how the finny specimens were drawn up into the clouds, although it is stated by old residents that the incident is not unusual.

Source: [Tensas Gazette \(St. Joseph, Louisiana\), April 29, 1921, page 2](#)

MEAT FROM THE SKY.

A British steamship sailing from Beira, East Africa, to Philadelphia. was recently the subject of a remarkable occurrence. When the vessel was in the Atlantic below the equator, many, miles from land, a school of fish flew over the vessel. Many struck the masts and fore-rigging, and, dropping to the deck, were killed by the fall, being gathered up by the bushel. The supply of salt meat was getting low on the ship, and the unlooked for godsend of fish, which were **larger than the species found in Northern latitudes**, was enough to furnish meals for the crew for several days.

Source: [Shepparton Advertiser \(Victoria, Australia\), 8 January 1925, page 5](#)

The same event appeared in other newspapers, one of which had an interesting observation possible pointing to an effect of some intense energies associated with the event:

"And it Happened on Friday; A remarkable occurrence is reported from Drumhirk, in Ireland: During a thunderstorm dozens of small fish are said to have fallen on the roof of a bungalow at the farm of Mr. James McMaster. Some were about two

inches long, and they were of a reddish color. **Hedges in the neighborhood were blackened** as if they had been struck by lightning. There is no river in the immediate neighborhood, the nearest considerable stretch of water being Strangford Lough, about two miles away. Professor Gregg Wilson, of Queen's University, Belfast, interviewed on the subject, said that such occurrences had been reported not infrequently in Great Britain but so far as he knew this was the first of the kind in Ireland."

Source: [Sunday Times \(Sydney, NSW, Australia\), 8 July 1928, Page 6](#)

The following news item appeared in the Northern Whig and Belfast Post on 30th May 1928 and caused considerable interest: "Dozens of tiny red fish were found on the roof of a bungalow on the farm of Mr. James McMaster, Drumhirk, near Comber, and on the ground in the vicinity yesterday morning, and the extraordinary occurrence caused considerable speculation. In the course of enquiries it was ascertained that just before the discovery of the fish there had been an **exceptionally violent thunderstorm** with heavy rain. There is no river in the neighbourhood, the nearest sheet of water being Strangford Lough, two miles distant, and the theory advanced by an expert was that the fish had been lifted from the sea in a waterspout."

Source: [A History of Fishes, by J. R. Norman, Assistant Keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum {Natural History}, 1931, page 430.](#)

RAINED JELLY FISH!

MELBORNE, Friday. During a rainstorm at Frankston to-day, thousands of small jelly fish fell from the sky. Some were half an inch in diameter, and others smaller. The acting Commonwealth Meteorologist said that probably the jelly fish were raised out of the sea by short, lifting waterspouts.

Source: [Daily Advertiser \(Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia\), Saturday 14 September 1935, page 2](#)

FISH FROM SKY.

The phenomenon of fish being rained down occurred in Adelong on Wednesday last with the last rain. **Hundreds of little fish were deposited on the top of a hill**, where no water other than rain water ever lodged. Workmen carting gravel for the roads from the top of the hill shoveled hundreds of the little fish into the drays. It was at first thought that the fish were trout, but experts declared them to be young carp.

Source: [The Gloucester Advocate \(NSW, Australia\), 5 November 1935, Page 3\)](#)

Fish From Sky.

It rained fish last week at Nyngan, Byrock and Girilambone (N.S.W.). After 60 points at Byrock, thousands of fish, 5in. to 6in. long were found in the streets. Byrock is 48 miles from the Darling and 31 from Bogan River. There are no creeks nearby.

Source: [Albany Advertiser \(Western Australia\), Monday 3 April 1939, Page 2](#)

FISH FROM SKY

Thousands of small fish fell in a 10-acre field 10 miles from the sea near Hastings, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, during a shower last week. The fish, about four inches long, resemble snapper.

Source: [Worker \(Brisbane, Qld., Australia\), Monday 18 July 1949, Page 8](#)

There is an interesting leaflet (FL 513. Rains of fishes, by Lola T. Dees. Apr. 1961) from the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, published in April 1961, giving an overview of fish rains. It gives the following fall:

"An odd case occurred during a heavy storm at Essen, Germany, in 1896. A hailstone as large as a hen's egg fell; it contained a frozen Crucian carp (Carrasius) about 1- 1/2 inches long ."

This would indicate that it fell from very high in the atmosphere.

Another fall it reports:

A more recent rain of fish occurred on October 23, 1947 in Marksville, Louisiana (Bajkov, 1949). Between 7 and 8 o ' clock of that morning fish, raining from 2 to 9 inches long, fell on the streets, roofs of houses, and lawns. Two merchants were struck by falling fishes as they walked toward their places of business . There were areas on Main Street that averaged one fish per square yard. The area in which they fell was about **1,000 feet long and 75 or 80 feet wide, extending in a north-south direction**, and was covered unevenly by fish. The fish were fresh-water species native to local waters: largemouth black bass, warmouth, two species of sunfish, several species of minnows, and hickory shad. The actual falling of the Marksville fish occurred **in short intervals**, during foggy and comparatively **calm weather**. The velocity of the wind on the ground did not exceed 8 miles per hour. The New Orleans weather bureau had no report of any large tornado, or updraft, in the vicinity of Marksville at that time

In 1989, in Ipswich, Australia, Harold and Degen's front lawn was covered with about 800 "sardines" that rained from above during a **light shower**.

In an otherwise **clear sky** in Chilatchee, Alabama in 1956, a woman and her husband watched as a **small dark cloud formed** in the sky. When it was overhead, the cloud released its contents: rain, catfish, bass and bream - all of the fish alive. The dark cloud had turned to white, then dispersed.

The following article originally appeared in the July 1992 issue of *Old Rhode Island* magazine. It is an event of fish fall in Rhode Island in 1900, with a lot of details.

It was, as The Providence Daily Journal reported, "a day for the lightest of clothing, for the glorious outing shirt and for straw hats and long, cool drinks." It was the kind of day to lazily sit by a stream with a fishing pole and watch for the elusive fish or two to come popping up from the water—but it certainly wasn't a day for fish to come raining down from the heavens. But on that Tuesday afternoon of May 15, 1900, fish did rain from the sky **at two places** in Olneyville in Rhode Island. And **so many** fish rained down that people collected them in buckets, displayed them in their homes, and brought them into saloons to gawk at. Rhode Islanders have endured many strange ordeals, but none had ever lived through a rainfall of fish.

To, er, go upstream a bit: The week before, temperatures had been near freezing and had ruined the state's early crops of vegetables and strawberries. But that turn-of-the-century day in mid-May had been an extremely hot one, with the mercury peaking at 93 degrees at 3pm and almost topping a then 20-year record-high temperature. The day was so hot, the rails of the recently constructed Washington Street drawbridge had expanded and the bridge would not go completely down. Despite the low humidity which made the day's soaring temperatures bearable, The Providence Daily Journal reported that there had been a land-office business in soft drink sales due to the weather and that thick woolen jackets were "an abomination." At about 4pm, though, the **weather changed drastically: The temperature, then at 90 degrees, dropped in a few minutes to 73 degrees. The wind started blowing at gale force, the sky grew so dark** it was as though an eclipse was happening; **lightning flashed non-stop** and **hailstones** fell from the sky. Horses were unable to move forward because of the wind; some carriages, along with their horses, were blown onto their sides. The heavy wooden top of a water tower at the Lederer Building on Stewart and Conduit Streets in Providence was flung into the air like a giant disk and landed in the front parlor of a nearby home (nobody was injured). A large billboard at 42 Exchange Place (apparently a bawdy entertainment venue) advertising a performance of "Sappho" or some other play, was, according to The Journal, "compelled to cease its wicked occupation" and ended up in the street. Some women became hysterical due to the wildly stormy weather. And in Olneyville, fish rained down—in a swirling motion—like manna from the heavens. "So far as reported," said The Journal, "the rainfall of fish occurred in two places. The better fishing ground was on Harris Avenue, near Grove Street railroad crossing. Here hundreds of pout, from 2 inches to 4.5 inches in length, fell on an area of about a **quarter of an acre.**" "The other fishing ground was on Joslin Street, near Manton Avenue, on high ground, far above the tops of the mill chimneys situated on the lower level of Harris Avenue. Here the fall of fish was comparatively small. But there was a much better variety, for there were small perch as well as pout and a pail was half filled with them."

As to how many fish did rain from the sky, it was hard to determine. Yet enough fish had rained that they were being found in the street as late as 10pm. As further testimony to their **abundance**, most Olneyville families living near the fish falls had at least one put on display after the storm. (For posterity, the downtown office of The Journal had one of these fish in its front window to show doubting readers the next day.) One "Policeman Sullivan," said The Journal, "whose sturdy character and reputation for veracity in his many years of service in that locality (Olneyville) has been considered as firm as a rock, was one who vouched for the truth of the declaration that it rained fishes on Harris Avenue and Grove Street, for he saw them fall and he secured one wriggling pout at least four inches in length..." Many boys gathered as many of the fish as they could and sold them for souvenirs. Some folk wouldn't go near these raining fish due to "superstitious dread." And at least one of these usually underwater creatures became larger than life. Reported The Journal: "A young man name Hanivan seized upon a lively pout as soon as it fell and took it to Corcoran and O'Garra's Saloon at the corner of Broadway and Valley Streets, where it was placed in a tank of water and spent the evening swimming about contentedly while customers sipped their beer and gazed at it and sipped and talked until some of them were inclined to go out and tell their friends that the tank was full of fishes with horns and other queer things. But they did see one of the remarkable fish that rained down on Olneyville and it was still alive at midnight. Before closing time many a man who had heard late of the phenomenon developed a great thirst and saw the one that was preserved alive."

And as if the rain of fish was not strange enough for Olneyville to cope with in one day, several people reported that something else unusual rained from the sky while fish were pummeling everyone: **ice-covered pebbles**, which supposedly rained down in Olneyville Square. Perhaps because no ice-covered pebbles were preserved and because few witnesses of this event could be located, The Journal seemed to doubt the authenticity of this second phenomenon: "There are stories that this man or that man was prompt to gather hailstones and holding them in his hands was surprised to find when the icy covering melted away he still had a little white pebble such as are found on the shores of rivers or ponds. But no one has thus far been found who actually had hail melt in his hand and leave a shining white pebble."

Source: Quahog.org

Reports from the 2000s

Fish rain down on Sri Lanka village

Villagers in west Sri Lanka have said they have been surprised and delighted by an unusual rainfall of small fish. The edible fish fell during a storm and are believed to have been lifted out of a river during a strong wind. Villagers in the district of Chilaw said they heard something heavy falling and found scores of fish with **a total weight of 50kg (110lbs)**. It is **not the first such incident** in Sri

Lanka - in 2012, a case of "prawn rain" was recorded in the south. ... Villagers say that the "fish rain shower" took place on Monday with the creatures falling on the village green, roads and roofs. Some of the fish - each three to five inches (5cm-8cm) in length - were still alive and were put in a buckets of water by villagers who ate them later. This is the third time this has happened in Sri Lanka, but not from the same area. In addition to the reported "prawn rain" of 2012 in the south, there was **yellow and red "meteor rain"** the same year - a weather development that is reportedly still being investigated by US and British scientists. Fish is a valued commodity in Sri Lanka.

Source: [BBC News, 6 May 2014](#)

Ethiopia: 'Fish Rain' in Dire Dawa

By Girmachew Gashaw

Unusually, fish-rain occurred on Sunday [January 31, 2016) at 11; 30 pm in Dire Dawa City Eastern part of Ethiopia for a few minutes both in rural and urban areas. According to Dire Dawa Agriculture, Water, Mining and Energy Bureau Public Relations Officer Hadera Yesuf the fish rain happened in Dechatu and Finfinne or 05 and 06 kebeles of urban areas as well as Eyawale Woreda, Adada kebele in rural Dire Dawa. People in these areas were stunned by the occurrence to the extent of referring it a blessing from Almighty God, she said.

Source: [The Ethiopian Herald, February 2, 2016](#)

Winton's mysterious fishy tale amid Queensland drought (Australia)

March 9, 2016

Tahnee Oakhill from Bernfels station said she was stunned to see a number of fish flapping on a gravel road in front of her home on Wednesday. The fish appeared **after** 75 millimetres of rain fell on the Oakhill's property, 70 kilometres north-west of Winton in western Queensland. "It's pretty crazy, **getting that much rain** was pretty shocking and then that happening after that ... it's been a weird week," Ms Oakhill said. Ms Oakhill said her husband found the fish and raced inside to tell her and their children. "If he tells me it's just rained fish I'm going to go out and have a look because he's either mad or it's [really] just happened," she said. Ms Oakhill said her children spent hours rescuing the fish. "They had a ball, they were going a little bit bat crazy in the house with the rain and the wet day," she said. "[Then] they were out there in the mud for hours after that, collecting them up and putting them in a container with some water and trying to figure out what they were going to do with these fish. "They were pretty amazed, I think it was very exciting for them." Ms Oakhill shared a video of the fish on social media, which prompted a storm of discussion, with many saying they had seen something similar before. She said her father was particularly delighted to hear about the fish. "When I told him about it he said 'You need to make sure you put that on the internet or Facebook because it happened to me one and no-one

believed me!" she said.



Tahnee Oakhill's daughter Hadley with one of the perch fish she discovered in front of the family's property in western Queensland.

Source: [ABC News Australia](#); original video of Tahnee Oakhill on [Facebook](#)

Mystery falling fish appear in Aberdeenshire garden

An Aberdeenshire man has asked for help in identifying fish which have appeared outside his house. Kevin Bain found about 75 small fish in his back garden on Thursday. He believes their arrival is the result of a waterspout which sucked the animals from the sea and dropped them on his property. Mr Bain said he thinks the two-inch fish are sand eels but is trying to find out more. Speaking to BBC Scotland, he said: "To start with, I thought the fish had been dropped by birds but there were far too many. "It has been stormy for the past few nights, so it's possible that a water spout has lifted the fish from the sea during the bad weather. "It's a really strange phenomenon." Mr Bain lives around 500m from the sea in the Aberdeenshire town of Banff. He shared his discovery on video streaming app Periscope, in the hope someone would shed some light on the appearance of the fish.

Source: [BBC News, 12 August, 2016](#)

Picture from the video he posted:



"It's raining fish" at an elementary school in Oroville (California)

A very unusual incident this week left students and staff at an Oroville elementary school bewildered; they say that Tuesday, it "rained fish". There are plenty of witnesses to the aftermath ... but no one has actually claimed to have seen the fish falling from the sky onto Stanford Avenue Elementary. "We came out here and all the sudden the kids start yelling really loud, 'look at this'," said Campus Supervisor Liz Barber-Gabriel. It started out a typical Tuesday at Stanford Avenue Elementary school ... then just before noon, the campus was suddenly littered with fish. "The kids were so excited, we wanted to figure out where they came from ... We couldn't - they were in the playground, in the rubber, everywhere," said Barber-Gabriel. The campus supervisor says the entire playground area was covered. "They were small, and same color, and it looked like about 60 minimum, everywhere," said Barber-Gabriel. So was it a prank or a strange weather phenomenon? A custodian climbed up on the roof to learn more. Sure enough, he found **dozens more fish on the rooftop**. "My first concern was who was on the campus that we don't know about ... But the campus supervisors didn't see any adult, the custodians didn't see anything odd, so we kind of ruled that one out" said Principal Shannon Capshew. So if it wasn't trespassers ... could they have literally fallen from the sky? "Years back there was an account of raining Trout in Chico, so my thought was, 'did they come from the fish hatchery?'" wondered Gabriel. A good question .. So I gave them a call. But a representative for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife down the street at the Feather River Hatchery says there were no deliveries that day. Based on the photos we showed them, they believe the fish to be a type of carp - a warm water fish that may be found in the Thermalito Afterbay - but not in the nearby Feather River. One of their wardens has now joined in on solving this puzzle. "We called DWR to see what was going on because we hadn't seen parents with buckets of fish .. It was just very strange," said Capshew.

Source: Action News Now (California), May 18th 2017
(<https://www.actionnewsnow.com/> link is not active anymore))



Facebook post of [Protección Civil Tamaulipas](#)

September 26, 2017 (*Tampico is in Mexico*)

Curious case in Tampico (Col. Lomas de Rosales) where there was a light rain that included small fish that literally fell from the sky.



Winter storm delivers fish in Fulshear residents' yards

FULSHEAR, Texas - Along with snow, sleet and ice, Tuesday's storm left something else at Dana and Ryan Metz's house. Fish. A lot of them. They turned up Tuesday afternoon as sleet was coming down.

"We came back in. The dog wouldn't come back in, she was playing with a leaf, and we found out later it was a fish instead of leaves," Dana said. "I looked down and there it was laying there, three or four fish, and started walking around found about 15, found a few in the pool, so it was weird," Ryan said. The family collected about 15 of them.

Wednesday, when KPRC visited, there was still one in the pool and another on the roof. And the Metzses aren't the only ones in the neighborhood who saw sleeting fish. A neighbor, Holly Gard, shot video of the fish she found littering her yard. In all, about 10 neighbors in the Cross Creek Ranch subdivision near Fulshear discovered fish had literally fallen from the sky.

Source: [KPRC Click2Houston](#), January 17, 2018



Paul Cropper, on his blog [The Fortean](#), did an investigation in this case. He found that the fish fell in an area roughly three quarters of a mile by half a mile. He estimated that in total about 130 fish fell in the neighborhood; they were are alive. One fish was photographed on a roof and another on a windowsill. Others were found in front and back yards, on local walking paths and in backyard pools. A local Bernie, sent several of the fish he had found a week after the fall to the University of Texas. Ichthyology Collection Manager Adam Cohen said they were threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense*. Cropper also contacted National Weather Service in Houston, who said that "Radar shows no thunderstorms, really just stratiform precipitation (mostly sleet/ice pellets). Waterspouts, tornadoes would not make sense at all from the meteorology of the day, and no hint of any rotation or anything odd on radar. It remains a mystery as far as I'm concerned".

Iranian Fish Fall, Golpayegan, Iran

April 2018

from a [YouTube video](#), uploaded on Apr 24, 2018

The fish were discovered on a Golpayegen roadway after rain. An accompanying video shows many small fish, some alive, distributed along a section of paved highway. People appear to have stopped their vehicles to collect the live fish. The video that appeared on YouTube shows hundreds of little fish on the road, and some people picking them up. The footage is from a cellphone recording.

Also reported on [Farda news](#) website.



Rain of Fish at Fatehpur Sikri, near Agra, India, July 13, 2018
Monsoon rain with fish at Fatehpur Sikri Buland Darwaza. Subject of curiosity.



In Agra, fishes rained from the skies! Yes, you might be shocked on hearing this. When fishes rained from skies in monsoon rains at the tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisti, at Fatehpur Sikri in Agra the people present there were astonished. When fishes of 4 to 6 inches in size fell at Buland Darwaza along with monsoon rains, everyone was surprised. A few children even took these fishes to their homes. Everyone who heard this news was surprised.



Monsoon knocks at the door

Monsoon has knocked in Agra. It rained heavily on Thursday in Agra. During the rains, suddenly a few fishes fell on the ground along with the rain water at Sheikh Salim Chisti Dargah, at Buland Darwaza. When people saw fishes of about 6" size they were surprised. A few children who were present there even took these to their homes. When their family members asked them, they told them that it rained fishes from the skies. People got curious on learning the news of fishes raining along with monsoon rains. These white fishes dropping from sky became a matter of discussion amongst people.

People reached due to Curiosity.

People thronged to Buland Darwaza. It is understood that due to the intensity of the monsoon, fishes from the nearby ponds came here. Assistant Archaeologist, ASI, Fatehpur Sikri Mr. Kalandar Singh said, he has been told that fishes were raining with water in monsoon near Buland Darwaza.

Source: Patrika.com, July 12, 2018

Fish Rain in Amalapuram, India

Various Indian media sources, including the Times of India, reported a rain of fish in Amalapuram, a town in the East Godavari district of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The event took place on 17 December (2018) at around 4pm, just as cyclone Phethai hit the coastline near Yanam, around 40km north-east of Amalapuram. The report stated that nearly 100 fish (known locally as Gidasalu in the Telegu language) had fallen onto land beside a canal and in front of a municipal school.

The various news reports do not feature any direct witnesses to the Amalapuram fall. The Times' report states the event was first shared in a WhatsApp group by a friend of the original owner of the video.

Source: The Fortean

Queensland town of Yowah wakes to spangled perch flopping about in puddles after downpour

The heavy rain from ex-tropical Cyclone Esther has been manna from heaven for the drought-stricken town of Yowah, 950 kilometres due west of Brisbane, but locals say it has been also been raining fish. Yowah caravan park owner, Rick Shiells, stumbled across the strange sight on his way to check the rain gauge. "As I'm walking along I saw a little fish, about an inch long, swimming in the puddle," he said. "I thought, 'geez, that's unusual'." Mr Shiells said he found more — alive and dead — along the way, with some up to 70 millimetres long. There is a bore drain behind the caravan park, but he said when it spouts onto the street the water is boiling hot. Mr Shiells said the bore could not have been the source of the flapping fish and that they must have rained down. "There's no way it could have come out of the water — it's obviously come from the sky," he said. "I've heard of it before, especially after a hurricane [cyclone] or tornado."

Queensland Museum ichthyologist, Jeff Johnson, identified the Yowah fish as the spangled perch, a freshwater species common across the country.

Source: [ABC News Australia](#), March 4, 2020



Fish rain in Australia, published February 20, 2023 (there was another fish rain in the same area 40 years earlier!):

Fish 'rained from the sky', outback community says, in freak weather event

Locals in Lajamanu, a community 560 kilometres south-west of Katherine on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert, said they were stunned to see the fish drop during heavy rainfall.

"We've seen a big storm heading up to my community and we thought it was just rain," Lajamanu local and Central Desert councillor Andrew Johnson Japanangka said. "But when the rain started falling we've seen fish falling down as well."

This is not the first time the strange weather event has swept through the community. The same phenomenon occurred in Lajamanu in 2010, and was also reported in 2004 and as far back as 1974.

Fish still alive when they fell Mr Japanangka said the fish, which were at least "the size of two fingers", were still alive when they fell.

"Some are still hanging around in the community in a puddle of water," he said. "Children are picking them up and keeping them in a bottle or a jar."

While it is not the first time he had witnessed the phenomenon, Mr Japanangka said it never ceased to blow him away.

"We saw some free-falling down to the ground. And some falling onto the roof," he said. "It was the most amazing thing we've ever seen. "I think it's a blessing from the Lord."

Similar phenomenon 40 years ago. Alice Springs local Penny McDonald said she was in Lajamanu in the mid-1980s when fish rained from the sky. "I got up in the morning, I was working in the school at the time, and the dirt streets outside my home were covered in fish," she said. "They were small fish and there were a lot of them around. It was just amazing." Ms McDonald said she was reminiscing to a friend just days ago about the strange weather event. "I said 'did that really happen?' And she said 'yeah it did', she remembered it as well." Lajamanu is not alone in experiencing the phenomenon.

In 2020 the Queensland town of Yowah, 950km west of Brisbane, also claimed it was raining fish.

Queensland Museum ichthyologist Jeff Johnson said the fish which fell in Lajamanu were known as spangled perch, or spangled grunters — among the most common freshwater fish in Australia.

Source: [ABC News Australia](#)

pictures taken by locals:



'Fishy' mystery: Utah family discovers 16 dead fish in their backyard

FRUIT HEIGHTS, Davis County — It's a mystery that literally came out of the blue in Davis County—more than a dozen dead fish that somehow found themselves in a man's backyard and on the roof of his shed.

Clark Jones said he initially thought Wednesday's powerful thunderstorms—which featured high winds and copious amounts of rain—perhaps had something to do with the 16 fish his family discovered Thursday morning.

"I knew it was going to be a big rain but I had no idea it was going to be, you know, biblical proportions," Jones quipped during an interview with KSL TV. "I ended up sending an email to KSL Weather to see if maybe there was a funnel cloud or water spout."

KSL 5 meteorologist Kevin Eubank said that could be a possible explanation but he also believed it was unlikely.

"We didn't have a tornado," Eubank said. "We didn't have that type of a lifting event last night in that area that would be a likely cause to lift and distribute something like a fish."

Jones said there were also no bodies of water nearby that could have washed the fish into the yard and that certainly wouldn't have explained the two fish on the

roof of the shed.

After reviewing photos taken by Jones' family, biologists with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources said they believed the fish were either carp or even a species of koi or goldfish from someone's private pond.

According to a spokesperson, the biologists believed it was possible birds like pelicans, herons or cormorants could have caught them and then dropped them in the wind and storm event.

"There have been instances where animals that transport something get shocked by lightning," Eubank added. "They do—they drop things that they'd picked up."

Still, Eubank questioned how all the fish would have wound up in one particular yard and not spread further across the area.

When a KSL TV crew knocked the doors of multiple neighbors Thursday, nobody else had discovered dead fish on their properties.

"I've never seen anything but water fall out of the sky," Jones said. "(I'm) still trying to figure out how they got here."

Jones also acknowledged the possibility of a prank, but based on the size and the configuration of his backyard, he said neighbors or any other pranksters would have had to "catapult" the fish into his backyard.

He hoped he would eventually be able to come up with answers or an explanation for what happened.

"To me, it speaks to either a funnel cloud or maybe a flock of birds decided to purge themselves in my backyard," Jones said. "People have been praying for rain. We got rain and fertilizer."

Source: [KSL TV](#), Aug 4, 2023

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Rains of Fishes, a paper by E. W. Gudger, 1921

One of the first scientists to address the strange phenomena of raining objects was E.W. Gudger, an ichthyologist at the American Museum of Natural History. Gudger published a paper in the journal *Natural History*, titled "Rains of Fishes," in the November-December 1921 issue. He recorded 71 instances of rains of fishes from 15 countries all over the world.

Here is the paper in full:

Rains of Fishes

A compilation of the evidence that fishes occasionally fall from the sky

By E. W. Gudger , 1921

Do fishes fall in rain from the sky? To this question both the layman and the scientist are well-nigh unanimous in giving a negative answer. Recently a level-headed business man and experienced angler grew almost indignant at being asked such an absurd question, and at least one scientific man of my acquaintance has expressed himself equally strongly.

My attention was first called to this subject about eleven years ago on reading De Kay's account [elsewhere in] this article. It was again forcibly called thereto on my perusing McAtee's excellent article [also quoted here], in which a considerable number of falls of fishes is recorded. And lastly, my work during the last two and a half years as associate editor with Dr. Bashford Dean of Volume III of the *Bibliography of Fishes*, now being brought out by the American Museum of Natural History, has, with the completion of the latter part of the synoptic index, brought to my hand all the known literature on the subject. This is herein set forth in the form of chronological excerpts, that the reader may have the evidence before him.

The Accounts

Our first and oldest account of a rain of fishes is found in *The Deipnosophists or Banquet of the Learned* of Athenæus of Naucratis in Egypt, who flourished at the end of the second and the beginning of the third centuries, A. D. This learned work, first published in 1524, is a compilation of extracts from more than eight hundred classical authors, most of whose works are no longer extant and would be forever lost but for the book of the Deipnosophists. It is written in the form of a dialogue, and in Volume II of Yonge's translation, in a chapter entitled "De Pluvia piscium," we read on p. 226:

"I know also that it has rained fishes. At all events Phœnias, in the second book of his *Eresian Magistrates*, says that in the Chersonesus it once rained fishes uninterruptedly for three days, and Phylarchus, in his fourth book, says the people had often seen it raining fish."

The next account is contained in a letter from Robert Conny published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London* in 1698. Conny did not see the phenomenon nor specimens of the fishes, but had his account from a person who seems to have had his confidence. The account in question is as follows:

"On Wednesday before Easter, Anno 1666, a pasture field at Cranstead near Wrotham in Kent, about two acres, which is far from any part of the sea or branch of it, and a place where are no fish ponds, but a scarcity of water, was all

overspread with little fishes, conceived to be rained down, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder and rain; the fishes were about the length of a man's little finger, and judged by all that saw them to be whittings, many of them were taken up and shewed to several persons; the field belonged to one Ware a Yeoman, who was at that Easter-Sessions one of the Grand Inquest, and carried some of them to the Sessions at Maidstone in Kent, and he shewed them, among others, to Mr. Lake, a bencher of the Middle Temple, who had one of them and brought it to London, the truth of it was averred by many that saw the fishes lie scattered all over that field, and none in other the fields thereto adjoining: The quantity of them was estimated to be about a bushel, being all together."

In Volume V of Hasted's *History of Kent*, published in 1798, just one hundred years after the preceding, is found the following account of the same fall:

"About Easter, in the year 1666, a pasture field in this parish, which is a considerable distance from the sea or any branch of it, and a place where there are no fish ponds but a scarcity of water, was scattered over with small fish, in quantity about a bushel, supposed to have been rained down from a cloud, there having been at that time a great tempest of thunder, hail, wind, etc. These fish were about the size of a man's little finger; some were like small whittings, others like sprats, and some smaller like smelts. Several of these fish were shown publicly at Maidstone and Dartford."

Raphael Eglini, in the *Wittenbergischen Wochenblatt* for 1771, reports an alleged rain at Cotbus on the midnight of September 2-3, during a heavy thunderstorm. He did not see it, but a number of the fishes, 5-6 inches long, which were said to have fallen, were sent to him. Although the account was attested by various friends, Eglini was doubtful. He suggested that these fish, if identical with those found in the neighboring streams, might have been carried to Cotbus by a waterspout or an overflow. Here, in the third recorded account of a fall of fishes, it may be noted that the correct explanation of the cause of the phenomenon is alleged.

In a later number of the same journal for the same year, Eglini discusses the accounts of this same *Fischregen* supplied by other correspondents. One of these had collected some of the fish at Luckau, a near-by point, which he sent to Eglini. These Eglini found to be specimens of a trout found in the Mark and in Schleisen (but by inference not very near Cotbus); whereupon he at once pronounced the matter as incredible, especially as he had a letter from another gentleman who was out in that very storm and saw no fishes fall with the rain.

John Harriott in 1809 recounts, presumably from his own observation, the following phenomenon:

"In a heavy shower of rain, while our army was on the march, a short distance from Pondicherry, a quantity of small fish fell with the rain, to the astonishment of all. Many of them lodged on the men's hats; when General Smith, who commanded, desired them to be collected, and afterwards, when we came to our [camping] ground, they were dressed, making a small dish that was served up

and eaten at the general's table. These were not *flying fish*, they were dead, and *falling* from the common well-known effect of gravity; but how they ascended, or where they existed, I do not pretend to account. I merely relate the simple fact."

In the *Annals of Philosophy* for 1816 is found the following account, in a section presumably from the pen of the editor, Thomas Thompson:

"I have been told that the same thing happens in Bengal. These fishes must come down with the rain. It is a matter of some curiosity to be able to explain the source from which these animals are derived."

"In Prince of Wales Island, in the East Indies, the inhabitants usually catch the rain-water in tanks placed on the tops of their houses. Frequently these tanks are completely dry for weeks together. When the rainy season comes, they are speedily filled with water. Some fishes are found swimming about in this water, which gradually increase, and acquire the length of several inches. I have been told that the same thing happens in Bengal. These fishes must come down with the rain. It is a matter of some curiosity to be able to explain the source from which these animals are derived. . . . My information was obtained from an East India Captain, who assured me that he had seen the fishes frequently, though he was ignorant of their name, and could not describe their appearance with sufficient precision to enable us to make out the species."

In Rees's *Cyclopædia*, Volume XXX, 1819, under the heading, "Rains—Preternatural," it is stated that after a very heavy storm, which blew down trees, houses, etc., the streets of a town near Paris were found covered with fish of various sizes up to five or six inches long. Everyone agreed that they had fallen from the clouds brought in by heavy winds. It was noted later that fish ponds in the neighborhood were empty of all but large fish, the small ones having presumably been carried out over the city.

We next come to the classical account given in 1823 by Alexander von Humboldt of the eruption of Mt. Carguairazo, north of Chimborazo, which in 1698 covered the surrounding country to the extent of about forty-three square miles with mud and fishes. Furthermore, he tells us that seven years before the event referred to, the volcano Imbaburu had thrown out so many fishes that these on decomposing caused a fever which devastated the town of Ibarra. The fish in question was a singular catfish to which was given the name *Pimelodus cyclopus*. The causes active here were, however, entirely different from those producing the other rains of fishes referred to in this article, the agencies being earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, which hurled the waters of lakes with their fishes high into the air.

In the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* for 1826 are found several accounts of falls of fishes in Scotland. The first is a reference to Andrew Symson's "Large Description of Galloway," which was written in 1684 but not published until 1823. Symson says that a shower of herring was seen to fall in Galloway some sixteen miles from the sea but not far from the water of Munnach. He did not see this himself, but says that it was reported by credible witnesses and that some of the fish were said to have been carried to the residence of the Earl of Galloway and exhibited to him.

Next are the accounts, by the Rev. Colin Smith, of Appin, of falls in Argyllshire, Scotland, which read as follows:

". . . the testimony of many has enabled me to ascertain that a shower of herring fell in Lorn, about the year 1796, yet I have not met anyone who could inform me of the particulars concerning it.

"In the same district, and near the same place, on a small eminence above Melford House, a shower of herring fell in 1821, in every respect so large and good, that the tenants by whom they were found were induced to send some of them to their landlord, then residing in Edinburgh. In regard to the state of the weather, I could learn no more than that it was exceedingly boisterous; while the hill on which they were found is exposed to the southwest wind, which blows along Loch Milford, an arm of the sea in which herrings are frequently found.

"In the month of March, 1817, strong gales of wind from the north were experienced in Appin. Upon the evening of the second day of their continuance, rain fell in abundance; and next day being very warm and sultry, some children observed a large quantity of herring-fry scattered over a moss a little to the northeast of the ferry of Shien. There might have been about three barrels or more of these, and measuring from 1½ to 3 inches in length. Now, the place in which they were found is only 300 yards north of Loch Creran, an arm of the sea running east and west, from which several supposed the fry must have been raised. The wind, however, being from the north, renders this a seeming impossibility; and it may, perhaps, be more safely concluded that they must have been ejected from the Linnhe Loch, another arm of the sea, extending southwest and northeast, about 3 miles north of the place in which they were found. A range of moorland, about 300 feet above the level of the sea, intervenes; but it is easier to suppose the cause which originally elevated these fry to be so powerful as to carry them this height and distance, than that they should obtain a course contrary to the general body of air. They exhibited no appearance of being bruised by the fall."

The last account in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* for 1826 is from a man named Arnot, who told the editor, Robert Jameson, that in 1825 a shower of herring fell near Loch Leven in Kinross-shire, the wind at the time blowing strongly from the Firth of Forth. Hence it was concluded that they were blown out of the Firth, carried by the wind across Fifeshire, and let fall in the vicinity of Loch Leven.

There is also said to be an account of a rain of fishes in the *Inverness Courier* of April, 1828, but it has been impossible to verify this. In 1828, a short account was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of a rain in Ross-shire, Scotland. The full account follows:

"As Major Forbes Mackenzie of Fodderty, in Strathpeffer, Co. Ross, was traversing a field on this farm, he was surprised to find a considerable portion of the ground covered with herring fry, of from three to four inches each in length. The fish were fresh and entire, and had no appearance of being dropped by birds, a

medium by which they must have been bruised and mutilated. The only rational conjecture that can be formed of the circumstance is, that the fish were transported thither by a waterspout—a phenomenon that has before occurred in this county, and which is by no means uncommon in tropical climates. The Frith of Dingwell lies at a distance of three miles from the place in question, but no obstruction occurs between the field and the sea—the whole is a level stretch or plain—and waterspouts have been known to carry even farther than this. Major Mackenzie has forwarded a small quantity of the fish to the secretary of the Northern Institution.”

Chronologically the next account is from America, namely Cambridge, Maryland. J. E. Muse tells in 1829 of a ditch dug one mile from the river and in land ten feet above water. This had no connection with any body of water and for ten days after being finished remained dry. Then came a week or ten days of heavy rain which filled the ditch and in the ditch were found hundreds of small sun perch and jack perch from four to seven inches long. The author has no explanation, but it would seem that a “rain of fishes” is the most reasonable supposition and hence the account is included here.

The next account takes us to the South Sea Islands, and is recorded in the *Polynesian Researches* of that keenest-sighted of all the missionary observers of natural history in the South Seas, William Ellis. In the first edition of his invaluable work (1830), in Volume II, p. 285, is the following account of an observation made at some one of the Society Islands, probably Tahiti itself:

“Connected with the fresh-water fish, a phenomenon is often observed for which the natives are puzzled to account. In the hollows of the rocks and in other places, to which they suppose that the sea and the river never gain access, and where the water collected is entirely what falls from the clouds, small but regularly formed fish are sometimes found. The people have frequently express their surprise at finding them, and appeared to wonder how they ever came there. They call them *topataua*, literally, rain-drop, supposing that they must have fallen from the clouds with the rain.”

There are now to be recorded a number of accounts from India, where it would seem this phenomenon is not unusual. The first, published in 1833, is from the pen of James Prinsep, long the secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and a scientist of the utmost credibility.

He states that concerning the phenomenon of fish falling from the sky, he was absolutely incredulous until “I once found a small fish, which had apparently been alive when it first fell, in the brass funnel of my pluviometer at Benares, which stood on an isolated stone pillar, raised five feet above the ground in my garden.” He then records a similar happening on a much larger scale, which was communicated by a Mr. Cameron, who took the pains to have the depositions of ten native witnesses taken and attested before a magistrate. The shower of fish referred to took place on February 19, 1830, near the Nokulhatty factory, Zillah Dacca, Jelalpur, India. All agree as to the place, month, day, and hour; the

discrepancies in the individual recitals are such as are to be expected from ten witnesses who were not in collusion. These accounts, omitting all irrelevant statements, will now be given *seriatim*. Two of the ten witnesses reported jointly, their statement being embodied under 1:

1. "That on Friday, in the month of Phalgun [on the ninth day], at 12 o'clock P.M., the sky being cloudy, there was a slight rain, and a number of fish of different kinds and sizes fell from heaven; we took some of these fish and retired home."
2. ". . . I perceived a *boduli* fish, large about one cubit, fall before me from the sky; after which I went further and found another fish of the same size, lying upon the ground. I picked up these two fish and proceeded forward; and as soon as I arrived at home, I found, to my great surprise, that many persons had likewise collected fish, and carried along with them."
3. ". . . the clouds gathered together, began to rain, and a little after, many fish, large and small, began to fall from the sky. I picked up some of them and carried to my house, but I did not like to taste any of them."
4. ". . . while I was sitting in the front part of my cottage, I observed a *mirgal*, and some other fish, *bodulis*, etc., . . . of different size, fall from the sky. I picked up about five or six of these fish to satisfy my curiosity, but afterwards threw them away, and did not eat them at all."
5. "I had been doing my work at a meadow, where I perceived at the hour of 12 o'clock, the sky gather clouds, and began to rain slightly, then a large fish touching my back by its head fell on the ground. Being surprised, I looked about, and behold a number of fish likewise fell from heaven! They were *saul*, *sale*, *guzal*, *mirgal* and *boduli*. I took 10 or 11 fish in number, and I saw many other persons take many—then I returned home, I looked at heaven, and I saw like a flock of birds flying up, but these my perceptions were not clear enough. Amongst these fish, many were found rotten, without heads, and others fresh and perfect; and amongst the number which I had got, five were fresh and the rest stinking and headless."
6. "While I was sitting in my own house, I perceived a number of fish fall from the sky, some of them on the roof of my cottage; one of them was large, about one cubit, and three seers in weight." (A seer, or *ser*, is a little over two pounds.)
7. "When I was at work in a field, I perceived the sky darkened with clouds, began to rain a little, and a large fish fell from the sky. I was confounded at the sight, and soon entered my small cottage, which I had there, but I came out again as soon as the rain had ceased, and found every part of my hut scattered with fish, they were *boduli*, *mirgal*, and *nouchi*, and amounted to 25 in number."
8. ". . . as I was coming from the fields, I saw a number of fish spread on the bank of a *nálá*. I picked up six of them, viz. two *boduli*, two *mirgal*, and two *nouchi*, besides these there were many other fish of numerous kinds, and they were witnessed by many persons who were there. Some of these fish were fresh, but others were rotten and without heads."

9. "I sat down near the door of a workman's cottage; it was then precisely 12 o'clock, when a drizzling rain began to fall; and at the same time, two *boduli* fish fell down from heaven. I soon got up and marched on, and in midst of the road, saw several other fish fallen before me. I picked up some of these fish—but one named Banchha Ram Chung forbade me, saying, 'Do not touch these fish; you do not know what fish they are, and how they have fallen here.' Listening to him, I threw away all the fish, and went away."

In the following year a writer signing himself "S" records in these words a fall of fish at Futtehpur, India, on May 16 or 17:

"At noon. . . a blast of high wind, accompanied with much dust, . . . came on; the blast appeared to extend in breadth about 400 yards. . . . When the storm had passed over, they [the zemindars and others, who reported it to him] found the ground, south of the village, to the extent of two bighas [a bigha is about one-third of an acre], strewed with fish, in number not less than three or four thousand. The fish were all of the *Chalwa* species (*Clupea cultrata*) a span or less in length, and from one to one and one-half a seer in weight; when found, they were all dead and dry. *Chalwa* fish are found in the tanks and rivers in the neighborhood. The nearest tank in which there is water is about half a mile south of the village. The Jumna runs about three miles south of the village, the Ganges 14 miles north by east."

The next account is found in the "Extracts from the Minute-Book of the Linnæan Society" of London. The account was read before the Society on June 15, 1830, but was printed in 1833, in Volume XVI of the *Transactions*. Verbatim it reads:

"[There was] Read an extract of a letter from Mrs. Smith, dated Moradabad, July 20th, 1829, to a gentleman in Somersetshire, giving an account of a quantity of Fishes that fell in a shower of rain at that place. Many were observed by Mrs. Smith from the window of her residence, springing about on the grass immediately after the storm. The letter was accompanied by a drawing taken on the spot, which represents a small species of *Cyprinus*, two inches and a quarter in length, green above, silvery white below, with a broad lateral band of bright red."

At the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1840, Colonel Sykes read a letter from a Captain Ashton located at Kattywar, government of Bombay, India, referring to the fall of fishes recorded by Harriott in 1809.

There is now to be given the brief account written by De Kay in 1842 which first interested me in the phenomenon of the rain of fishes and which ultimately led to the writing of this paper. De Kay says that "in the summer of 1824, a number of these fish [*Batrachus*, now *Opsanus tau*] were found in the streets of New York after a heavy shower." He adds that these little fish are carried up by whirlwinds or waterspouts, and that they are very tenacious of life.

In 1849, Thompson mentions a number falls previously referred to in this article

and then records, without citing his source of information, that in Argyllshire, Scotland, in the little island of Ula, after a heavy rain there were found scattered over the fields a number of small herrings, all perfectly fresh, and some scarcely dead; furthermore, that a fish, ten inches long, together with smaller ones, fell at Boston, Massachusetts, on June 30, 1841, and that in July of that year a shower of fish and hail occurred at Derby, England; that in 1829 at Moradabad, India, numbers of a species of *Cyprinus* fell; that on September 20, 1839, a number of living fish about three inches long rained down at a place twenty miles south of Calcutta.

Dr. Buist in the *Bombay Times* of the year 1856, after discussing rains of fishes in various parts of the world says that in 1824 fishes fell at Meerut on the men of Her Majesty's 14th Regiment, then out at drill, and were caught in numbers. At Allahabad in 1835, there was a fall of fish during a heavy storm. No particulars were given, but it could not have been a case of aestivation or migration, since the fish were found dead and dry after the passage of the storm. Again at the Sunderbunds, about twenty miles south of Calcutta, on September 20, 1839, there fell in a heavy squall a number of small, live fish about three inches long. These were not scattered over the country but were found in a long, narrow, and fairly straight row.

"This brought with it so many fish that the ground was literally covered, and some were even found on the tops of haystacks."

Buist records two other significant falls. In 1850, on July 25, there was at Kattywar, a tremendous deluge of rain: thirty-five inches fell in twenty-six hours; twenty-seven inches in twenty-four hours, and seven and one-half inches in one and one-half hours. This brought with it so many fish that the ground was literally covered, some were even found on the tops of haystacks. And two years later at Poonah, after a heavy rainfall, multitudes of fishes were picked up on the cantonment grounds, which were situated a full half-mile from the nearest stream. All these falls noted by Buist are alleged to have been accompanied by heavy wind and rainstorms.

Boll in 1858 quotes a newspaper account of a heavy storm very like a waterspout that broke over Lake Plauer in Mecklenburg and the neighboring country. This storm tore great holes in the hills and filled these with water in which were found on the following day numerous small, living fishes and crustaceans. Boll also quotes the *Monatsschrift von und für Mecklenburg* of 1795 (p.310) to the effect that a similar heavy storm in the year 1795 passed over Lake Müritz, scattering fishes on the pasture and cultivated land adjoining. I have not been able to find the *Monatsschrift* in America and have not been able, therefore, to verify the citation.

In the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History* for 1859, Volume VI, there is noted a letter from Prof. O. P. Hubbard, of Dartmouth College, in which he gave an account of a fall of fish at a town in Vermont, that occurred during a sudden squall of wind accompanied by rain, and he furthermore stated that this was but the last of a number of similar instances which had come to his notice.

Tennent in his *Natural History of Ceylon*, published in 1861, records a number of instances of falls of fishes in India and Ceylon. Some of these have been noted already. Broadly speaking, he says that in Ceylon it is the general belief that heavy bursts of the monsoon bring falls of fishes, since fishes of small size are frequently found in hollows along the roads and in depressions previously dry and sunbaked. Speaking specifically, he states that on one occasion he saw a violent shower fall on the road just ahead of him, and that when he got there, he "found a multitude of small silvery fish one and one-half to two inches in length leaping on the gravel of the high road, numbers of which I collected and brought away. . . . The spot was half a mile from the sea and entirely unconnected with any water course or pool." Such evidence as this from so eminent a student of natural history as Sir J. E. Tennent is absolutely incontrovertible.

Next he quotes a Mr. Whiting of Trincomalee, who claimed that he had often been told by natives of such rains of fishes and that on one occasion he was taken to a field "which was dry when I passed over it in the morning, but which had been covered in two hours by a sudden rain to the depth of three inches, in which there were seen a quantity of small fish. The water had no connection with any pond or stream whatever." On another occasion a Mr. Cripps, of Galle, wrote him that he had seen fishes taken from hollows in the land which in the dry season were completely devoid of moisture. Since there was neither running water nor tank near by, Mr. Cripps was convinced that "either the fish or the spawn from which they were produced must of necessity have fallen with the rain." As these fish were found *immediately* after the rain, it could not be claimed that either the fish themselves or their ova had been imbedded in the earth and had awakened from æstivation, moreover, the earth to a depth of from twelve to eighteen inches is ordinarily baked as hard as a brick, precluding the possibility of their being imbedded.

Perhaps the most widely known and, because of the standing of its recorder as an ichthyologist, the most authentic case, is that made known by the Count de Castelnau in 1861. A careful translation of his account is given below. There was an earthquake followed by a tremendous rain at Singapore on February 20, 21, and 26, 1861. To this de Castelnau makes allusion and then continues:

"When the sun came out again I saw members of Malays and Chinese filling their baskets with fish contained in the pools formed by the rain. They told me the fish has 'fallen from heaven,' and three days later, when the pools were all dried up, there were still many dead fish lying about. I found them to belong to the *Clarias batrachus*, which can live a considerable time out of water, and even move to some distance on dry land. As they lay in my courtyard, which is surrounded by a wall, they could not have been brought in by the overflowing of a torrent, nor is there any considerable one in the neighborhood. The space covered by these fishes might be about fifty acres. They were very lively and seemed to be in good health. I have particularly remarked the singular occurrence of the fish, having already, during my stay at the Cape of Good Hope, had occasion to mention to the Academy the fact of several new species of fish being found after an

earthquake. Is it permissible to suppose that a waterspout, in passing over some large river of Sumatra, had drawn up the fish and carried them over? It is not without diffidence that I venture this hypothesis."

An account of this phenomenon also appeared in the *Zoölogist*, 1861, Volume LI, and P. Harting gives the same data in *Album Natuur*, 1861. Both of these credit the data to Castelnau.

In his book published in 1864, Charles Tomlinson recounts a number of instances of falls of fishes. He gives at greater length the account of a fall near Calcutta in 1839, previously referred to by Buist. This is so circumstantial that it is reprinted in full.

"About two o'clock P.M., of the 20th inst. (September, 1839), we had a very smart shower of rain, and with it descended a quantity of live fish, about three inches in length, and all of one kind only. They fell in a straight line on the road from my house to the tank, which is about 40 or 50 yards distant. Those which fell on the hard ground were, as a matter of course, killed from the fall, but those which fell where there was grass sustained no injury; and I picked up a large quantity of them, 'alive and kicking,' and let them go into my tank. The most strange thing that every stuck me in connection with this event, was, that the fish did not fall helter-skelter, everywhere, or 'here and there'; but they fell in a straight line, not more than a cubit in breadth."

Tomlinson also gives without indication of source a detailed account of a fall of fishes in Scotland, which is reproduced in full.

"Still more recently a fish shower happened near Aberdare. The following passage purport to be the evidence of John Lewis, a sawyer in Messrs. Nixon & Co.'s yard, as taken down by the Rev. John Griffith, vicar of Aberdare and rural dean:—"On Wednesday, February 9th, I was getting out a piece of timber for the purpose of setting it for the saw, when I was startled by something falling all over me, down my neck, on my head, and on my back. On putting my hand down my neck, I was surprised to find they were little fish. By this time I saw the whole ground covered with them. I took off my hat, the brim of which was full of them. They were jumping all about. They covered the ground in a long strip of about 80 yards by 12 yards, as we measured afterwards. That shed (pointing to a very large workshop) was covered with them, and the shoots were quite full of them. My mates and I might have gathered buckets full of them, scraping with our hands. We did gather a great many—about a bucket-full—and threw them into the rain pool, where some of them now are. There were two showers, with an interval of about ten minutes, and each shower lasted about two minutes, or thereabouts. The time was eleven A.M. The morning up-train to Aberdare was just then passing. It was not blowing very hard, but uncommon wet; just about the same wind as there is to-day (blowing rather stiff), and it came from this quarter (pointing to the S. of W.). They came down with the rain in a body like."

"The Rev. Mr. Griffith adds, that 'such is the evidence. I have taken it for the

purpose of having it laid before Professor Owen, to whom, also, I shall send tomorrow, at the request of a friend of his, eighteen or twenty of the little fish. Three of them are large, and very stout, measuring about 4 inches. The rest are small. There were some, but they are since dead, fully 5 inches long. They are very lively.' A number of these fishes were exhibited for several weeks in the Aquaria house of the Zoological Society's Gardens, in the Regent's Park, London."

Boll records (1868) the following instances of fish falling at certain points in Mecklenburg: at Steuer on July 25, 1795; at Kratzburg, on May 28, 1828; and near Dölitz, Pomerania, June 9, 1868. He says that in each case numbers of small fishes were found, and in one case fairly large ones, and that in the first two instances the rain was accompanied by a waterspout.

A similar occurrence is reported in 1873 by Franz Buchenau in the following words:

"Bremen, May 24. About five o'clock day before yesterday afternoon in the vicinity of Eystrup a great number of fishes fell on and beside the railroad embankment during a storm. They were little so-called whitefish. The appearance of these unaccustomed guests is connected with a waterspout, which, as was later reported to the railway directors here, arose apparently at the same time from the Steinhuder See about four miles distant."

The following account of an alleged fall of fish scales is given here because it is allied somewhat to the present subject, and because its omission might seem somewhat serious in view of the title of the article. The account and the disposal of it are given in Professor S. F. Baird's own words (1875).

"It is stated that during a heavy thunder-storm near Lake Providence, Louisiana, a number of small bodies were found on the ground, immediately after the shower, scattered along the shore of the Mississippi River for a distance of forty miles above the lake; as many as half a bushel being collected around one house. These, on being submitted to critical examination, proved to be the scales of the common gar-fish of the South (*Lepidosteus*). The species inhabits the shallow, muddy waters of the South and sometimes attains a length of five or six feet, and is especially characterized by being enclosed in an almost impenetrable coat of mail (the scales in question), so compact as almost to resist the penetration of a bullet."

"It is very difficult to give credence to this story; as the gar-fish are not particularly abundant, and the method of aggregation of so large a number of detached scales would be a problem extremely difficult of solution. Perfectly authentic instances are on record of small fish, shells, etc., being taken up in storms and scattered over the earth; but when it comes to special portions of fishes which weigh from 5 to 50 lbs. each, the draft upon one's faith is rather too severe."

An anonymous writer in *Das Ausland* for 1878 records, on the authority of the *Toronto* (Canada) *Globe*, a fall of fishes which is said to have taken place in

Canada through the action of a tornado. The account was vouched for by a teacher, who reported that living young herring were found scattered over dry ground for a space of three-quarters of a mile.

The next account, comparatively recent in date and very clear in statement, is by Thomas R. Baker, (1893).

"During a recent thunder-storm at Winter Park, Fla., a number of fish fell with the rain. They were sunfish from two to four inches long. It is supposed that they were taken up by a waterspout from Lake Virginia, and carried westward by the strong wind that was blowing at the time. The distance from the lake to the place where they fell is about a mile."

Perhaps the most extraordinary case of all is that related by one Hermann Landois, whose narrative was written in 1896:

"During yesterday's hail storm there fell a hailstone the size of a hen's egg, in which an enclosed fish was found frozen."

"Herr Joseph Grimberg in Essen on the Ruhr wrote me on July 27 as follows: —'During yesterday's hail storm there fell a hailstone the size of a hen's egg, in which an enclosed fish was found frozen. The storm lasted about ten minutes. . . . The fish was picked up in my presence so that there can be no doubt of the fact. The fish is a crucian carp. . . ' about 40 mm. Long. This fish has up to this time been observed in Westphalia only in enclosed waters. The fish must have been lifted up from a pond or pool into the clouds by a whirling storm and there frozen into a hailstone."

The *Monthly Weather Review* for June, 1901, contains the interesting account from Mr. J. W. Gardner, volunteer weather observer at Tiller's Ferry, South Carolina, U.S.A., that "during a heavy local rain about June 27, there fell hundreds of little fish (cat, perch, trout, etc.) that were afterwards found swimming in the pools between the cotton rows in [an adjacent] field."

The last account but one to come to hand was given before the Berlin Society of Naturalists on July 20, 1841, but was not published until 1912. It is very detailed and is here given practically in full.

"Herr August gave an account of a rain of fishes which occurred during a heavy thunderstorm on the night of June 29-30, 1841, in Uckermark on the estate of Herr von Holtzendorff-Jagow. . . . Suddenly at two o'clock in the night (30th of June), a heavy rain began to fall, and continued so violently for the best part of an hour that the place was flooded deeper than the oldest inhabitants could remember [ever having seen it]. On the evening of June 30 the shepherds brought back with them to their huts collections of small fishes to feed their ducks with. They said that a high, fallow field which was used for a sheep pasture was entirely covered with these fishes. [They said that] during the day more than sixty storks and an innumerable number of crows had eaten their fill there and that the new-formed rain pools were filled with large numbers of these fishes. The owner of the estate, who did not hear of this until July 1st, was not able to go to the place and see for himself until July 2nd. He found that there were still a great

many fishes in the places indicated. The largest of these were five inches long. The little pools in which the fishes were happily swimming about, had apparently been formed during the storm and had no connection whatever with any other body of water that contained fishes. The extent of the surface on which the fishes were found covered a length of two hundred paces and was fifty paces wide. The length agreed with the conjectured course of the thunderstorm.

"All investigations indicated that without any doubt these fishes were brought to this spot through the air. It is remarkable that such a whirling waterspout did not leave any other traces of damage done by the wind, especially as no particularly strong wind was noticed in the night; on the contrary, rain fell perfectly quietly, but in enormous quantity. In other low-lying places which were much more deeply covered with water and with meadow brooklets which connected them with ponds and lakes, no traces of fishes were to be found.

"The fishes, for the most part young, which were sent in by Herr Holtzendorff at the same time that this account was written were of varieties often found in our country, such as: pike (*Esox lucius*), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), Plötze (*Cyprinus rutilus*), and stickleback (*Gasterosteus pungitius*)."

The last account, a brief notice, is from McAtee's paper previously referred to. He quotes Mr. A.N. Caudell of the United States Bureau of Entomology, that on one occasion after a hard shower Mr. Caudell's mother at her home in Indiana had found a live minnow in the rain water held in the hollow of a chopping-block at the wood pile.

The Credibility of These Accounts

Omitting Humboldt's account of the fall of *Pimelodus cyclopus* in hot water ejected from volcanoes in South America, since that fall has an entirely different origin and causation, there are herein enumerated forty-four distinct accounts of rains of fishes. These phenomena, when grouped under the countries where they occurred, show the following distribution: United States, 7; Canada, 1; England, 1; Scotland, 9; Germany, 8; France, 1; Greece, 1; India, 10; Ceylon, 3; Malaysia, 2; South Sea Islands, 1. Surely such a large array of accounts from eleven different regions of the earth, ranging from the eastern part of North America, across western and southern Europe, touching southern and southeastern Asia, and ending in the South Sea Islands, should be credible on the bare setting forth of the facts.

Another circumstance tending to establish the credibility of these accounts is the fact that they are published in books and journals differing greatly in character. The books include works on meteorology, travel, history, and natural history; the journals are mainly devoted to natural history, but published in widely separated parts of the world, and while some of them are well known, others are comparatively obscure. A perusal of the accounts given above (most of them verbatim excerpts) must convince the reader that those who made efforts to review the literature,—Thompson, 1849; Tennent, 1861; Tomlinson, 1864; and McAtee, 1917,—had only limited knowledge of the considerable literature devoted

to this subject. This is plainly due to the fact that the accounts were published in widely scattered and little known books and journals and that even as late as McAtee's paper no complete bibliography of the literature of fishes was available for any one desiring to weigh all the facts.

"Now it cannot be maintained that all the accounts noted are of equal credibility. Some are here hearsay, some are hearsay pretty well attested and some are recorded by scientific men, who in certain instances apparently saw the fishes fall."

Now it cannot be maintained that all the accounts noted are of equal credibility. Some are mere hearsay, some are hearsay pretty well attested (i.e., matters of general knowledge in the community) and some are recorded by scientific men, who in certain instances apparently saw the fishes fall, in other instances found them immediately after a hard rain covering ground ordinarily dry,—that is ground far removed from swamps and streams. To proclaim disbelief in the phenomenon of rains of fishes, to refuse credence to accounts so widespread in time and space, so thoroughly corroborative, would in the mind of the writer be indicative of an inability properly to evaluate evidence.

As a matter of fact but two authors have endeavored to deny the credibility of such phenomena. The first of these is Eglini (1771), who in his first account seems to have doubts, but on the whole accepts the fact on the assumption that it is the action of a waterspout. In his second account, written in the same year, he quotes a "scholar in Luckau who saw it," and who sent him specimens of the fish. However, because these fish apparently were not such as occur in the neighboring streams, and because he received a negative report from a "learned gentleman of Lausitz," he brands the reputed fall as a deception. The "learned man" in question was out on the evening of the storm until eleven o'clock (the storm occurred at midnight), sat at an open window almost all night, and finally was again in the open early in the morning, without seeing the least trace of fishes. "Therefore I may affirm with certainty that the whole proceeding said to have occurred with this storm is a lie." However, he omits to say whether or not he explored the whole area of the track of the storm, and apparently he declares the matter a lie because he found no fishes in the vicinity of his own home.

The only author who has endeavored to controvert some of the numerous accounts given is W. Sharpe (1875). After quoting Tennent's personal experience given above, he endeavors to explain it away by alleging that the fishes are left stranded from an overflow, or are caught migrating from one point to another. He says that no scientific man has ever seen a rain of fishes, nor have fishes ever been caught in rain barrels, and finally that they are always found alive whereas, if rained down, the fall would kill them.

In answer to this it may be said no scientific man has ever had a rain of fishes fall on him, nevertheless the testimony of Tennent, Castelnau, and others cannot be explained away. As to the second point, let us recall that Prinsep found a fish in his pluviometer standing on a pedestal five feet above ground, and that Mrs. Caudell found one in the hollow of a chopping block at least eighteen inches

above the ground. As to the fact that fishes are commonly alive and are not killed by the fall, as Sharpe thinks they should be, the retort may be made that all fishermen know that fishes generally succumb slowly to falls and blows, and that if the fish fell on grassy lands, the shock would be much decreased. However numbers of those found were actually dead.

The Explanation

Omitting Humboldt's account of the fall of catfish in South America, for which an explanation has already been indicated, four explanations offer themselves for the appearance of fishes accompanying heavy rains. The first of these is that the fishes might have been migrating overland from one stream or pond to another. Now migratory fishes are of but few kinds, and are found only in a few countries. Of the countries noted above such an occurrence might take place only in India, Ceylon, or Malaysia. But the accounts of the falls of Indian fishes are so definite and circumstantial as to rule out this possibility. Again, many of the falls have taken place in northern countries, where there are no migratory fish, and finally many of the fish rained down are marine forms.

Furthermore, the fishes might have been left behind by overflows as alleged by Eglini, but there is nothing in the accounts given to lead one to such a conclusion. More plausible is the conjecture that the fish may have been aestivating and have been awakened by the coming of the rain. This might apply to Ceylon, India, and Malaysia, where there is a prolonged dry season, but during the dry season the earth becomes thoroughly baked, and even in swamps and tanks is hardened to the consistency of sun-dried bricks to a depth of from fifteen to eighteen inches. In view of this fact a mere thunderstorm or even a heavy downpour would not soften the ground sufficiently to release the imprisoned fishes. Then again many of the falls recorded have been on high and dry fields, upon the sand of parade grounds of military cantonments, and upon the enclosed compounds of residences. A careful perusal of the reported rains of fishes in Ceylon, India, and Malaysia, will eliminate the explanation based on the awakening of fishes from summer sleep due to the falling of heavy showers. There is left to us but one other explanation,—the action of heavy winds, whirlwinds, and waterspouts. Practically all those who have described rains of fishes have noticed that these were the accompaniments of thunderstorms or monsoon rains with their heavy winds, or of waterspouts. One who has witnessed the activities of a whirlwind or who has seen the wreckage left in its path will have no difficulty in believing that such a whirlwind or even the heavy winds accompanying a hard storm could pick up and transport to some distance objects of such light weight as small fishes. Furthermore, anyone who has witnessed the tremendous power of waterspouts, such as are common for instance in southern Florida, will agree that such a spout passing over shallow water, would certainly pick up the small fishes swimming therein and, drawing them up into the clouds, would carry them over the country to drop them some distance away. This is the only explanation that can account for the Indian fall as a result of which fishes

were found in a comparatively straight path only a few inches wide, extending over a considerable stretch of country. These fishes must have fallen from the whirling lower end of a funnel-shaped spout after the pillar had broken in two, as is often the case. Again, no other explanation can account for a fall concentrated on a comparatively small area, as was that noted by Castelnau at Singapore.



[Reports from the 1800s](#)

[Reports from the 1900s](#)

[Reports from the 2000s](#)



A woodcut showing a rain of frogs in Scandinavia, from 'Prodigiorum ac Ostentorum Chronicon,' one of the first modern books about strange phenomenon, was published in 1557. The rain of frogs happened in 1355.

Reports from the 1800s

Tremendous number of little toads, one or two months old, that were seen to fall **from a great thick cloud** that appeared suddenly **in a sky that had been cloudless**, August, 1804, near Toulouse, France.

In August, 1814, after several weeks of drought and heat, a storm broke one Sunday about 3:30 p. m., upon the village of Fremon, a quarter league from Amiens (France). This storm was preceded by **bursts of wind so violent** that they shook the church and frightened the congregation. While traversing the space separating the church from presbytery, we were soaked, but what surprised me was to be struck on my person and my clothing by small frogs. A large number of these small animals hopped about on the ground. On arriving at the presbytery, we found the floor of one of the rooms in which window facing the storm had been left open covered with water and frogs. (no origin account found)

Some of the hail-stones, says the Fredericksburg News, during the **hail storm** which passed over that section on the 1st instant, weighed **six pounds**. About 100 **frogs were also rained down** on the devoted city of Fredericksburg.

[this is one of the rare cases where two unusual phenomena are combined]

Source: [The Western Democrat \(Charlotte, North Carolina\), 21 July 1857, front page](#)

Shower of frogs - In the neighbourhood of Artesia, in Lowndes County, Mississippi, it rained frogs last week. The ground was perfectly black with them.

Source: [The Penny Press \(Cincinnati, Ohio\), 27 Aug. 1859, front page](#)

Where Do Those Frogs Come From?

During the storm on Sunday night, two breaks occurred in the Ohio canal one mile from Dover. Dry Hollow, a small ravine in the plains near Dover, was flooded to the depth of several feet. Fences were swept away by the current across two or three farms. On Monday morning several persons thought that from the noises in the hollow, there must be a large flock of sheep in the water, among the rails and other debris, and unable to reach dry land. Others whose hearing was equally acute, declared that the noises resembled the brawling of hundreds of calves, more than the bleating of sheep. Owners of stock figured up, in imagination, heavy losses, and proceeded with anxious countenances to rescue as many of the animals as had survived the storm during the night. But on reaching the spot whence the piteous noises proceeded, no sheep nor calves were to be seen. Instead, however, there were **thousands of large bullfrog**, perched upon rails and logs, and each one exerting himself to the utmost to make a louder croak

than his neighbor. Now, the question is, were these frogs rained down, from the clouds with the sheets of water that fell during the night, or did they travel from the river, a distance of nearly a mile, during the rain? **There are no ponds in "Dry Hollow,"** and the frogs certainly came from some locality. Tuscarawas (O.) Chronicle.

Source: Public ledger (Memphis, Tennessee), 23 July 1866, front page

A Shower of Fish and Frogs

It's a fact, and every man, woman, and child in Limerick will swear to it, that fish and frogs in countless numbers were rained down from the clouds on Monday evening in that suburb, and filled the puddles and laid scattered over the ground in countless numbers. Who will dare to say after this that Limerick is not a suburb of more than ordinary advantages. Louisville Ledger.

Source: [The Hickman Courier \(Hickman, Kentucky\), 29 June 1872, page 4](#)

Was it a Shower of Frogs?

In the town of Coventry, the other day, a road was shoveled through snow from four to six feet deep a distance of 40 rods, and, the next morning, the road was strewn with frogs **and** lizards, there probably being two bushels at least. It is a mystery where they came from. One theory is that a nest where they were wintering was stirred up. Some, however, think there was a shower of frogs the night before, as it **rained quite heavily**. If the former theory is correct, the reptiles must have been wintering in the snow, as the workmen did not shovel in any place to within a foot of the earth. The occurrence presents a question for the curious to solve.

Source: [Vermont Phoenix \(Brattleboro, Vermont\), 19 May 1876, front page](#)

[a rare case, where two different species of animals rained down]

Last Thursday hundreds of small frogs were rained down in the streets of Pulaski. They all hopped straight towards the branch the first hop.

Source: [The Pulaski Citizen \(Pulaski, Tennessee\), 20 July 1882, page 3](#)

Frogs are "rained down" and there is no doubting it. Tuesday morning last just after a heavy shower of rain, the cellar, which, Perley has-just-dug on Commercial street contained not less than **one thousand** live frogs, of different sizes some of them large enough for a Frenchman's dinner, and others about three removes from a tadpole. How they came in the cellar is a mystery we should like to have explained. The cellar contained no water previous to the rain shower alluded to.

Source: [The Kansas news \(Emporia, Kansas\), 06 Aug. 1859, page 3](#)

A RAIN OF FROGS IN ARIZONA. The phenomenon familiarly known as the rain of frogs has been ridiculed and contradicted by certain scientists: nevertheless, there is abundant proof to show that it has occurred, and probably will again. In 1864, the writer, in company with some fifty other travelers, had personal experience of the fact. We were in Arizona, not less than twenty miles from any stream, pond or water. The day was extremely sultry, and we had halted to let the animals graze and rest for an hour or two. Not a living thing besides ourselves and horses was in sight, and certainly no frogs were hopping over the rich, tufted *gramma*-grass, which covered the ground for miles in every direction. **Suddenly a dense, black cloud** made its appearance, and it soon began to discharge a **copious rain** upon our un sheltered heads. The drops were very large, and the water quiet warm. Nearly every person wore a broad-brimmed felt hat, which proved a great protection against the rain as well as against the sun. Our attention was soon arrested by the pelting of something which struck our hats like hail, but which proved to be frogs, and in less than two minutes the grass was fairly alive with those creatures. Several of the party took some from their hat-rims. Our unexpected visitors were all of one size, about a quarter of an inch long from nose to rump, very lively, and apparently in the best condition. Their tail had been broken by the springy, resilient nature of the grass. It is not probable that **several hundred thousand, perhaps millions of frogs** had suddenly been hatched into life in the ground by the rain, or, if they had, that in their infantile glee they jumped five feet eleven inches from the earth to the top of our heads merely to show how the game, of leap-frog should be played. Nor had they any such caudal appendages as are generally attached to juvenile *rana*. They came from above in company with the rain; and this fact was made clear by holding out the hand and seeing their fall upon it, as well as finding them on our hat-rims. The eggs from which these reptiles sprung, had undoubtedly been drawn up into the atmosphere by the action of a water-spout, and held in suspension with aqueous particles long enough to hatch them out and give them perfect form; then, by the force of mutual attraction, the separated particles of vapor got together in such masses as to form heavy sheets of water, which, in turn, became amenable to the law of attraction of gravitation, returning to the earth from whence it had been drawn. In the fall new divisions were created, called "drops," among which the frogs descended, having been, obedient to similar forces, moving with the aqueous particles. This instance is cited to show that other things besides vapor are translated from earth to atmosphere by certain well-known and accredited developments of natural laws.

Source: [Overland monthly and Out West magazine, Volume 7, Issue 1, July 1871; page 37-38](#)

A gentleman of this town, who was at Seneca City on Sunday last, and who has character for veracity, says that it rained down frogs in abundance at that place on that morning. As an evidence that they came from the clouds, he states that they were seen to fall into a house through a broken window pane, and that a sprinkling pot that was filled with rain water had several frogs in it. Considering

the size of the opening in a sprinkling pot, they certainly must have come thick and fast in order for several to have gotten into a single vessel of that kind.

Source: [The Anderson Intelligencer \(Anderson Court House, South Carolina\), 08 April 1880, page 3](#)

Rained Fish and Frogs.

Leavenworth, Ind., Aug. 1. Minute fish and frogs fell here Thursday in a regular shower. The fish were three fourths of an inch in length, and the frogs less than one-half inch. Many were preserved in alcohol by the citizens, to convince, skeptics that the phenomena really occurred.

Source: [The evening bulletin \(Maysville, Kentucky\), 01 Aug. 1891, page 4](#)

A Rain Of Frogs

A dispatch from Cambridgeport, Mass., on Tuesday, says : "It I rained frogs at Cambridgeport during a fierce shower this afternoon. **Tens of thousands** of them fell over a small area—perfectly formed little fellows, dark brown, almost black in color, not more than an inch and with uncommonly prominent eyes. Where they came from and how they got here scientists must answer if they can, but here they are and none the worse for their serial journey. They appeared as in a twinkling and streets and sidewalks fairly swarmed with the liveliest sort of a hopping army where none was to be seen a minute before."

Source: [Sullivan republican \(Laporte, Pennsylvania\), 03 Aug. 1894, page 3](#)

The same frog fall was reported in more detail in the following newspaper:

Whence Came Those Frogs?

From the Boston Journal.

It rained frogs in Cambridgeport yesterday afternoon. Genuine, hopping, and very lively frogs they were, and they arrived on earth not a particle the worse for their experience of rapid transit from the skies. A Journal man was in the very midst of the shower which brought the queer visitors, and studied them closely at close range and at first hand. About 2 o'clock a **heavy rain** cloud blew up from the west, whose **ominous blackness** made people hurry for protection. When it finally broke the rain descended in a lively fashion for three-quarter of an hour or so. When the downpour ceased the wet street and sidewalk were fairly alive with tiny frogs, which skipped about as if each was under the influence of a galvanic battery. Every puddle swarmed with them. **It was impossible to make a forward step without crushing a dozen of the celestial immigrants.**

Looking over the fences into the neighboring gardens they could be discerned by hundreds hopping about among the plants. They were the smallest of frogs. Their bodies were not over three-quarters of an inch in length, and fifty of them would

not fill an ordinary tumbler. In color they were a dark brown, almost black, and they had big, beady black eyes, which were uncommonly keen. The little fellows were perfectly formed frogs. The Journal Investigator corralled about twenty in the angle of a fence and looked them all over in the interest of science. Not the vestige of a tail could he find on any one of them, which showed that they had all gone safely through the tadpole stage of existence. Moving slowly along Pearl street he was soon made aware of another fact. The frogs were not distributed with a generous universality. In fact, **the territory where they might be found was comparatively small**. The question is, where did these frogs come from! Before the shower the reporter had been walking up and down through a mile or more of streets in that district and had not seen so much as a toad. All was parched and lifeless. But almost simultaneously with the rain came thousands of the little animals, congregated **in such vast numbers that the highway seemed alive with them**. Passing wheels crushed them by scores and children gathered them up in tin cans at the curb and compounded horrible messes of squirming reptiles. If they did not ruin down from the clouds, pray where did they come from?

Source: [The Sun \(New York, N.Y.\), 04 Aug. 1894, page 7](#)

WHENCE CAME THE FROGS?

A Shower In New Jersey Suggest Some Scientific Speculation.

During a thunderstorm in New Jersey lately it "rained frogs" to such an extent that , according to the testimony of multitudinous witnesses , the streets of Port Morris were alive with hundreds of these creatures. Here's a state of things which science can no more explain to-day than it could two thousand years ago. It is still said, of course, that these frogs were sucked up in marshes and carried into the clouds, but no human being ever yet saw a frog thus taken up and it is odd that nothing is ever "raised to eminence in this way except the frog, though plenty of other living things may be near by all ready to be sucked up. A good many observers hold to the curious and interesting opinion that under certain very rare electrical conditions life seems generated spontaneously. The frog is a peculiarly electrical creature, and in fact, first suggested the existence of animal magnetism as a distinct force to science. If any animal could be thus suddenly and strangely called into being it might well be the frog. Now that the university extension professors are setting to work teaching the people science, it would be interesting to hear them explain mysteries such-as the descent of frogs, which has been the talk of Port Morris and all the region round about.

Source: [The McCook tribune \(McCook, Nebraska\), 29 Oct. 1897, page 6](#)

It rained frogs in Missouri Wednesday. Philip Shearer, a farmer near Mexico reports that from **8.000 to 10.000** of the batrachians fell on his place. They were of all sizes, and very much alive. Look out for a glut in the frog-leg market.

Source: [The Indianapolis Journal \(Indianapolis, Indiana\), 20 May 1892, page 2](#)

It Rained Frogs.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Sept. 29.— This evening a tremendous rain poured down with **millions of small frogs**. The principal streets in the business part of town were covered with these pests, in half an hour nearly all disappeared.

Source: [St. Paul Daily Globe. \(Saint Paul, Minnesota\), 30 Sept. 1893, page 4](#)

Reports from the 1900s

SHOWER OF FROGS.

Rained Down During Storm at Medora, Ill.

Medora, Ill., June 7. "After a **severe rain and wind storm** early Thursday morning, frogs of all sizes were found in various sections of this city. In some instances the animals weighed **over a pound**, and many families dined on the delicacy of frog legs. In falling the frogs were killed, some being found badly mashed. It is believed that the wind sucked them up into the air, and that they came down with the rain.

Source: [The Brownsville daily herald \(Brownsville, Texas\), 13 June 1901, front page](#)

It Rained Frogs

Rochester N.Y., June 24. Frogs rained down for two hours in Albion. The entire village was covered with dead and dying frogs.

Source: [Owingsville Outlook. \(Owingsville, Kentucky\), 27 June 1901, page 3](#)

RAINED FROGS.

Peculiar Phenomenon Reported From Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 3. - (Spl.) - If the veracity of over 100 residents in the vicinity of the pioneer steel elevator can be relied on, there appeared in that part of the city Tuesday a most peculiar phenomenon a rain of frogs. So thick was the consignment that in some places on the sidewalks and in the street travel was, impossible.

Source: [Akron daily Democrat \(Akron, Ohio\), 03 July 1901, front page](#)

FROGS FROGS STOPPED TRAIN

Ithaca N.Y. July 7 - All Ithaca is suffering from a frog pest after the recent **heavy rains**. The frogs have appeared in great numbers. The ground in the vicinity of Renwick Park is covered with them. A train which left for Auburn late last night had difficulty in working its way through the myriads which appeared on the tracks. The tracks became so slippery from the ones killed that the wheels would not take and bold of the rails. Traffic on a branch of the Ithaca street railway running in Stewart avenue has been impeded and thousands of frogs appeared in the vacant lots south of the Fiske McGraw mansion. The little animals have invaded houses and destroyed many gardens in the lower part of the city. It is I difficult to proceed on the walks in that that vicinity.

Source: [The Hickman Courier \(Hickman, Kentucky\), 12 July 1901, page 4](#)

Minneapolis, Minnesota was pelted with frogs and toads in July, 1901. A news item stated: "When the storm was at its highest... there appeared as if descending directly from the sky a huge green mass. Then followed a peculiar patter, unlike that of rain or hail. When the storm abated the people found, **three inches deep and covering an area of more than four blocks**, a collection of a most striking variety of frogs... so thick in some places travel was impossible." (I didn't find the original news article, but the next paragraph gives the same date and place, so this is probably the same event): "PLAGUE OF FROGS Bicyclists Run Over Them by the Thousands. New York Sun Special Services. Seneca Falls, N. Y., July 32.—Wheelmen on the path through the marshes around this village came home with their wheels literally dripping with blood and would be pedestrians shun the open country because of the plague of frogs. There are many **millions of them**, none ever an inch long. hatched and protected by unusually favorable conditions. As the frogs are of the edible brand epicures are looking forward to a feast." (The Minneapolis journal, July 12, 1901)

Heavy Shower of Frogs.

NEWPORT. Ind. July 29. - During the rain on last Monday morning at Hillsdale not less than a carload of young frogs was rained down en the streets. **They were so thick that a person could not move with out stepping on them.** There was not a frog In town before the rain.

Source: [The Indianapolis journal \(Indianapolis, Indiana\), 30 July 1902, page 4](#)

Michigan City had a remarkable invasion of frogs which seemed to have been rained down last week. Thousands of them appeared oh the streets and lawns Thursday night, and especially under the glare of electric lamps, to catch insects attracted by the light. They approached lighted doorways and even invaded homes. There were frogs of all sizes from the normal down to those no larger than a pea. and the remains of them are seen in streets and on sidewalks, where

they were crushed by vehicles or by pedestrians.

Source: [The Plymouth Tribune \(Plymouth, Indiana\), 02 Oct. 1902, page 5](#)

Rained Fishes and Frogs.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 26 The report comes from Fort Scott that in **one of the heaviest storms** which ever visited that section of Kansas thousands of small fishes and frogs fell from the sky. The market place was covered and thousands of the fishes were taken from pools of water left by the rain.

Source: [The Salt Lake Tribune \(Salt Lake City, Utah\), 27 June 1904, page 11](#)

[Scientific American (July 12, 1873) reported another shower of frogs which darkened the air and covered the ground for a long distance is the reported result of a recent rainstorm at Kansas City, Mo."]

LITTLE GREEN FROGS

Rained Down By Thousands In Alton Illinois Yesterday

Alton Ill. Juno 24 - A **heavy rain storm** accompanied by a gale swept over Alton and a deluge of little green frogs was precipitated. They fell so plentifully that **thousands** were hopping around the streets Pedestrians and vehicles crushed them by the hundreds It is believed the frogs were scooped from the marshy low lands by the heavy winds carried over the city and dropped.

Source: [Palestine daily herald \(Palestine, Texas\), 26 June 1906, page 2](#)

RAINED GREEN FROGS AND BOYS WERE HAPPY

WILMINGTON Del. July 21. It rained little green frogs here last night. Thousands of the specimens descended during a heavy storm and today they covered the ground in many sections. of Wilmington. The frogs were about a half inch in length and were queer looking. One place in particular where they were in evidence in large numbers was the Christiana river. It is generally believed they dropped from the clouds. Myriads of them hopped away others jumped into the river while countless others were killed by boys.

Source: [The Washington Times \(Washington D.C.\), 22 July 1906, page 10](#)

RAINED RAINED FROGS

Shower of Toads Fell Near Beverly

Following the hard rain Thursday he public road for a distance of two miles near Beverly was found to be literally alive with small frogs about an inch long that hopped about in countless numbers. It is believed that they fell from the clouds though one scientist says the rain drove them out of the ground.

Source: [Hopkinsville Kentuckian \(Hopkinsville, Kentucky\), 13 July 1907, page 4](#)

Hardin county has experienced the wonderful phenomenon of a shower of frogs near Nolin during a **heavy rain storm** frogs fell from the clouds **by the millions**. They were found over a territory two miles square as thick as grasshoppers in a harvest field. They were small in size, green upon the back and bore close resemblance to bull frogs.

Source: [The interior Journal \(Stanford, Kentucky\), 19 July 1907, page 4](#)

IT RAINED FROGS

Utica NY, July 11. A message from Gouverneur states that in a **heavy wind and rainstorm** there thousands of small frogs fell **covering sidewalks to such an extent that walking was difficult**. The rails on a railroad for half a mile were covered and rendered so slippery that the speed of the trains was materially lessened.

Source: [The Salt Lake herald \(Salt Lake City, Utah\), 12 July 1909, front page](#)

II RAINED FROGS

OLYMPIA, Nov. —While returning from a hunting trip near Plum station, about fourteen miles south of here, today, two hunters, Will Roseman, an employe of the state land office, and James Fennell, were in the midst of a shower of frogs, which made it nearly impossible for them to proceed on their way. **The buggy in which they were riding was literally covered, and the road almost became impassable** on account of the slipper underfooting, the bodies of the frogs tripping the horse. They aver that it took them nearly an hour to make a mile before the flood of frogs ceased.

Source: [The Tacoma times \(Tacoma, Washington\), 29 Nov. 1909, page 7](#)

MANY FROGS RAINED DOWN.

Now They Are In Possession of Downs Mud Puddles.

Downs, Kan., June 1. A good soaking rain fell here. After the intense heat many people feared a storm, but it was only a good old fashioned rain, accompanied by a multitude of frogs who are now in possession of all the mud puddles.

Source: [The Topeka State journal \(Topeka, Kansas\), 01 June 1911, page 3](#)

A shower of small frogs and minnows fell at Pana last Thursday morning. The larger frogs were killed but the smaller ones lay stunned for a few minutes and then hopped away. The fish were all killed and ranged from a half an inch to two inches in length. Old settlers say this is the first time it has rained frogs in and

around Pana since 1855. It is supposed that a small cyclone sucked the contents of some pond into the clouds which caused the strange occurrence. Hillsboro (Ill.) News.

Source: [The Cape County herald \(Cape Girardeau, Missouri\), 22 Sept. 1911, page 8](#)

"Rain of Frogs" Causes Disputes.

Pierre.—The disputed question here is whether a driving shower at this city really "rained frogs," or, from what source they appeared so suddenly, following the dash of rain and hail. None were to be seen about before the shower, and immediately after it had passed they were hopping over the sidewalks and streets by hundreds in certain sections of the city. Whether Observer Rowe says he is certain that frogs do rain down at times, as he found hundreds of them on the top of a large flat roof building at one time following a **heavy dashing rain**, with certain knowledge "that they were not on the roof before that time, and his work called him to that roof a number of times every day.

Source: [Dakota farmers' leader \(Canton, South Dakota\), 10 July 1914, page 5](#)

Frogs Rained in Texas. Thousands of small green frogs were precipitated upon the streets of Weatherford, Texas, Wednesday, during **one of the heaviest rainstorms**, in years. The phenomenon created considerable excitement and overshadowed the damage done to store basements by the sudden rush of water.

Source: [The Guthrie daily leader \(Guthrie, Oklahoma\), 20 May 1915, page 6](#)

The Monthly Weather Review, May 1917, included some toad falls in France:

- A French scientist M. Mauduy, curator of natural history at Poitiers, narrates: "On the 23d of June, 1809, during a hot spell, I was caught in a rain storm in which with the very large drops were mixed little bodies the size of hazelnuts, which in a moment, covered the ground, and which I recognized as little toads. The second occasion, occurred in August, 1822, during stormy and very hot period; I was again surprised by the heavy shower of large drops mixed, as was the other with little toads, some of which fell on my hat. This time the animals were the size of walnuts. I found that I was more than a league distant from any brook, river, or marsh."
- Another French scientist, M. Heard, writes: "In June, 1833, I was at Jouy near Versaille. I saw toads falling from the sky; they struck my umbrella; I saw them hopping on the pavement, during about 10 minutes in which time the drops of water were not more numerous than the toads. The space upon which I saw the multitude of these animals was about 200 fathoms.
- M. Peltier wrote: "In support of the communication of Col. Marmier, I cite an

incident I observed in my youth; a storm advanced upon the little village of Ham, Department of the Somme, where I lived, and I observed its menacing march, when suddenly rain fell in torrents. I saw the village square covered everywhere with little toads. Astonished by this sight, I held out my hand and was struck by several of the reptiles. The dooryard also was covered; I saw them fall upon the slate roof and rebound to the pavement. Whatever the difficulty of explaining the transport of the reptiles. I affirm, without doubt the fact which made such a profound impression upon my memory."

In the summer of 1794 M. Gayet was quartered in the village of Lalain, Department du Nord, near the territory which the Austrians, then masters of Valenciennes, had flooded with water from the Scarps. It was very hot. Suddenly, at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, there fell **such an abundance of rain** that 150 men of the grand guard, in order not to be submerged, were obliged to leave a large depression in which they were hidden. But what was their surprise when there began to fall on the ground all about a considerable number of toads, the size of hazelnuts, which began to jump about in every direction. M. Gayet who could not believe that these myriads of reptiles fell with the rain, stretched out his handkerchief at the height of a man, his comrades holding the corners; they caught a considerable number of toads, most of which had the posterior part elongated into a tail, that is to say, in the tadpole state. During this rain storm, which lasted about half an hour, the men of the grand guard felt very distinctly on their hats and on their clothing the blows struck by the falling toads. As a final proof of the reality of this phenomenon, M. Gayet reports that after the storm the three-cornered hats of the men of the guard held in their folds some of the reptiles.

Rained Frogs at Junction City.

Junction City, Kan., May 13. For twenty-four hours it rained frogs here, at least that would be the reason as signed in the ancient times, for the plague of green croakers which descended upon this city following the recent **heavy rains. Millions of them**, one would judge from the great disturbance their nightly concerts creates, are concentrated in a low portion of ground near the business section of the city. Their chorus may be heard for more than a half mile and the noise drowns out that of the switch engines in the nearby railroad yards. The steady rain softened the earth so that the frogs buried under the ground were able to crawl out.

Source: [The Topeka State journal \(Topeka, Kansas\), 13 May 1921, page 6](#)

FROGS, SAND RAINED IN THUNDER SHOWER

Gibraltar, June 25. During a thunderstorm here recently a shower of frogs fell on the North Front. Thousands of these small bopping creatures were to be seen in the hedges and aroused much curiosity. Seven years ago a similar phenomenon

occurred and later a shower of sand covered everything with a pink deposit. [Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula at the entrance of the Mediterranean]

Source: [Bisbee daily review \(Bisbee, Arizona\), 26 June 1921, page 7](#)

DOES IT RAIN FROGS, OR DO THEY JUST HAPPEN? IS A QUESTION THAT PANHANDLERS DISAGREE ON

Panhandle, July 5. A shower of frogs numbering **millions** was rained down here Tuesday night. That is, a large percentage of the people here declare the frogs rained down, while others maintain they reached the town in some other way. At any rate an army of frogs appeared following the rain. When Panhandle people awoke Tuesday morning the hopping, jumping visitors were everywhere. They were here at 5 o'clock and by 10 o'clock all were gone with the exception of those whose hops were too short to keep up with the procession. In size they were as large as the end of the thumb and as small as the tip of the little finger. The hordes of hopping visitors left toward the south. While the bulk of the strange visitors were passing through, hundreds were run over and killed by automobiles. So thick were the froglets one could not step out on the street with mashing numbers of them. Every street and alley was filled with frogs. When a building stood in their path, they did not attempt to jump over but hopped around and kept on their general course. Life's old question "Whence and Whither" is revived by the sudden visit and as sudden departure of frogs in Panhandle. Women as well as men disagree on the origin and destiny of the frogs. Women are divided about 50-50 on the theory that they fell from the clouds while two out of five men maintain they were young toads hatched simultaneously from eggs deposited in the ground. The sky theorists claim the embryonic pollywogs were attracted from their earth abode by the sun to fall on earth in the form of young frogs. That there are no lakes or other bodies of water near Panhandle daunts them not, for they say the eggs may have been originally deposited in Lake Champlain or the Caribbean Sea. Once drawn into the air they were carried by the breeze to the vicinity of Panhandle and fell with the rain. Others says the warm rains had nothing to do with the frogs visitation further than to bring about the hatching of million of eggs at, the same time and that the procession moving through the town was nothing more than a gratification of the migratory nature of the hoppers soon as they were old enough to travel. Anyway the frogs have come and gone with the exception of a few stragglers. They left no damage in their wake hut a decided indifference among the people as to where they came from and where they went.

Source: [The Lubbock avalanche \(Lubbock, Texas\), 07 July 1921, second section page 16](#)

Gainesville's Frog Sensation Exploded by Federal Experts

(By Associated Press.)

Gainesville, July 26 -No frogs fell from the sky here Thursday night and Friday morning and so far as local experts on "frogology" have been able to ascertain, such a phenomenon never has occurred any where else. It **rained heavily** here and the presence of **thousands** of small frogs hopping about Friday morning after the downpour resulted in the sending out of news stories to the effect that it had rained frogs. The Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, and other authorities, declare that the presence of multitudes of small frogs after heavy rains often results in reports that frogs have fallen from the clouds but that the idea is all wrong. The frogs were there before the downpour, hidden in cracks and crevices of the earth. An unusually heavy rain simply floods their hiding places and they are forced to abandon them and come out into the open or drown.

Source: [Palatka daily news \(Palatka, Florida\), 28 July 1921, page 3](#)

London newspapers reported that on August 17,1921 innumerable little frogs appeared during a **thunderstorm** in the northern part of London. Mrs S. Mowday went to see a Royal Navy display on the Meadow Platt in Sutton Park, near Birmingham, on June 12th, 1954, and recounted: "I attended the display with my young son and daughter. It was a Saturday and there were frequent heavy showers...We tried to shelter from a shower under the trees...when we were bombarded by tiny frogs, which seemed to come down with the rain. There were literally **thousands of them**. They descended on our umbrellas, on us and we were afraid to walk for fear of treading on them." [original account not found]

THE TOP OF THE HILL.

Frogs and Fish.

Dear "Non-Com,"-Like the Ripley series these yarns are "strange but true" and the team can believe them or not. Many strange things happen in the bush and perhaps one of the strangest in my experience happened on Murgoo station in 1919. I had been contract fencing, and pulled into the shearing shed to replenish my water tank. It was late November and we were passing through an extra special heat wave. Having hobbled the camels out and boiled the billy, I sat down to enjoy my evening meal of kangaroo, bacon and damper. It was a stifling hot night and **suddenly a blue-black cloud appeared** on the nor'-west horizon. **With amazing rapidity the sky became black and over cast, followed by a fierce electrical storm.** And the rain! It fairly teemed, but it was not the rain that amazed me, but what came with the rain. Nothing else but **thousands** of minute but perfectly formed black frogs! The rain only lasted fifteen minutes, so taking a lantern went forth to study this strange phenomena. There they were in their thousands, almost black in colour, perfectly formed and croaking lustily as they hopped here and there. Being camped alongside a considerable sized creek,

the water quickly drained away into it and very soon it was running a banker. Watching the frogs with keen interest, I noticed that as the ground started to dry up they were all making for the creek. On reaching the bank hundreds quickly burrowed into the wet sand, while others continued on and pushed into the stream. I camped there for two more nights on account of the country being water logged and camels are useless without a firm footing. The noise of their concerted hearty croaking was deafening especially to one used to the silence of the bush. On the third day I broke camp. The creek by this time was just a series of pools, but the frogs still seemed to be enjoying themselves. Returning a fortnight later, the creek was silent and I dug down in the moist sand about four feet. But not one solitary frog could I find.

Another experience almost identical with this occurred on the same station some years later, but this time it concerned fish and not frogs. I was kangarooing this time and had a native named Billy shooting for me. The country we were in on the banks of the Sandford River was interspersed with a great number of oval-shaped depressions known in that country as clay pans. These depressions have a clay bottom and hold water for months after rain. Surface water it was impossible to find and we were night shooting at the wells. One evening the native came to me and pointing skywards said "Plenty bubba bimeby, plenty bubba." Looking at the bright starlit night I shook my head and said, "Not tonight, Billy." But the uncanny instinct of the native proved correct and morning found my tent, which was on a rise, completely surrounded by water. Walking over to the native's mia and finding it empty I started to hunt him up. I eventually found him on the bank of the river industriously making a framework of saplings and bark. Carrying this to a clay-pan he covered the framework with green boughs and made a leaf covered raft. On this raft he lashed two supple saplings to haul it by. Entering the claypan he splashed and threw stones as he moved forward until he had moved to one end that ended in a narrow lagoon where stood his raft. Beckoning me to take one end we dragged the raft of leaves forward. As we approached the blind end of the lagoon small ripples were to be seen. Realizing in a flash they must be fish I said "What fish Billy?" "Plenty, boss," he replied: And so it proved to be. When these fish were driven to the far end they doubled back, saw the raft, leaped to avoid it, and landed fair and squarely on the raft. We got upwards to forty fish, many of course escaping. On examination they were about four inches long and not unlike the canard lies of our northern rivers. I cooked some, but they were a mass of small bones. These fish, too, must have come down in the rain of the previous night for the claypans to my knowledge had been empty since the previous winter. On interrogating the native he simply pointed up and said, "Plenty bubba, plenty fish." Possibly the same solution governs both experiences. No doubt science can explain it all quite simply, but to me at the time it was all very strange. JUMBUCK, Gosnells.

Source: [Western Mail \(Perth, Western Australia\), Thursday 8 April 1937, Page 10](#)

[Natives are always much better in tune with Reality, than any scientist. Natives observe and experience; scientist theorize behind a desk]

Motorists' Queer Experience

Frogs fell from the sky in a shower at Ewingdale, on the North coast of New South Wales, on Wednesday, Many motorists had hundreds plastered over their cars after the bombardment. The photograph shows one of dozens which were removed from a windscreen. The frogs were less than one inch in length, and were coloured black and cream.

Source: [Sunday Mail \(Brisbane, Queensland, Australia\), Sunday 9 April 1939, Page of 3](#)

SHOWER OF FROGS

Frogs fell from the sky in a shower at Ewingdale, on the North Coast of New South Wales last Wednesday, (as previously reported in these columns). Many motorists had hundreds plastered over their cars after the bombardment. The frogs were less than one inch in length, and were coloured black and cream. The ichthyologist at the Queensland Museum (Mr. T. C. Marshall) said that while he had never heard of any actual cases of frogs falling in a storm, there had been several instances of fish being found after a storm in Queensland. One case was recorded ofwhiting falling in rain at Roma, over 300 miles from the coast. The flsh were caught up in eddies and whirlpools from shallow water, and Mr. Marshall said that it was possible that similar winds had caught up frogs from swamps. Such rapidly rising, circular winds had caught up on dry land many strange things which had later fallen during a storm many miles away.

Source: [Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser \(Queensland, Australia\), Monday 10 April 1939, Page 6](#)

SHOWER OF FROGS

Mr. H. Stuart Dove writes: "A remarkable, occurrence is reported from Wiltshire (England), where **thousands** of tiny frogs are said to have descended during a **heavy shower**. Mr. Ettles, attendant at a bathing-pool, was giving lessons in swimming, when the rain began. On looking up, he saw great numbers of small frogs dropping from the sky. They landed on the grass behind the bathing-stages, and, calling his wife, they both started sweeping them into an adjoining field, but on coming back, they found hundreds more in the swimming bath; these were settled by an extra dose of chloride in the water. Great numbers fell into the river, and a party was seen floating downstream while resting on an old motor-tyre. "Many zoologists explain this sudden appearance of baby-frogs after rain by saying that they had been sheltering from the sun under grass-tufts and small plants, until the grateful moisture brought them into the open, but in the above case Mr. Ettles said that he saw them actually descending from above, and a meteorologist gave the following explanation: 'The little frogs had been sucked-up from ponds by a whirlwind -a miniature edition of an American tornado- and may be carried for miles on the prevailing wind before dropping to earth. In rare

cases, even fish have been sucked-up from shallow lakes and deposited at a considerable distance away. In the United States, where they do everything on a bigger scale than in England, a full-grown hen was picked up by one of these whirlwinds and dropped 30 miles away."

Source: [Advocate \(Burnie, Tasmania\), Tuesday 1 August 1939, Page 9](#)

[the meteorologist-expert does not seem to know that a whirlwind is quite different from a tornado and does not suck anything upwards. Also any wind cannot transport frogs over a distance of 30 miles, let alone one mile.]

SMALL FROGS FROM THE SKY

During a storm that passed over Harwood Island last week people on parts of the island were surprised to see small brown frogs falling with the rain, and quite a number were seen on the ground after the rain had ceased. Recently, in a Sydney suburb. when heavy rain fell, millions of these small frogs were found.

Source: [Daily Examiner \(Grafton, NSW, Australia\), Monday 25 January 1943, Page 2](#)

FROGS FROM THE SKY

That frogs could be "rained" from the heavens is not considered unlikely by a Nedlands correspondent who writes as follows: "Regarding 'OB's' query in the answers section of your last issue about a shower of frogs in Perth in 1912, I am able to state at first-hand that I saw the frogs, but did not witness the method of their arrival. They littered Hay-street for some distance between Outram and Colin streets so that one could not avoid them. Many were no larger than a three pence and many had been trodden underfoot. That they had come per the air route in a whirlwind is perfectly feasible."

Source: [Sunday Times \(Perth, Western Australia\), Sunday 24 September 1944, Page 5](#)

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Source: [Sunday Times \(Perth, Western Australia\), Sunday 24 September 1944, Page 5](#)

FROGS AND RAIN

Sir, In the "Herald" of December 3 it is stated, "Experts on reptiles discount reports of frogs falling from the sky." They also pointed out "that frogs would die in dry conditions." Nearly 50 years ago, I was prospecting in the desert country of Western Australia in the East Murchison district. The average annual rainfall at that time was about three inches, but I was informed that every seven years it really rained. In 1899 or 1900 the **big rains** came, and thousands of frogs, no larger than a thumbnail, came with it. Small as they were, the din they created was terrific, and greatly resembled that made by a mob of sheep. The surface on which the frogs came was a thin layer of sand and stones on top of a conglomerate "cement," and afforded no refuge for frogs either before or after the deluge, and, indeed, was usually scorched with the continual heat. This district is about 700 miles from Perth, and **has no surface water of any sort whatever**. It was necessary to dig to 168 feet in depth before any underground water was available. F. W. ISON.

Abbotsford Point. - Sir, With regard to the article and photograph of the frogs in your paper, seeing is believing. Many years ago I saw frogs and fish come down in a **thunderstorm** at a place called Roses' Run, at Lower Hawkesbury, near Wiseman's Ferry. At first we thought the frogs and fish hail -they came down in a sheet of water.

Source: [The Sydney Morning Herald \(NSW, Australia\), Saturday 6 December 1947, Page 2](#)

Frogs Fell In Rain, Youth Says

A shower of rain at Newtown last night brought frogs out in hundreds along the road. Some residents claimed the frogs came down with the rain. Scientists are not yet convinced. Leslie Dawson, 15, of King Street, Newtown, said: "I saw frogs hitting the ground in front of me when I was riding a bicycle at the corner of Yelverton and King Streets about half-past nine. "I had two mates with me. At first we thought it was hail, but then we saw the frogs jumping on the road. "We got off our bicycles and ran after the big ones. "There were hundreds of small ones and a few larger ones. "Most were green, but there were a few brown ones among them. Many of them were squashed by cars. "As the cars went by we could see the frogs leaping in all directions. "I ran to the gutter and scooped up a dozen or so small frogs, and a couple of larger ones. "My father wouldn't believe me when I told him but I showed them to him to convince him. "The smaller frogs got away while I was putting them into a jar. I've still got two of the bigger ones left." Leslie dived across the room to catch the frogs for the photographer. After searching under chairs he found both of them, and said, "There you are, I told you so."

Source: [The Sydney Morning Herald \(NSW, Australia\), Wednesday 3 December 1947, Page 3](#)

On September 7, 1953, a downpour of frogs and toads "of all descriptions" began falling from the sky over Leicester, Massachusetts. The streets seemed to be alive with them and children gathered them into buckets using their hands, making a game of the astounding event. [original account not found]

On the 17th of June, 1963, in Porto Lago of Comotini (Thrace, north Greece), several drivers reported that during a **very heavy rain**, around midnight, they saw little living frogs coming down with the rain. (Source: *Apogevmatini*, 19 June 1979). (from [Vembos](#) website)

On the 29th of June, 1979, nearly 16 years after the June, 1963 fall in Comotini, another fall of frogs took place in the same area. In the Aegira area, near Comotini, **thousands** of them fell simultaneously with the rain. The frog fall was **so heavy** that the cars moving on the road connecting Aegira and Comotini had to stop for a while because the road was completely covered with frogs. (Source: *Kyriakatiki Eleftherotypia*, 1 July 1979) (from [Vembos](#) website)

The citizens of Naphlion, a city in southern Greece, were surprised one morning in May, 1981, when they awoke to find small green frogs falling from the sky. Weighing just a few ounces each, the frogs landed in trees and plopped into the streets. The species of frog was native to North Africa! [original account not found]

In 1995, reports Fortean Times Online, Nellie Straw of Sheffield, England, was driving through Scotland on holiday with her family when they encountered a severe storm. Along with the heavy rain, however, hundreds of frogs suddenly pelted her car. [original account not found]

Reports from 2000s

June 7, 2005 at 11:35am: Frogs fall from the sky in rural Serbia Belgrade. Thousands of tiny frogs rained on a town in north-western Serbia, the Belgrade daily Blic reported on Tuesday. Strong winds brought storm clouds over Odzaci, 120km north-west of Belgrade, on Sunday afternoon, but instead of rain, tiny amphibians fell from above, witnesses said. "I saw **countless** frogs fall from the sky," said Odzaci resident Aleksandar Ciric. The frogs, **different from those usually seen in the area**, survived the fall and hopped around in search of water. (from Mail and Guardian)

Tadpoles in Japan

I have mentioned that some rain or falls happened in the same area more than once. In my opinion, this is a question of habit on part of the aliens. They like to

go back where they drop their 'left-overs' before. In 2009, someone repeatedly visited Japan to drop the excess of tadpoles, and fish. The following was compiled by the owner of pinktentacle.com. All credits go to this person. Very interesting compilation!

UPDATE: Tadpole rain in Japan:

19 Jun 2009



Tadpole rain, Hiroshima prefecture, June 15

Over the past few weeks, people in Japan have been witnessing tadpoles, fish and frogs fall from the sky. Ever since the strange phenomenon was first observed in Ishikawa prefecture on June 4, reports of animal rain have been pouring in from prefectures across the country.

So far, nobody has come up with a plausible explanation for the animal rain. Although some people believe the tadpole showers may be the result of weather disturbances such as waterspouts, no meteorological agencies have observed strong wind or unstable weather conditions in any of the areas where the rain has occurred. Others believe birds may be spitting up large quantities of tadpoles, although many ornithologists dispute this claim. Still others have suggested it may be the work of human pranksters, or even extraterrestrials.

Here is a brief timeline of the occurrences reported so far. This page will be updated as new reports emerge.

* * * * *

June 4, Ishikawa prefecture -- At 4:30 PM in the town of Nanao, witnesses discovered approximately 100 dead tadpoles in a **300 square meter area** in and around the parking lot outside the Nakajima Civic Center. Witnesses described hearing **a strange sound** outside before finding the tadpoles.



Tadpoles on car windshield, Ishikawa prefecture, June 4

June 6, Ishikawa prefecture -- At 7:00 AM in the town of Hakusan, a 75-year-old resident found a handful of tadpole carcasses on the hood of her car. More were found scattered in nearby yards and parking lots.

June 9, Ishikawa prefecture -- In the town of Nakanoto, a number of small fish were found scattered over a residential area. About 10 fish recovered from roadsides and the tops of cars appeared to be Crucian carp measuring 3 to 5 centimeters long.



Crucian carp, Ishikawa prefecture, June 9

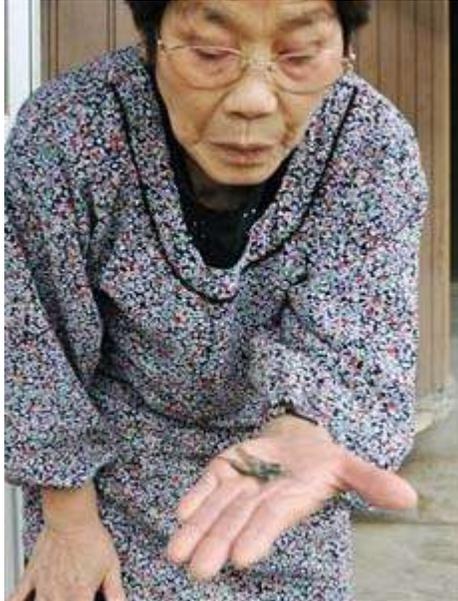
June 13, Iwate prefecture -- At about 6:00 PM in the town of Shiwa, a 67-year-old farmer was tending her field when she heard what sounded like hailstones hitting the ground around her. She found 15 tadpole carcasses. The local meteorological agency reported the **weather was calm** at the time, and a local ornithologist said he found it improbable that birds dropped them.

June 15, Nagano prefecture -- In the morning, about 40 tadpole carcasses were found on the premises of an elementary school in the town of Suzaka.

June 15, Hiroshima prefecture -- At 8:30 AM in the town of Miyoshi, a 60-year-old resident found the carcasses of 13 tadpoles and one frog scattered in the yard and on the roof of her home. (See photo above.)

June 15, Miyagi prefecture -- At about 5:00 PM in the town of Taiwa, a 74-year-old resident heard what sounded like rain outside her home. She stepped outside

to find about 50 tadpoles scattered in the yard and on the roof. The tadpoles were wet, but none of them were alive. According to the woman, the **sky was clear and there was no wind**. She saw no birds in the sky.



Left: Miyagi prefecture, June 15 // Right: Iwate prefecture, June 17

June 16, Aichi prefecture -- At around 8:00 AM, a 45-year-old company employee was driving through the town of Chiryu on his way to work, when he heard the sound of something pelting the roof of his car. When he arrived at work, he found 25 tadpole carcasses, each about 5 centimeters long, splattered on the top and sides of his vehicle.



Aichi prefecture, June 16

Some of the tadpoles were bloody and looked as if they had fallen from a **great height**. According to the man, there were no tall buildings nearby and the sky was clear. "At first I thought birds had crapped on my car," he said. "I was surprised to find tadpoles."

June 16, Saitama prefecture -- At 1:00 PM in the town of Kuki, a 77-year-old man reportedly found over 20 carcasses of tadpoles and small fish in his yard. The

man lives about 1 kilometer away from a patch of woods where crows roost. He believes the birds dropped the tadpoles and fish in his yard.



Saitama prefecture, June 16

June 16, Miyagi prefecture -- At around 4:00 PM in the town of Osaki, a 54-year-old resident reportedly found about 20 carcasses of tadpoles and small fish in her yard.

June 17, Iwate prefecture -- At 5:00 AM, while walking to his rice field, a 66-year-old farmer in the town of Yahaba heard what sounded like large raindrops hitting the ground around him. He found about 30 tadpole carcasses, each about 3 to 4 centimeters long, on the road. Most of them appeared crushed, as if they had fallen a great distance. He spotted a crow flying in the sky above, but he doubts the bird dropped the tadpoles. He said there was **no wind** at the time. (See photo above.)

June 17, Fukui prefecture -- A 67-year-old resident of the town of Sabae found about 40 tadpole carcasses outside her home in the morning. The tadpoles, which measured about 3 to 4 centimeters long, were moist. Some of them were crushed and bleeding. The weather had been fine, and the woman reportedly heard nothing strange the night before.



Fukui prefecture, June 17

June 17, Toyama prefecture -- At 8:40 AM in the town of Asahi, a 59-year-old company worker found about 30 tadpoles scattered on the road in front of his home. The tadpoles measured about 3 centimeters long and had begun to develop legs. **The weather was calm** and partly cloudy, making it unlikely they were swept up in a gust of wind. A local biologist says that the tadpoles may have died from dehydration after venturing out from a nearby rice field. The man believes they may have been dropped by crows.



Toyama prefecture, June 17

June 17, Akita prefecture -- At 10:30 AM in the town of Ugo, a 37-year-old candy shop manager found about 70 tadpole carcasses in yards and on the streets near her store. Most of the tadpoles, which measured about 2 to 3 centimeters long, appeared crushed. The shop is located in a residential area near rice fields and a river. She blames birds.



Akita prefecture, June 17

June 17, Kagoshima prefecture -- While taking an evening walk, a 58-year-old company employee in the town of Isa came across about 20 tadpole carcasses in the street. According to the man, there were rice paddies nearby, but the **road was dry**.

* * * * *

June 17, Niigata prefecture -- In the city of Niigata, a 14-year-old student returning home from school in the evening found 25 dead tadpoles on a residential street, not far from an irrigation channel and rice fields. The carcasses, which were **dry and flat**, measured 2 to 5 centimeters long.



Left: Tadpole rain in Niigata (June 17) // Right: Tottori (June 18)

June 18, Tottori prefecture -- Early in the morning in the town of Yonago, a 48-year-old resident found 30 tadpole carcasses scattered atop a section of a 5-meter-wide seaside retaining wall. The tadpoles, some of which had begun to develop legs, measured 2 to 4 centimeters long. According to the local weather agency, the maximum wind speed at the time was 3 meters/sec (6.7 mph) and conditions were not favorable for the development of waterspouts. A local biologist claimed it was unlikely that a bird scattered that many tadpoles along the wall.

June 18, Niigata prefecture -- At around 2:00 PM, a 63-year-old resident of the town of Nagaoka found about 50 carcasses of tadpoles, frogs, dragonfly nymphs and small fish in the street in front of his apartment building. The tadpoles were described as being in a **half-dried state**. One tadpole was also found on the roof of the apartment building, which is located in the center of town.

* * * * *

June 23, Fukushima prefecture -- At 10:30 AM on a clear, windless morning in the town of Aizu-Wakamatsu, two bicycle shop employees heard a loud thud outside their store. When they stepped out to investigate, they found a 35-centimeter-long catfish on the ground next to a parked minivan. The catfish appeared to have struck the vehicle, leaving a smear of mucus and mud on its left-hand side. The witnesses, whose shop is located nowhere near a catfish-populated river, do not believe it is the work of a human prankster. They suspect a bird may have dropped the catfish.

* * * * *

June 24, Yamaguchi prefecture -- At 6:00 AM, a 68-year-old resident of the town of Shunan heard the sound of something striking the roof of her home. When she stepped outside to investigate, she found about 20 wet tadpole carcasses on the ground and on the roof. The tadpoles each measured 3 to 4 centimeters long and were beginning to develop legs.

June 24, Yamagata prefecture -- At 4:30 PM, a 34-year-old piano instructor in the town of Shinjo discovered about 40 wet tadpole carcasses in her yard, just as she was leaving to walk her dog. The woman noticed the tadpoles after the dog started sniffing excitedly at the ground outside. She found a wet tadpole stuck to the dog's nose. The tadpoles, many of which appeared crushed, had not been in her yard two hours earlier.



Left: Yamaguchi prefecture, June 24 // Right: Aomori prefecture, July 1

July 1, Aomori prefecture -- A 29-year-old resident of the town of Rokunohe found about 40 tadpole carcasses scattered in the parking lot next to her apartment building. The tadpoles measured 2 to 5 centimeters long, and many of them appeared squashed. Several more were later found on the roof of the building.

* * * * *



Froglets scattered on rural road, Oita prefecture, July 7

July 7, Oita prefecture -- The bodies of more than 600 tadpoles and froglets were found scattered along a **100-meter stretch** of rural road near the town of Kusu. A 69-year-old farmer discovered the carcasses while on the way to check his rice fields in the morning. According to the farmer, who noticed nothing unusual on the road the night before, the irrigation channels and rice paddies near the road contain no water, implying that the froglets may have come from elsewhere.



Although the newspaper articles use the word lizards, I think in some cases, they actually refer to salamanders, as in the showers of Alameda and Sacramento they use the term 'water lizards' as slang for salamanders.

[Reports from the 1800s](#)

[Reports from the 1900s](#)

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Reports from the 1800s

Shower of Lizards.— The Le Roy (N. Y.) Gazette says that during the heavy rain on Sunday night last, live lizards, some of them measuring four inches in length, came from the clouds like manna, though neither as plenty nor half as welcome. They were found crawling on the sidewalks and in the streets like fugitive infantile alligators, in places far removed from localities where they inhabit.

Source: [Lewistown Gazette \(Lewistown, Pennsylvania\), 19 Nov. 1857, page 2](#) and [Sunbury American \(Sunbury, Pennsylvania\), 21 Nov. 1857, page 2](#) and [The Western Democrat \(Charlotte, North Carolina\), 24 Nov. 1857, page 2](#)

On Saturday evening our town was visited by the first rain which has fallen for three months. It seemed, since the 1st of May, that the "dry season" of the early years had returned, and that we were again to have summers without a drop of rain. The rain, however, though grateful and welcome, was not much of a surprise; but connected with it was a phenomenon without precedent in this section, unexplained by any of our philosophers, nothing more nor less than a shower of water-lizards. Over all the western part of the town, particularly around the Opera House, they were found in great numbers and of every length from two to eight inches. In looking over the ground to-day we found a number already quite dried up: and we note with surprise that there is so little substance in them as to leave nothing more than a mere skeleton. The greatest number seem to have fallen on Judge Spicer's premises. His cellar, lately dug, previously dry as a powder-house, contained several inches of water literally alive with these singular creatures. The Judge fished up some forty of the largest ones, and now has them alive in a water-tank near his house, where the curious may inspect them. On examination we found, them to have boneless limbs, and bodies very soft and "mushy;" they are quite lively in the water, but soon gel dry, dull, and inactive when laid out on the ground. They more nearly resemble the reptile known in the Northwest as the "mud-puppy" than any other we have seen. Their color is a dull brown, with bright spots, and their general make-up in other respects places them in the siredom class. The usual theory of "toad showers" is that the numerous toads seen after a sudden rain were really in the ground and were drawn out by the moisture; but that explanation is cut off in this case by two facts: First. That these are clearly water reptiles and die in a few minutes on dry land. Second. The ground has been so hard and dry that soft bodied reptiles could not have penetrated it. The walls of Judge Spicer's cellar on Saturday afternoon were as solid almost as a brick wall. Another singular fact is that numbers of the reptiles were found in the rain barrel, where they could not have crawled. One gentleman informs us that he counted two hundred in a small puddle on Colorado street. We noticed the dried remains of one which was seven inches in length, yet would not weigh an ounce. We give merely the facts, and so far are without any theory on the matter. But our local savans are busy, and by to-morrow we shall doubtless have a dozen explanations.

Source: [The Utah Weekly Reporter, \(Corinne, Utah\), August 6, 1870](#)

Was it a Shower of Frogs? In the town of Coventry, the other day, a road was shoveled through snow from four to six feet deep a distance of 40 rods, and, the next morning, the road was strewn with frogs **and** lizards, there probably being two bushels at least. It is a mystery where they came from. One theory is that a nest where they were wintering was stirred up. Some, however, think there was a shower of frogs the night before, as it **rained quite heavily**. If the former theory is correct, the reptiles must have been wintering in the snow, as the workmen did not shovel in any place to within a foot of the earth. The occurrence presents a question for the curious to solve.

Source: [Vermont Phoenix \(Brattleboro, Vermont\), 19 May 1876, front page](#)

Louisville...It is said that a number of young lizards fell in the rain of yesterday.

Source: [The Cincinnati Daily Star \(Cincinnati, Ohio\), 08 Sept. 1879, front page](#)

RAINED LIVE LIZARDS. Shower of Curious Reptiles Frighten Belated Denverites. It rained "cats and dogs" in Denver Tuesday night, as the grandmothers and maiden aunts put it. It did more, says the Denver News. It rained slimy reptiles of the lizard family, that gave sober men the chills to look upon, and sobered up the inebriated ones like a thousand Keeley cures condensed into one magnetic injection. They scampered over the asphalt pavements, these reptiles, looking like baby crocodiles. In the darkness nobody dared touch them; nobody knew what they were. They had just rained down apparently. On Seventeenth street several dozen of them rained down, apparently. Near the Brown Palace hotel one of them was driven into the gutter with the tip of an umbrella handle, and finally edged along until it was made prisoner in a big-mouthed quart bottle. Under the light it proved a most repulsive looking object. It is about eight inches long with four very active legs. It belongs to the lizard family. Its body is black, with regular markings of cream white. Its head is broad and flat, the nostrils wide apart, the mouth broad and set under. Its eyes are like beads and seem set upon instead of on the head, the whole eyeball being apparently exposed. It rears his head upon a flexible neck much like a snake. The specimen brought to the News office was very quick in noticing every movement made about it, and seemed ready for attack in its glass cage. Clearly, everything was now in its surroundings. It was been shortly before midnight. The smooth asphalt, wet with the rain, glistened under the electric lights, and over it darted the reptiles, making black streaks with their swiftly moving bodies that at once attracted the eye. Some disappeared in the cable slots; others darted over them and back and forth in a bewildered sort of way, as if out of their element. They were. They had just rained down, apparently. Late wayfarers gazed in astonishment. Men who abhor snakes and the like turned away without an attempt to inspect the reptiles closely. Men who court snakes and all sorts of strange creatures baited blindly, with the firm conviction that they had 'em at last. Others avoided the dark places, afraid of stepping on one of the scurrying reptiles. Nobody knew if they had a sting, if they could bite, if they were poisonous. How could they? They had just rained down, apparently.

Else how the sudden appearance of these reptiles upon the asphalt paved streets to be accounted for? There was an **an usually heavy shower** soon after 11 o'clock, and it had scarcely ceased when the reptiles were observed. How many there were it would be hard to estimate, even in the three blocks between the Albany and the Brown, while other sections of the city may have had a similar visitation. But, however they came, they were present in the life. The specimen captured for the News was as lively as a cricket at 3 o'clock next morning, but no one has been found sufficiently courageous to release it from the big bottle for a closer study of what sort of reptile it is.

Source: [Omaha Daily Bee. \(Omaha Nebraska\), 25 July 1894, page 3](#)

IT RAINED LIZARDS OVER IN ALAMEDA. ALAMEDA, March 24.— The old story anent the storm when it "rained cats and dogs" has been discounted in Alameda. Police Sergeant Albert Kamp is responsible for the statement that it actually rained lizards at an early hour this morning. The lizards that came from the sky, as Mr. Kamp firmly believes, are of the salamander variety, of pinkish color, unable to navigate on land and commonly known as a water lizard. Mr. Kamp noticed a number of these little reptiles on his way to the city Hall this morning and was somewhat astonished at the unusual occurrence, as he passed down Oak street and when opposite the prison he felt something strike his hat with considerable force and saw one of the salamanders bound off to the sidewalk. He looked heavenward to see if some one was playing a prank on him, but there was nothing above him but dark clouds. While he was still gazing skyward another lizard struck on his face and fell to the ground and then the police sergeant was firmly convinced that he was in a shower of salamanders. "I have seen lots of these things in mountain streams," said Mr. Kamp, but never saw them around Alameda in such numbers before. I can't help but think the pair that struck me came from the clouds, as I am sure there was no place else for them to come from under the circumstances." Mr. Kamp has saved one of the lizards and will preserve it as a curiosity.

Source: The San Francisco Call ([San Francisco, California](#)), 25 March 1899, page [10](#)

Reports from the 1900s

A RAIN OF FISH. Jamestown Alert: R. E. Wallace and son took five barrels of different kind of fish from the water holes along side the road near the Mutz school last week and put the young fish in Spirit wood lake. Several of the varieties were sent to the fish commissioner at Washington, with an account of the circumstances. It is supposed that the young fish rained down as no other means of propagation are known to have been used. There are said to be millions of the fish left in the little slough. While the superintendent, in charge of the government fish car, was here last year he stated that there was no doubt that young fish, frogs **and lizards** were deposited in rain fall.

Source: [Bismarck Saily Tribune \(Bismarck, Dakota \[N.D.\]\), 20 Aug. 1902, page 3](#)

It Rained Lizards. Kanlotus, Washington. July 29

During a shower yesterday afternoon a great many small lizards, or water dogs, were noticed on the side walks and in the streets. They may not have "rained down" as they have appeared to have done, but they were so numerous that over 80 were collected in front of one building. Source: [The Seattle Star. \(Seattle, Washington\), 29 July 1909, page 10](#)

Down at Harrodsburg last Thursday during a shower of rain, a lot of small red lizards fell, so says the Herald. If it were not that we know it is in dry territory, we would inquire what brand they were drinking down there.

Source: [The Central Record \(Lancaster, Kentucky\), 01 Sept. 1911, front page](#)



Rain of snakes seems to be extremely rare. There are only a handful of cases known, and none after 1911.

[Reports of the 1800s](#)

[Reports of the 1900s](#)

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Engraving of raining snakes during a Renaissance storm. In: "Der Wunderreiche Uberzug unserer Nider-Welt...." by Erasmus Francisci, 1680

Reports of the 1800s

"Concerning the reported shower of snakes at Memphis on the 15th, the following is taken from the observer's report: Morning opened with light rain; 10:20 a.m. it began to **pour down in torrents**, lasting fifteen minutes, wind SW.; immediately after the reptiles were discovered crawling on the sidewalks, in the road, gutters and yards of Vance street, between Lauderdale and Goslee streets, **two blocks**, careful inquiry was made to ascertain if anyone had seen them descent, but without results; neither were they to be found in the cisterns, on roofs, or any elevation above the ground; Vance street is comparatively new, has no pavements, gutters; merely trenches; I heard of none being found elsewhere; when first seen they we're a very dark brown, almost black; were **very thick in some places**, being tangled together like a mass of thread or yarn."

Source: Monthly Weather Review of January 1877, page 8

Snakes Rained Down at Memphis.

During the **heavy rain storm** January 16, a fall of small live snakes was noticed in the southern part of Memphis, thousands of which could be seen to day. They are from a foot to a foot and a half in length.

Source: [The Bolivar Bulletin \(Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee\), 01 Feb. 1877, page 3](#)

It Rained Snakes at Pierre.

A dispatch from Pierre, S.D., says: About 7:30 o'clock last night clouds began to gather and in ten minutes rain began to pour, accompanied by strong wind. Just about the time the rain ceased small snakes from twelve to sixteen inches long fell to the ground in various places. These were coiled, and when they struck the ground seemed to be somewhat stunned. The snakes have a bluish color.

Source: [Evening Star \(Washington, D.C.\), 08 July 1890, page 8](#)

[S.D. = South Dakota]

Same event with more details:

A peculiar phenomenon occurred at Pierre, S. D., and one which seems almost miraculous. About 7:30 p. m. clouds began to gather, and in ten minutes the rain commenced to pour down, accompanied by a strong wind. Just about the time the rain ceased, small snakes, from twelve to sixteen inches long, fell to the ground in various places. These were coiled or snarled up in a peculiar fashion, and when they struck the ground seemed to be somewhat stunned. Several parties killed some of the snakes and exhibited them. At first the fact that the snakes rained down was laughed at, but subsequently the evidence became so convincing that it is now universally known to be true. The snakes have a peculiar bluish color, and seem to have **a peculiar light about their heads, looking like a halo when in the dark.**

Source: [The Princeton Union \(Princeton, Minnessota\), 17 July 1890, page 2](#)

Reports of the 1900s

Rained Snakes.

Columbus Ky. - Hundreds of colored people and some whites have left the country across the Mississippi river from here owing to a deluge of green snakes which covered the earth by the thousands after a **heavy shower**. No one has been found to offer an answer to offset the one that it rained snakes and many of the white families are agitated over the curious phenomenon.

Source: [Mount Vernon Signal \(Mt. Vernon, Kentucky\), 16 Aug. 1907, page 2](#)

IT RAINED SNAKES.

Downpour of Six-Inch Reptiles Astonishes Californians.

SAX FRANCISCO, January 7 - Thousands of tiny snakes poured from the clouds into Golden Gate Park during the storm of Monday, according to Park Supt. McLaren. The superintendent and other attaches of the park declared that for several hours the walks of the big pleasure grounds were covered with a wriggling mass of snakes. After the downpour of snakes they disappeared in the slush and mud. Secretary Healy, in describing the ophidian precipitation, said: "We thought

at first that they were worms or fish, but on inspection saw that they were really snakes, measuring from three to seven inches in length and averaging a quarter of an inch in thickness. We made no attempt to obtain any specimens."

Source: Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), 27 Jan. 1909, page 2

Horse Cave, Ky., May 4 - Ed Long of near this place, states that during the rainfall last Saturday it rained more than a dozen snakes on his house, and they fell to the ground. They were of different kinds, and were about one foot long. He will make affidavit that it is a fact.

Source: [The Hickman Courier \(Hickman, Kentucky\), 11 May 1911, page 8](#)



[Reports from the 1800s](#)

[Reports from the 1900s](#)

[Reports from the 2000s](#)

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Reports from the 1800s

London Times, April 14, 1837: "That, in the parish of Bramford Speke, Devonshire, a large number of black worms, about three-quarters of an inch in length, had fallen in a snow storm. [no original account found]

"Large number of worms found in a snowstorm, **upon the surface of snow** about **four inches thick**, near Sangerfield, N. Y., Nov. 18, 1850" [no original account found]

A letter from Bucharest [Rumania] reports a curious atmospheric phenomenon which occurred there on the 25th ultimo at a quarter past 9 in the evening. During the day the heat was stifling, and the sky cloudless. Towards nine o'clock **a small cloud appeared** on the horizon and a quarter of an hour afterwards rain began to fall when to the horror of everybody, it was found to consist of black worms of the size of an ordinary fly. **All the streets were strewn** with these curious animals. We trust there was some one in the town sufficiently interested in natural history to preserve some specimens, and that we shall hear something

further respecting this phenomenon. — Levant Times, August 6.

Source: [Evening News \(Sydney, Australia\), 10 December 1872, page 3](#)

A Shower of Worms.

During the rain-storm on April 23, there wee showered down on and about the premises of Mrs. McDonald, near the corner of E and Washington streets, million of small worms of the ordinary angle-worm Species. These worms were from three to four inches ii length and quote slender. They came down alive and wriggling. The shower of worms only covered an area of about fifty yards square, but within this place they covered everything. There can ho no doubt about these worms coming down from the heavens, as the balconies were so thickly strewn with them that they could be scraped up in handfuls. Buckets, tubs and pans placed udder the roofs of houses to catch the rain-water also caught great numbers of the worms. The side walks in the neighbourhood were covered with them. The worms present the same appearance as the common angle-worm, except that are redder in color and are marked from end to end with mall rings about one-sixteenth of an inch apart. A great number of persons visited the locality and examined and speculated upon the vermicular shower. The prevailing opinion appeared to be that the worms had been sucked up by a whirlwind from some swamp or pond and carried in the clouds to be finally deposited where they were found. Though fact that though worms seemed to be more at home in water than on the ground give some foundation for this theory. It is now said that a similar shower of worms fell in the western part of the city some years ago. From the Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise.

Source: [The Rutland Daily Globe \(Rutland, Vermont\), 03 May 1876, front page](#)

In Timb's Year Book, 1877-26, it is said that, in the winter of 1876, at Christiania, Norway, worms were found crawling upon the ground. The occurrence is considered a great mystery, because the worms could not have come up from the ground, inasmuch as the ground was frozen at the time, and because they were reported from other places, also, in Norway." [no original account found]

Crawfordville, Ind., July 15. During a storm Sunday night a number of fish **and** angle-worms fell from the clouds. The fish were from two to four inches long, and many of them were **eyeless**, like those in Mammoth cave.

Source: [The Evening Bulletin \(Maysville, Kentucky\), 15 July 1890, front page](#)

Shower of Worms.

The Morrineville correspondent of a New Zealand paper writes: "A curious phenomenon occurred here one day last week, and was noticed on the farm of Mr. Turubull, who lives about a mile from the township. During a **heavy squall**

there fell a shower of small red worms of bright colour, varying in size from an inch to an inch and a half in length. Vessels, such as milk dishes, dishes, etc., were filled to a depth of from one to three inches, and the worms lay nearly **an inch thick** upon the yard about the house and in the grass land about the vicinity. They were, however, soon dried up by the sun and unfortunately none were saved for transmission to the Auckland Society.

Source: [Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate \(NSW, Australia\), 10 January 1891, Page 9](#)

Snow Worms.

A puzzling phenomenon has been noticed frequently in some parts of Valley Bend District, Randolph County, Va., this winter. The crust of the snow has been covered two or three times with worms, resembling the ordinary cutworms. Where they come from, unless they fall with the snow, is inexplicable. The snow is two feet deep, and the crust is too strong for them to have come up out of the ground. A square foot of snow can scarcely be found some days without a dozen of these worms on it.

Source: [Scientific American, February 21, 1891, page 116](#)

During a fall of snow at Lancaster recently, accompanied by a violent wind, **storm**, great quantities of worms fell, being probably brought from some distant point by the wind. Some of the worms were the ordinary cut-worm, but there was **a specimen unknown**, a long, many-footed insect, with a horned head. A strange feature was the fact that the worms should, at this season of the year, exhibit so much life as did these remarkable visitors. The snow is **some places was full of the worms**, and ignorant people were not a little worried over this strange visitation.

Source: [Pittsburg Dispatch \(Pittsburg, Pennsylvania\), 05 March 1892, page 4](#)

ON the night of April 13th, at Alliance, Ohio, during a severe rain storm, **millions** of angle worms fell, making it nearly impossible for people to traverse the sidewalks of that city. Now, the superstitious will have strange stories to tell. It furnishes good grounds for an awakening among a certain class of people, and may be the means of leading many from the error of their ways.

Source: [The Princeton Union. \(Princeton, Minnesota\), 18 April 1895, page 4](#)

SHOWER OF WORMS.

East St. Louis Visited by Strange Phenomenon.

East St. Louis was visited by a shower of wire-worms during the rain of yesterday morning, says the St. Louis Republican. The wire-worms were of a small size, about 2 1/2 to 3 inches in length and very thin. Their heads were covered with a whitish substance. They died a few hours after the rain stopped. Several of them were caught and placed in alcohol to preserve them. Charles Merker, a druggist at Bader's drug store was one of the first to discover the peculiar worm. He had placed a shallow vessel in the rain to gauge the amount of rain fall. When he looked at the vessel for the purpose of gauging it, he was surprised to see it full of small wriggling objects. The objects were just about the thickness of hairs, which they resembled to a considerable degree. Merker called William Spannagle, a fellow-druggist, and they examined the worms through a microscope and discovered them to be wire-worms. It seems that the worms fell in other portions of the city also. People mistook them for thread fiber. The people who saw them were completely mystified. They can not account for their presence on the ground. The wire-worm is known to live in pools and shallow ponds. It is supposed that ponds dried up in the extreme dry spell just passed and that the worms were picked up by the high winds that prevailed Sunday and were kept in the air and clouds until they were rained down upon the heads of East St. Louis yesterday. Not one of the worms could be found several hours after the rain ceased. All of them had found small holes, into which they crawled out of sight.

Source: [The Saint Paul Globe \(St. Paul, Minnesota\), 16 Nov. 1897, page 6](#)

Reports from the 1900s

A perfect shower of small, white worms fell late one evening at the Malmo railway station. Their numbers were so great that they covered the depot platform and the ground like a layer of snow. The phenomenon was limited to a small area.

Source: [Warren Sheaf \(Warren, Marshall County, Minnesota.\), 11 July 1901, page 7](#)

PORTLANDERS THINK IT RAINED WORMS

Says last Friday's Portland Journal: "Residents of the district surrounded by Seventh, Columbia, Tenth and Clifton streets are firmly of the belief that the rain of last night did not consist altogether of water, for the pavement in that section this morning was covered with millions of slippery, slimy angle worms. Early in the day pedestrians experienced considerable difficulty negotiating the sidewalks on Park street. There are, in fact, many who are willing to testify that they saw the worms falling, mingled with the large drops of rain of the early morning fall..."

Source: [The Hood River glacier. \(Hood River, Oregon\), February 15, 1912, page 7\)](#)

Sees Shower Worms

Bergen Point, N. J. - During a storm a shower of sand worms fell upon the deck of the ferryboat Bayonne City, Capt. William Duffy swears it's true.

Source: [Dakota farmers' Leader \(Canton, South Dakota\), 29 March 1912, page 3](#)

Bushels of fish worms fell Wednesday night. The pavements were strewn with them. The fall of rain was nearly as great as worms.

Source: [Chariton Courier \(Keytesville, Chariton County, Missouri.\), 30 Jan. 1914, page 5](#)

Strange Things from the Sky

A correspondent writes that after a **heavy storm** recently he saw the pavement of a town sprinkled with many small earthworms, apparently lifeless, and looking as if they had boon drowned, and, since it was seemingly Impossible that they could, have crawled there **in such numbers**, he wishes to know if science can throw any light on their probably origin...

Source: [The Border Morning Mail and Riverina Times \(Albury, NSW, Australia\), 7 July 1914, Page 4\)](#)

Connella Vows He Saw Worms Fall From Sky

Will now Believe That at Times It May Even "Rain Cats and Dogs:

Worms which "fell from the sky" Thursday evening in the **drenching downpour** that succeeded the humid heat of the early afternoon, covered the sidewalks in several portions of the town and were the object of wonder to spectators. That the worms covered the sidewalk is known to a number of persons, and that they fell from the sky is vouched for by at least one man. Several others are said to have witnessed the phenomenon. J. W. Connella, deputy collector of internal revenue, is the man who declares he saw the worms fall from the heavens. "I was going home yesterday after noon," says Connella, "and luckily I had my umbrella with me. In the heaviest portion of the storm I suddenly noticed that the sidewalk all about my feet was alive with worms of all sizes varying from one-eighth of an inch to three Inches." "Wondering where they came from, I looked out, from my umbrella and found they were falling from the sky. I don't think I was mistaken. Several other persons along the sidewalk admitted that they had seen the same thing." Connella has traveled a good bit over various parts of the earth, and seen a good many interesting things, but he says that this is the first time he has ever seen a shower of worms. "I have heard that it rains cats and dogs, he says, and after seeing this I almost believe that too is possible." Mark Colburn, head janitor at the capitol grounds, is accredited with saying when Connella told him , the story, "Believe me, I'm going to be on the lookout to keep them from getting into the palm trees or into the capitol where they would ruin things by boring."

Source: [Honolulu star-bulletin. \(Honolulu ,Oahu, Hawaii\), November 13, 1915, page 8](#)

SIX INCH WORMS RAIN IN ENGLAND

LONDON, July 10. (NANA)- Worms rained on Brentford Gardens, London, England, during a recent thunder storm. Thousands of them were found afterwards. The worms were from four to six inches long and **almost transparent**. Instead of keeping to the soil, they immediately invaded surrounding shrubs and the leaves of small plants.

Source: [Spokane Daily Chronicle - Jul 10, 1931, page25](#)

Reports from the 2000s

Raining Worms in Jennings

Like she's done so many times, Jennings Police Department employee Eleanor Beal crosses the street to go to work -- but Sunday afternoon was different. "All of the sudden things started falling from the sky," recalled Beal. It wasn't a bird. It wasn't a plane. It was worms... Large tangled **clumps** falling on her and another female officer. "When I saw that they were crawling... I said it's worms get out of the way," said Beal. "I ran as fast as I could thinking I could get to shelter." Word that it was raining worms was so far fetched that Communications Officer Martha Amie had to see it to believe it. "And it was all over the street. And they had a few together, but they had a few globs. I looked in the sky, there was **no clouds**, we weren't under the poles and we weren't under the trees and I couldn't believe it! I just ran back inside because I didn't want any more to fall on my head," said Amie. As we all know, earthworms live in the dirt. They don't have wings. So just how did those slimy creatures become airborne? "I don't know where this could have possibly come from," said Amie. "I would think it's some kind of bird that regurgitated the worms. I don't understand how they were still alive," said Beal....

Source: [KPLC7](#) local news, July 17, 2007

[Here, the children actually saw the worms fall out of a blue sky! Galashiels is a town in the Scottish borders in England.]

PE teacher and pupils left gobsmacked as it starts raining worms

STUNNED schoolkids had to run for cover as WORMS rained down on their football pitch. PE teacher David Crichton told yesterday of the bizarre shower, which happened as he led a lesson for secondyear boys. The boys heard a "soft thudding" on the artificial pitch - then looked up to see dozens of worms plummeting from the sky.

David, 26, said he and other teachers at Galashiels Academy were baffled by the

incident. And they later found more worms spread across a school tennis court almost 100 yards from the pitch. He said: "We started hearing this wee thudding noise. There were about 20 worms on the ground. "Then they just kept coming down.

The kids were laughing but some were covering their heads and others were running for cover. They just scattered to get out of the way."

The bizarre occurrence took place at 9.15am on Tuesday. The teacher scooped up handfuls of the worms that had fallen from the sky as proof they had landed on his class. He and his colleagues eventually found around 120 worms in total after checking the artificial football pitch and tennis courts.

David added: "Everyone was having a laugh at me about it until they went out and saw for themselves. "Everyone thought I was mad. They came back in and looked shocked. "I spoke with the science department here but none of them had any explanation for it. One of them thought maybe it was a freak weather thing.

"But it was such a clear, calm day. And we are quite a bit away from any of the buildings so it's not like anyone could have been throwing them." Galashiels Academy head Kenny McKay said: "The event does coincide with a significant change in the weather in recent days and so could be the result of an unusual meteorological event.

"None of the students will ever forget the day at school when worms fell out of the sky." Worms falling from the sky have been recorded in Europe and America, including one fall in Louisiana in 2007, blamed on freak weather lifting worms and water from a nearby river. ([Daily Record](#), 2 April, 2011)

Suddenly it rained earthworms in Bergen

[Bergen is the second largest city in Norway. As usual, scientists explain it away as wind that swirled up the worms from somewhere else. These earthworms were lying on top of the snow. Another article mentioned that the snow was half a meter thick (3 feet), so they didn't crawl up from the ground. Also the worm were alive. And no dirt, leaves or twigs, just plain worms.]

The biologist was on a mountain trip just a few kilometers from the center of Bergen when he got the surprise of his life.

On the mountain Rundemanen it rained earthworms. The place is just under six kilometers' walk from Fisketorget.

"Yes, of course I was surprised. As a biologist, I am out in the woods and fields a lot. This was no ordinary experience", says Karstein Erstad to NRK. He estimates that there were between 10 and 20 earthworms per square meter of snow over a large area. Each of the spots was five to six centimeters long. There were earthworms everywhere I went. There must have been thousands."

Karstein Erstad, biologist

International attention

According to Bergens Tidende, the phenomenon in Bergens Tidende [one of Norway's biggest newspapers] is attracting international attention. The worms have probably been blown up by the wind, and come down together with the rainfall. Laboratory testing with wind machines shows that the earthworm takes off if they are swirled up.

The phenomenon is not common, but has been described on a few occasions, including in Sweden in 1923–24. In 1957, the weekly magazine Allers wrote about something similar. Then there was talk of the discovery of earthworms on frozen water. - This is a phenomenon we know from the literature, but it is the first time in my time as a researcher that I have been notified that it has happened on snow, says senior researcher Trond Haraldsen at Bioforsk. He tells NRK that the fields, probably stubble earthworm fields, have grazed on leaves that have been blown into the air by strong gusts of wind. Then the fields have been thrown off and fallen down, perhaps from a great height. (nrk.no, April 14, 2015)



The day after, the same news site had a follow up article:

Flying earthworm observed in half of Norway

Flying earthworm observed in half of Norway Observations of flying earthworms are pouring in from all over southern Norway. Now the researchers are trying to find out how far the small arthropods actually fly before they fall down with the rain.

Biologist Karstein Erstad was on a mountain trip in Bergen recently when he got the surprise of his life: On Rundemanen, earthworms rained down from the sky and landed on the snow over a large area. The place is just under six kilometers' walk from Fisketorget. After NRK and several other media followed up the news in Bergens Tidende, the phone of senior researcher Trond Haraldsen at Bioforsk in Ås has not been silent.

Phones from all over the country

We have received massive feedback about similar cases, including in Lindås, Suldal and Femunden. The latter place is 700 meters above sea level. A man with a sod roof in Northwest Norway tells how earthworms have inexplicably spread on the roof, says researcher Haraldsen. He emphasizes that flying earthworms that fall with the rainfall have only been observed after particularly mild winters.

NRK.no has received tips from readers in both Molde and Bergen who believe they have experienced a similar phenomenon, namely earthworm rain. - Hundreds of fields were scattered neatly across Store Såta, a small peak in Helldalsåsen in Bergen. I wondered terribly what had happened, but they must have come from above since they were strewn across the rocky ground on a mountain top, tipster Sverre A. Stakkestad tells NRK. (nrk.no, April 15, 2015)

[The following is a mysterious appearance of clumps of worms, neatly placed in one straight line in the middle of a road. This happened in Eisenhower State Park in Denison, Texas, after heavy rains, on May 29, 2015. Strangely, the worms stayed for two days before heading back into the soil and leaving behind their manure. Nobody had an explanation. In nature worms do not huddle together like that, so they must have come from someone who is breeding them in closed spaces. Also, worms will immediately dig into the soil to avoid being eaten by birds and to avoid to dry out in the open air. With some fish and frogs showers we also find that these have been dropped in a straight line.]

"The deluge that flooded parts of Texas over the past week created a strange sight on a patch of the state's highways: clumps of worms along the center line. Thousands of worms, initially mistaken for discarded spaghetti, were found in Eisenhower State Park in Denison, Texas. An ABC News article explained, "The piles in the middle of Eisenhower State Park were actually worms, Park Superintendent Ben Herman told ABC News. Rangers were checking the back roads of the park in Denison, Texas, found on May 29 when they found the piles lined up in a near-perfect straight line. "We're still puzzled why they decided to line up in the middle of the road," Herman said. "Even our biologist doesn't know why they're spaced so well and in the line." (Source: ABC News and [YouTube Video](#))



Rain of Other Animals

Larvae of beetles

"Fall of great numbers of larvae of beetles, near Mortagne, France, May, 1858. The larvae were inanimate as if with cold. [from Book of the Damned by Charles Fort]

Periwinkles

"A thunderstorm of **unusual severity** passed over Worcester and neighbourhood almost three o'clock on Saturday. The rain was exceedingly **heavy** and the lightning very vivid. Several accidents are reported, but none of a very serious nature. At Whitehall, a woman was driving a donkey and cart along the road and the animal was struck dead by lightning. At Fearnall Heath a chimney in the house of Mr. John Baylis was struck, and a quantity of bricks were knocked down. A chimney at Mr. Chambers', Ashwood, was damaged, At Boughton Fields, St. John's, a woman was struck, and she lost the use of her limbs for several hours. The storm at St. John's was of an **exceedingly phenomenal character**. We learn from Mr. Bozward and others who observed its effects that when it began at three o'clock there was light wind from the north, and while the thermometer stood at 67 the barometer was at 30. At first there was a **heavy fall of hail**. It was more like the hailstorms that visit the south of France than those which the inhabitants of the Midland Counties of England have experienced. The hail tore leaves off tree, stripped a good deal of the crops of apples, plums, and bush fruit, cut off peas, potatoes, and beans, and generally battered the crops in the gardens as though they had been trampled on. During the course of the storms a man named John Greenall, taking shelter in his master's garden at Comer-Lane, observed **large numbers of periwinkles fall**, some of them being buried a considerable depth in the ground with others rebounding off the surface. The fall was confined to the market garden belonging to Mr. Leeds and the Comer-lane. Intelligence of what had happened had soon spread abroad, and an army of Worcester arabs took possession, and were as busy as diamond-diggers "prospecting." They gathered the periwinkles, which were **in such profusion** that one man alone succeeded in collecting two pecks. The search was prosecuted during the remainder of the day, and when darkness came it was continued by the aid of lanterns. All day yesterday it was still being persevered in, and today the periwinkles are still being found. A live specimen is before us as we write. In one large shell, which a boy picked up in the lane and gave to Mr. Joseph Phillips, of St. John's, was a living hermit crab. "

Source: [Worcester Daily Times of May 30th 1881](#)

[Worcester is 50 miles from the sea, hermits crabs were also found according to other newspapers]

Snails

"That small **snails**, of a land species, had fallen near Redruth, Cornwall, July 8, 1886. "Cornwall had enjoyed a beautiful summer's morning and afternoon. By the late afternoon, however, there was a distinct **blackening of the skies** as ever-darker clouds rolled in from the west and the temperature plummeted. Then came the rain, pulsing waves that swept across the land, and soon thunder began to rumble. In Redruth at the height of the storm came another sound – a pitter-pattering like hail. But this was no common sky-fall. From beneath umbrellas, bay windows and shop-fronts, residents of the town were astonished to see **masses**

of small snails descend from the heavens. "Those caught out in the open had no option but to crunch their way over the creatures, **so thickly did they cover the ground**. The roads and fields were strewn with them over a distinct area of half a square mile." Contemporary reports stated that the shower lasted for ten minutes. On closer inspection it was discovered the snails were alive, but **quite different in appearance to those common in the area..**" [from Book of the Damned by Charles Fort]

Mussels

Das Wetter [a German publication] of December last contains an account of a heavy thunderstorm which occurred at Paderborn on August 9, 1892, in which a number of living pond mussels were mixed with the rain. The observer who is in connection with the Berlin Meteorological Office sent a detailed account of the strange occurrence, and a specimen was forwarded to the Museum at Berlin, which stated that it was the *Anodonta anatina* (L.). **A yellowish cloud** attracted the attention of several people, **both from its colour and the rapidity of its motion**, when suddenly it burst, a **torrential rain** fell with a rattling sound, and immediately afterwards the pavement was found to be covered with hundreds of the mussels. Further details will be published in the reports of the Berlin Office, but the only possible explanation seems to be that the water of a river in the neighbourhood was drawn up by a passing tornado, and afterwards deposited its living burden at the place in question.

Source: [Nature, No. 1212, Volume 47, January 19, 1893, page 278](#)

Shrimps

"Shrimps from the Sky. On August 1st it was reported that a **large quantity of shrimps** fell near Singleton in a prolonged shower of rain. The Chief Secretary, referring to this report, stated that specimens of shrimps had come to hand, and were pronounced by the ichthyologist at the Australian Museum to be fresh water shrimps *Hiphocaris compressa*. "Those crustaceans," said Mr. Fuller, "are found in great abundance in fresh water in our water systems, and the shrimps which fell with the rain near Singleton were doubtless collected by a waterspout from some shallot inland lagoon or waterhole and carried in the clouds to Broke, where the phenomenal shower fell. It will be of interest to recall the fact that at the latter end of 1913 a shower of small fish, identified as *Cratorocephalus fluviatilis* commonly known as Hardyheads, fell in a rainstorm at Quirindi."

Source: [Queanbeyan Age and Queanbeyan Observer \(NSW, Australia\), Tuesday 20 August 1918, Page 4](#)

Eels

RAINED FISH AND EELS.

Natches, Miss., April 27.-During an unusual heavy rain here Tuesday fish and eels fell from the sky and were picked up alive, according to a number of persons. Several of the fish and eels were brought to the office of the Natches Democrat and the occurrence has created much speculation as to how the finny specimens were drawn up into the clouds, although it is stated by old residents that the incident is not unusual.

Source: [Tensas Gazette \(St. Joseph, Louisiana\), April 29, 1921, page 2](#)



Sometimes flesh or meat falls down from the sky. I guess the aliens also grind up animals (and humans?) before they dump them, or are they cleaning out their refrigerator? In all those accounts, the sky was clear.

[Reports from the 1800s](#)

[Reports from the 1900s](#)

[Reports from the 2000s](#)

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Reports from the 1800s

"Shower of red matter like blood and muscle - We are indebted to Prof. Troost of Nashville, Tennessee for an interesting notice of a remarkable event. It appears from communications made to that gentleman, that on Friday, August 17, between one and two o'clock, P. M., the negroes of Mr. Chandler, near Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee, came in and reported that it had been **raining blood** in the tobacco field where they had been at work ; that near noon there was **a rattling noise** like rain or hail, and drops of blood, as they supposed, **which fell from a red cloud which was flying over**. Intelligent men visited the ground, and observed drops apparently of blood on the upper surface of the tobacco leaves, and portions of **flesh and fat**—one piece one and a half inches long, emitting a very offensive smell over the field. The drops evidently fell perpendicularly over a space **from forty to sixty yards broad, and six or eight hundred yards long**. Some, appeared to have been clear blood uncombined with anything else; others, blood united with muscular fibre and fat. Dr. Troost after visiting the place, it; decidedly of the opinion that it was animal matter, but he thinks not blood ; although he distinctly distinguished muscular fibres, on

maceration of the matter in water, which separated longitudinally as in the case of dried beef ; they were of a reddish brown color. The pieces supposed to be blood were brown and resembled glue. There was a distinct smell of animal matter in a state of putrefaction. Both the muscular part and that which had been called blood, were heated in a glass tube, and were similarly affected as beef would have been in the same circumstances ; there was a movement in the mass, a brown fluid ease, and a block animal charcoal remained."

Source: [The American Journal of Science and Arts, October 1841, page 404](#)

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON:

SHOWER OF FLESH AND BLOOD.

We extract from the Fayetteville Carolinian, of March 9th, the following paragraph relative to a phenomenon recently witnessed in North Carolina: "We received on Wednesday the following communication from Mr. Clarkson, through Mr. Holland, of Clinton, and take great pleasure in laying the astonishing particulars before our readers: ' On the 15th February, 1850, there fell within 100 yards of the residence of Thomas M. Clarkson, in Sampson county, a shower of **flesh, and blood** about **30 feet wide, and, as far as it was traced, about 250 or 300 yards in length**. The pieces appeared to be **flesh, liver, lights, brains, and blood**. **Some of the blood ran on the leaves**, apparently very fresh. Three of his (T. M. C's) children were in it, and ran to their mother, exclaiming, 'Mother, there is meat falling'. Their mother went immediately to see, but the shower was over, but there lay the flesh, &c. Neil Campbell, Esq., living close by, was on the spot shortly after it fell, and pronounced it as above. One of his children was about 150 yards from the shower, and came running to the rest, saying he smelt something like blood. During the time it was falling there was **a cloud overhead, having a red appearance** like a wind cloud. There was **no rain**. The above you may rely on, and by Mr. Holland you have pieces of the flesh, which are reduced by being kept so long. Yours, &c" T. M. C. The piece which was left with us has been examined with two of the best microscopes in the place, and the existence of blood well established; but nothing was shown giving any indication of the character of the matter. It has the smell both in its dry state, and when macerated in water, of putrid flesh; and there can scarcely be a doubt that it is such."

Source: [The Courier \(Hobart, Tasmania\), 27 July 1850, Page 4](#), and [Vermont watchman and State journal. \(Montpelier, Vermont\), April 04, 1850, front page](#)

On Saturday, the 20th instant, a shower of meat fell at the army station near Benicia. It was first observed by Major Allen, who was first struck by one of the falling pieces. The shower lasted two or three minutes. The pieces were from the size of a pigeon's egg up to that of an orange — the heaviest perhaps weighing three ounces. No birds were visible in the air at the time. Specimens of this meat, which is apparently beef, were preserved by Major Allen and the Surgeon of the

Post. A piece that was examined three hours after it fell, showed a portion of a small **blood vessel**, some of the sheath of a **muscle and muscular fibre**. It was slightly tainted. The ground on which the shower fell was about **three hundred yards long and eighty wide**, and the entire amount of meat between two and a half and five bushels in bulk. No pieces of bone were found. A strong wind from the west was blowing at the time, and **the skies were clear**. This is the third occurrence of the kind on record in the last six years.

Source: [The Cornwall Chronicle \(Launceston, Tasmania\), 25 October 1851, Page 679](#) and

[Hobart Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania \(Hobart, Tasmania\), 29 October 1851, page 3](#)

What next from California! A San Jose paper relates that a shower of fresh meat has fallen upon a spot in that vicinity. The ground to the extent of about five acres was covered with meat, which fell **from a clear sky**. One gentleman who was standing in the field was pelted with the little chunks, and another made quite a collection of the fragments to show to the editor. It would seem as if the "man in the moon" had tipped over his refrigerator or blown up his butcher shop.

Source: [The Petroleum Centre daily record \(Petroleum Centre, Pennsylvania\), March 29, 1869, Page 2](#) and [The Wheeling daily intelligencer. \(Wheeling, West Virginia\), March 24, 1869, page 2](#)

Flesh Descending in a shower;

An astounding phenomenon in Kentucky; Fresh meat like mutton or venison falling from a clear sky.

Louisville, March 9.—The Bath County (KY.) news of this date says. " On last Friday a shower of meat fell near the house of Allen Crouch, who lives some two or three, miles from the Olympian Springs in the southern portion of the county, covering a strip of ground about **one hundred yards in length and fifty wide**. Mrs. Crouch was out in the yard at the time, engaged in making soap, when meat which looked like beef began to fall around her. **The sky was perfectly clear at the time**, and she said it fell like large snow flakes, the pieces as a general thing not being much larger. One piece fell near her which was three or four inches square. Mr. Harrison Gill, whose veracity is unquestionable, and from whom we obtained the above facts, hearing of the occurrence visited the locality de next day, and says he saw particles of meat sticking to the fences and scattered over the ground. The meat when it first fell appeared to be perfectly **fresh**. The correspondent of the Louisville *Commercial*, writing from Mount Sterling, corroborates the above, and says the pieces of flesh were of various sizes and shapes, some of them being two inches square. Two gentlemen, who tasted the meat, express the, opinion that it was either mutton or venison."

Source: The New York Times, March 10, 1876

On February 25, 1884, Mrs. Kit Lasater, "noted for truthfulness," was walking near her home in the New Hope township of Chatham County when she heard what she thought was a hard rain fall. Glancing up she saw only **clear sky** but when she glanced down she saw what appeared to be the aftermath of a "shower of pure blood." None of the liquid had fallen on her but it had drenched the ground and surrounding trees for some 60 feet (some accounts say yards) in circumference from the spot where she stood. Upon hearing her story, neighbors rushed to see for themselves and, when later interviewed, confirmed the story as related by Mrs. Lasater. Samples were collected and sent to Dr. F. P. Venable, a professor at UNC, for evaluation. By mid-April he addressed the topic to the Mitchell Scientific Society. In every test performed except one, the conclusion was the same. The samples appeared to be **blood**. Venable could offer no explanation beyond the results of the tests, suggesting that "the subject is quite a puzzle and offers a tempting field for the theorist blessed with a vivid imagination." Similar cases of blood showers have been reported for centuries in various locations around the world.

Source: [This Day in North Carolina History](#)

Here is the article F.P.Venable published with the results of his examination:

FALL OF BLOOD IN CHATHAM COUNTY.

F. P. VENABLE.

A singular shower of some red liquid, supposed to be blood, which fell in Chatham on February 25th, 1884, was mentioned in some of the State papers, but little notice was taken of it. Nearly a week after the fall, Dr. Sidney Atwater brought a small specimen of sand soaked with this liquid to the University, to be examined. It was looked upon rather as a joke and no analysis was made for some time. When it was taken up several days afterwards there, seemed to be sufficient interest attaching to it to warrant paying a visit to the locality where the matter fell. Meantime nearly three weeks had elapsed, and several heavy rains had fallen, so that when the place was reached (a small negro-cabin in New Hope township, about a quarter of a mile from the Raleigh and Pittsboro road) no vestiges of the matter could be found on the ground, and only one or two marks of drops on the fence. The woman who saw it saw it fall was examined and inquiries made of the neighbors; who visited the spot soon after. The fall came **from a cloudless sky**, when the wind was so slight as to be almost imperceptible. The position of the drops seen on the fence indicated a very slight wind from the south or southwest, across some ploughed land. The woman was standing on this ploughed land. near a fence. along which some small pine bushes were growing She noticed something falling between her and the ground, saw it leave a red splash on the sand, heard a pattering like rain around her, looked up, but it was all over and she could see nothing. She was a good deal frightened and affected, taking it as a portent of death or evil of some kind. Mr. S. A. Holleman visited the spot the next morning, (the fall took place about, mid-day), and has kindly given me the following facts observed: The space covered

was about **fifty by seventy feet, and nearly in a rectangular forth.** The drops were of sizes varying from that of a small pea to that of a man's finger and averaged about one to the square foot. Smaller drops were instantly absorbed, larger ones, with those on the wood, coagulated. Some fell in the bushes and coagulated upon the limbs. Dr. Robinson, living near, collected some of the freshly fallen material and made certain simple tests which satisfied him that it was blood. It even had the smell, he says, of fresh blood. Now as to the samples, which I could procure for analysis: One from Mr. Holleman was gotten by some third person card consisted only of a few grains of stained sand. The other, also stained sand, was somewhat larger in quantity and came indirectly into the hands of Dr. Atwater, who gave it to me. It is a pity that a sample could not have been gotten more directly—one whose origin would have been placed beyond all dispute, The analysis is detailed at length, as it is important to see on what foundation rests the claims of this material to be blood. The sand placed in cold water gave a brown-red solution, which coagulated on heating. The coagulum, a dirty brown, was soluble in caustic alkalis, giving an indistinct green solution—treated with an acid solution of mercury nitrate, it gave a brick-red color. Nitric acid also caused the formation of this coagulum and gave the characteristic yellow tint on heating. The original solution in water was brightened in color, not turning green or crimson on adding ammonia. On leaving the solution two or three days, it readily putrefied, showing under the microscope a great swarms of bacteria. Examined by the microscope, the appearance of small, slightly altered corpuscles was seen, corresponding well with those gotten from slaughter-yard soil. The spectrum of this substance when the solution was perfectly fresh gave a line in the yellow, none in the green, and a faint one in the red. On standing, the first two disappeared, and the red absorption band or line became very distinct: on adding ferrous sulphate the red line disappeared and the two first became distinct. To explain now: The yellow and green lines are characteristic of acid haematin (the red coloring matter of the blood). The red line is characteristic of acid haematin. If you take fresh blood and add tartaric acid to it you get the red line—if you then add ferrous sulphate you get the yellow and green. The material then, according to the spectroscope, is partially decomposed blood. The test known as haemin crystals could be gotten only indistinctly, if at all. This leaves little or no reasonable doubt then that the samples examined had blood upon them. The question arises, were they carefully taken; had no animal ever bled on the same ground; had pigs never been slaughtered in that quarter of the field etc. As to theories accounting for so singular a material falling from a cloudless sky, I have no plausible ones to offer. It may have been some bird of prey passing over, carrying a bleeding animal, but a good deal of blood must have fallen to cover so large space. If a hoax has been perpetrated on the people of that neighborhood it has certainly been very cleverly done and an object lacking. On the possibility that it is not a joke, I have deemed this strange matter worthy of being placed in record. Other similar observations hereafter may corroborate it and combined observations may give rise to the proper explanation. Chemical Laboratory, U. N. C.

Source: [Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society By Elisha Mitchell Scientific](#)

[Society \(Chapel Hill, N.C.\), 1884, Volume 1, page 36.](#)

A FALL OF FLESH IN CALIFORNIA

A correspondent of the *Standard*, writing from San Francisco on the 19th October, says :—But not only is the earth bounteous; the heavens also have showered favours on us. On the 1st of August last a fall "of flesh and blood " occurred on the farm of a settler at Los Nietos, Los Angeles county. The account which first reached San Francisco was a very big one indeed. The flesh was said to have been found in pieces ranging from fine particles to stripes of six and eight inches long. It appeared to have been torn freshly from some animal, after the manner of Bruce's Abyssinian steaks. The shower covered "**an area of about two acres of ground**"—at least, so stated the Los Angeles News. This fall, it is needless to state, gave rise to much discussion and comment. ...

Source: [The Glasgow Herald \(Ireland\), Nov 17, 1869, page 6](#)

Reports from the 1900s

"Fortean" fall of flesh and blood

FSR representative Nigel Rimes writes: "Various São Paulo papers of August 30, 1968, carried a report that, according to the Deputy Marcondes Fereiro, meat and blood fell over an area of one square kilometre, for from five to seven minutes, on Tuesday, August 27, between Coçpava and São José dos Campos, 9 km. distant from the Via Dutra Highway which links Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. "The pieces of flesh were found lying at distances of half a metre apart, their size varying between lengths of 5 cm and 20 cm. The meat was of a spongy texture and violet in colour, and was accompanied by drops of blood. The sky at the time was quite clear. No aircraft had been seen just prior to, during, or after the event, nor were there any birds in the sky. The police removed samples."

Source: [Flying Saucer Review \(Great Britain\), 1968 volume 14 no.6](#)

Reports from the 2000s

[Picún Leufú is in Argentina]

Read about the mysterious rain of meat that fell on the village of Picún Leufú

A neighbor complained and and people thought he was crazy. However police found that it was true. There was blood and meat in a radius of 50 meters.

Police man Nequén elucidate a phenomenon worthy of the X-Files: meat rain on Tuesday covered a large area of the site of Puente Picún Leuf and and it left all the people spellbound.

"The woman was in the nursery of the house and her husband was in the field taking care of the animals. At that moment he heard it raining over the house, as

if it was hail, and when he checked it out he saw pieces of flesh scattered around in a radius of about 50 meters around the nursery and the house," said Ramon Cuevas, president of the Development Commission of Picún Bridge.

It was the Tuesday afternoon, but the community of 540 inhabitants near Zapala could not stop talking about it. Cuevas says no one heard passing airplanes or helicopters, as one might assume that the heavens opened and dropped a load of prime beef, as it was lean and had no bones.

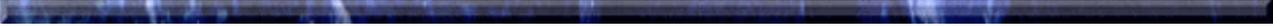
"There were no bones visible," he added. "I thought it was hail. My wife heard a noise and thought it was hail. But she saw flesh and blood on the roof. When her husband arrived he told her to call the police district 22 of Zapala, which seeks to clarify the case. Cuevas said that the meat was fresh. "This is something really rare, something unusual, the family feels bad, because they want to know what is going on."

"You see things like that in the movies, the neighbors are quite shocked, and worried about the family." The Office of the city of Zapala know it is animal meat, which some villagers at rest. But still they not know what happened.

Source: [LosAndes Society, September 16, 2016](#)

Pictures of the meat:





Rain of Processed Organic Substances

This just an overview of rains of what appeared to be edible substances that have been processed. Except for the account at the end, it is a summary from Charles Ford's Book of the Damned.

Dried flakes, fibrous masses and other substances

In all cases, people had no idea what it was, and could only use comparisons in an effort to describe it. It does seem to be organic in nature, but dried and pressed into flat sheets or flakes. Well, somebody must have dried and pressed it before they released it into the atmosphere.

- A substance fell, that the people said they had never seen before. As to what it was, they had not a notion, but they saw that the sheep ate it. They ground it into flour and made bread, said to have been passable enough, though insipid.
- A substance fell, in lumps the size of a filbert, that had been ground into flour; that of this flour had been made bread, very attractive-looking, but flavorless.
- Flakes of a substance that looked like beef fell from the sky, "from a clear sky." It fell in flakes of various sizes; some two inches square, one, three or four inches square. It was a thick shower, on the ground, on trees, on fences, but it was narrowly localized: or upon a strip of land about 100 yards long and about 50 yards wide. Scientist found it to be composed of lung tissue, cartilage or muscular fibers.
- 1687: Thousands of flakes of a fibrous material that was pitch black in color fell near the town of Klaipeda (Memel) on the east coast of the Baltic Sea in Lithuania. Some of the flakes were recorded to be as large as tabletops and were all damp. To start with the flakes emitted a sour rotting odor that disappeared as the material dried out after which it could be torn like paper. Some of flakes were kept as curiosities and 150 years later the material was examined by the Royal Irish academy 1839 who stated that it was largely (*Conferva Crispata*) which is a form of threadlike green algae. No explanation was provided as to how this material had become compressed into flakes.
- A fall of flakes resembling coal-black, leafy mass. Some of these flake-like formations were as large as a table-top. "The mass was damp and smelt

disagreeably, like rotten seaweed, but, when dried, the smell went off." "It tore fibrously, like paper."

- A fall of flakes, which looked like greenish felt.
- A fall of damp, coal-black, leafy mass. But, if broken up, the marsh-substance is flake-like, and it tears fibrously.
- In a triangular space included by these three towns. The substance is described as "cobwebs" but it fell in flake-formation, or in "flakes or rags about one inch broad and five or six inches long." Also these flakes were of a relatively heavy substance. "They fell with some velocity." The quantity was great: the shortest side of the triangular space is eight miles long. There were two falls of this substance at that location, some hours apart.
- A fall of "a mass of black leaves, having the appearance of burnt paper, but harder, and cohering, and brittle."
- A fall of a sheet of 200 square feet, of a substance similar to cotton-felt.
- A fall of a great quantity of a fibrous substance like blue silk.
- Several falls of silky substances.
- Numerous batches of spider-web-like substance fell in Montgomery, in strands and in occasional masses several inches long and several inches broad. According to the writer, it was not spiders' web, but something like asbestos; also that it was phosphorescent.
- A thick cloud, accompanied by rain and a violent wind, had appeared. This cloud was composed of a woolly substance in lumps the size of a fist, which fell to the ground. This substance that it was white, but was something that had been burned. It was fibrous.
- A brown dust that looked like vegetable matter.
- With snow fell a dark-colored substance, estimated at 500 tons, over a belt 50 miles by 10 miles. It was examined under a microscope, and found to consist mainly of vegetable matter.
- Several falls of dried leaves, large amount and for a while (10 minutes to half an hour)

.....

A Rain of Manna.

The sudden appearance upon the ground of a considerable supply of an edible substance astonished certain people of Asiatic Turkey one day last August. It came during a **heavy fall of rain** between Mardin and Diarbekir and covered a circular area some **six or eight miles in circumference**. Some of it was gathered up and made into bread, which was of good taste and very digestible. Specimens of the substance have since been submitted to botanists, who find that it is in form of small grains, yellow outside and white and mealy inside, and that it is a lichen known to occur in some of the arid regions of Western Asia. It is

supposed that the grains were drawn up in a water spout and transported by the wind at it considerable height in the atmosphere. A French traveler has reported that a similar fall of this lichen did occurred in many parts of Persia in 1828, when it covered the ground to the **depth of nearly an inch**, and was eaten by animals and collected by the inhabitants. Many other falls are said to have been mentioned. (Trenton, (N. J.) American).

Source: [The People's Journal \(Pickens, South Carolina\), March 12, 1891 page 4](#)

[The amount of substance must have been large since people made bread out of it. They did not recognize it as lichens. If it was indeed composed of lichen, then it must have been processed first into the substance that came down. Also lichens are firmly attached to rocks and trees and do not cone off en masse. By the way, a water spout is over water, not over land.]



"Some days ago (in August 1897) the province of Macerata, in Italy, was the scene of an extraordinary phenomenon. Half an hour before sunset an immense number of **small blood-coloured cloud** covered the sky. About an hour later a cyclone **storm burst**, and immediately the air became filled with myriads of small seeds. The seeds fell over town and country, **covering the ground to a depth of about half an inch**. The next day the whole of the scientists of Macerata were abroad in order to find some explanation. Prof. Cardinal, a celebrated Italian naturalist, stated that the seeds were of the genus Cercil, commonly called Judas Tree, and that they belonged to an order of Leguminosae **found only in Central Africa or the Antilles**. It was found, upon examination, that a great number of the seeds were actually in the first stage of germination." (Source: [Saturday evening mail, Volume 28, Number 22, 27 November 1897 From the collection of the Vigo County Public Library](#))

Alfred Wilson Osborne and his wife like to tell the tale of a day in March 1977 when they were showered with objects from the sky. Osborne, a newspaper chess correspondent from Bristol, England, says he and his wife were on their way back home from church on a Sunday morning when they were barraged by several **hundred hazelnuts** plummeting to the ground. Over the next few minutes, the nuts banged and pinged on passing cars, the parked cars of a nearby car dealer, and passersby. The incident was reported in the Bristol paper with no explanation. It was a nearly **cloudless day**, there were no nut trees on the road where the event occurred, and the objects clearly seemed to be falling from the sky. Osborne was amazed at what he saw, but said that the most amazing thing of all

was that the hazelnuts, not in season until September or October, were fresh and ripe. "I have thought that it might be a vortex that sucked them up," he said, "but I don't know where you suck up hazelnuts **in March.**" ([Unexplained Phenomena: A Rough Guide Special by John Michell, Bob Rickard, Robert J. M. Rickard](#))

On February 12, 1979, in Southampton, U.K., Roland Moody heard an unusual whoosh outside his conservatory, but ignored it. The sound **repeated an hour later**, and he discovered that the glass roof was covered with **thousands of mustard seeds and cress seeds coated with jelly**, causing them to stick to his fingers when he attempted to pick them up. Seeds continued to fall **all day**, covering Moody's garden and getting tracked into the house, and releasing the pungent aroma of mustard and cress when stepped on. Eight pails of cress seeds were collected and planted, and the plants eventually harvested. Questioning his neighbors, Moody learned that the garden of one, Mrs. Stockley, had been hit with seeds **the previous year as well** as the current one. It had taken all year to remove the former sprouts from her flower garden. The next day Moody and his two immediate neighbors were rained upon by **haricot beans, broad beans, maize, and peas**. Every time Mrs. Stockley opened her door, seeds would shoot down the ten-yard hallway and into her kitchen. She collected **ten pounds of beans**. Police were called in, but the seeds' origin remained a mystery. Those three houses were the only ones targeted, and no "rain" fell on the sidewalk in front of them. (Source: [Almanac of the Infamous, the Incredible, and the Ignored by Juanita Rose Violini](#))

News media in the United Kingdom reported the fall of apples. On Wednesday November 14, 2011, it rained apples over a main road in Keresley, the Coundon area of Coventry, a city in the center of England. "One motorist, who was travelling with her husband at about 6.45pm, said it was lucky the downpour hadn't caused a pile-up. She said: "The apples fell out of the sky **as if out of nowhere.**

'They were small and green and hit the bonnet hard. 'There were other cars on the road at the time too and everyone had to stop their cars suddenly. 'It wouldn't surprise me if some cars were damaged.' She said she and her husband were so astonished they drove back to the site to confirm what they had seen. 'When we went back the apples were still there,' she added. 'They were squashed where they'd been run over. 'I know the area well and there are no apple trees around.' They fell on cars, and there was a "**great gale of wind**". They fell on a **20-yard stretch.**" Source: [Scott.net](#), [The Telegraph](#)

Sometimes a singular item falls down, that defies a normal explanation.

Mango mystery baffles Calgary family

It's a mystery. A fast moving mango, weighing 454 grams, fell into a Calgary

family's backyard on Tuesday afternoon. It narrowly missed Lisa Egan while she was rolling up the cover on the family's pool. "All of a sudden, out of nowhere, something hits the top of the blanket – approximately in the centre – (it was) extremely loud, it scared me," she said. Egan noticed a gaping hole in the plastic cover before spotting the mango floating in the pool, under the cover.

Amazingly, the mango wasn't severely damaged, just flattened somewhat on one side. "At first I thought it had to be someone throwing it in the yard," Egan said, adding she also thought her husband Duane might be pulling off a prank.

But that wasn't the case. Duane Egan doesn't believe the mango was tossed into their pool. "My son and I, we've thrown apples very high into the pool, and I've actually thrown it right at the cover as well – trying to bust through it, and I can't," Duane said.

"For the mango to bust right through it had to be coming pretty fast."

The Egans have considered several possibilities: maybe it fell from the International Space Station, maybe it was shot out of a mango cannon or maybe a big bird dropped it.

But the couple said it probably came from an airplane since their McKenzie Towne home is under a well-used flight path for the Calgary International Airport. As for how a large piece of fruit could fall out of a plane in the first place, no one knows. And the great mango mystery of McKenzie Towne may never be solved. "Might be a very normal reason for this, but I don't know what it is," Egan said.

Source: [Global News, June 8, 2016](#)



It is easy to see that rains of animals have an artificial origin. It is more difficult when inorganic substances come down in dry form or in water (rain, hail or ice), as it could be possible that this is of cosmic origin. However these kinds of anomalous rains are very strange too. In the 19th and early 20th century) these rains were often analyzed by chemists of that time. It didn't shed much light on the mystery due to their limited scientific equipment of that time. At present we have extremely advanced technological equipment of all kind to analyze any substance. Unfortunately, there is not much interest at all from scientists to do this, and samples often get 'lost'. Sometimes it is not worth the expense.

I think it possible that these inorganic materials also come from spaceships cleaning out their cargo areas, tanks, reservoirs, because some of the rains are very strange, and the rains have accompanying characteristics that are exactly the same as with the live animal rains: loud noises, repeating of the strange rain

in the same area, light flashes, being limited to a very small area, and happening during heavy rainfalls.

I didn't look up original news reports of these rains, but only list their characteristics, for the purpose of comparison. They are taken from Charles Fort Book of the Damned, and thus well before the military started to experiment on the population with their biological and chemical warfare agents which could account for similar kinds of 'rains' in the second half of the 20th century.

Powders

- Yellow substance, giving off nitrogen and ammonia and an animal odor.
- A yellow substance. But the microscope revealed numerous globules of cobalt blue, also corpuscles of a pearly color that resembled starch.
- Reddish to yellow substance, it carbonized and spread the odor of charred animal matter that it was not pollen, that in alcohol it left a residue of resinous matter.
- Yellow powder. It had an earthy, insipid taste, and is described as "unctuous." When heated, this matter turned brown, then black, then red.
- A combustible yellowish substance, covering, at least two inches thick, an area of 600 or 700 square feet. It was resinous and yellowish. When torn, it had the tenacity of cotton. When placed in water, it had the consistency of resin. "This resin had the color of amber, was elastic, like India rubber, and smelled like prepared oil mixed with wax."
- Red powder.

Colored Rains

Red rains, sometimes fluid, sometimes viscous.

Often analyzed by chemists of the time as being water and a (sometimes high) percentage of animal matter. Go figure where that animal matter came from.

- Red rain, estimated that about 10,000,000 tons of matter had fallen in England alone! Other vast quantities in Australia and Russia.
- Red rain; red substance when burned, the odor of animal matter from it was strong and persistent.
- Hailstones, some red, some blue, some whitish.
- Red rain, drops of this rain left stains "such as sandy water could not leave."
- A reddish rain fell copiously for two hours. A second red shower fell at 9 o'clock. Three days later, the red rain fell again. The next day another red rain fell. Each fall occurred in "exactly the same quarter of town."
- Vividly red rain, blood-like.
- A substance like blood, somewhat coagulated.
- Thick, viscous, red matter.

- A highly unpleasant substance, the substance was clear blood and portions of flesh scattered upon tobacco fields.
- A reddish substance that was "thick, viscous, and putrid."
- A rain fall "bringing down with it a red substance, which proved on examination to be a red meal mixed with fine sand."
- A rain of a peach-red color. In this rain were flakes of a hyacinthine tint, said to be organic in nature.
- Red matter that looked like "vegetable cells".
- Red snow.

Black rains were more often than the few description below, as often only the color was mentioned and nothing else.

- Black rain, the color of ink, and of a fetid odor and very disagreeable taste.
- Black rain, it left a most peculiar and disagreeable smell in the air.
- A rain so black as to be described as a "shower of ink."
- After two showers of a black rain: two of these showers, vast quantities of a substance described sometimes as "pumice stone," but sometimes as "slag, "were washed upon the sea coast" near Slains (Scotland).
- A black rain, so intense that the following day brooks were still dyed with it.
- A black rain was accompanied by "shocks like those of an earthquake." The earthquake had occurred at the climax of intense darkness and the fall of black rain.

Gelatinous Substances

Often found to be of a gelatinous or similar texture, but rarely analyzed. Interestingly, in several cases luminous bodies were seen in the sky prior to the gelatinous falls.

- Grayish substance: nut sized masses of a substance that is described as both resinous and gelatinous. It was odorless until burned: then it spread a very pronounced sweetish odor. It is described as like gelatin, but much firmer: but, having been in water 24 hours, it swelled out, and looked altogether gelatinous.
- The ground was found covered with masses of jelly, the size of peas.
- A storm of glutinous drops neither jelly fish nor masses of frog spawn. "Many soon developed into a wormlike chrysalis, about an inch in length." A scientist examined it and said it to be "minute worms in filmy envelopes". It repeated itself several days later.
- "Lumps of jelly" were found on the ground. The substance was whitish, or resembled the coagulated white of an egg.

Greasy Stuff

- Showers of a sort of matter like butter or grease, having "a very stinking smell."
- A substance which the country people called "butter". "soft, clammy, and of a dark yellow" that cattle fed "indifferently" in fields where this substance lay. "It fell in lumps as big as the end of one's finger." It had a "strong ill scent." His Grace calls it a "stinking dew."
- A substance that was wine yellow, transparent, soft, and smelling like rancid oil.
- A fall of oily, reddish substance.
- Hail in which was a substance described as 'turpentine'.

Other Inorganic Substances

- A fall of of a mass of burning sulphur, about the size of a man's fist.
- Large crystals of salt fell in a hail storm.
- Saltish substance in a form like snow.
- Substance that looked like crystallized nitre, and that tasted like sugar
- Several falls of what looked like slag or cinders, or resembling coke, and burning, bituminous matter", and carbonaceous matter, substances resembling coal.
- Interesting account: "On June 15, 1857 a farmer who lived in Ottawa, Illinois reported that he heard a hissing sound in the sky and he looked up to see a shower of cinders falling to the earth. They landed on the ground in a V-shaped pattern about 50 feet from where he was standing and caused the ground to steam and the grass to catch fire. The larger cinders buried themselves into the earth and even the smallest pieces were inserted into the ground at least partially. The farmer, whose name was Bradley, noticed **a small, dense and dark cloud** "hanging over the garden" at the time of the fall. The weather that day had been damp and a little rainy but no thunder or lightning had been reported. "

Strange Ice Blocks

Always during heavy thunderstorms, but they cannot have formed as hailstones do.

- Falls of large amounts of large ice masses, the size of 'man's head, pumpkin size, many inches in diameter, many pounds etc. In one instance killing thousands of sheep.
- Singular blocks of ice, many pounds each, many feet thick! "80 pounds", "a cubic yard in size". "the size of a sheep"
- Cases had been reported in China and Brazil in 1995 where blocks as heavy as 440 pounds crashed to Earth.

- In 1849, a block of ice that was estimated to weigh a half a ton fell on the Balvullich farm in Ord, Scotland. It measured about 20 feet in diameter and was reported to be crystal clear, although apparently made up of many cubes and diamond-shaped hunks of ice fused together.
- Flat pieces of ice fallen in clear weather, but thunder sounds were heard. Flat pieces of ice, an inch long, after a "profound darkness". Roughly broken fragments of a smooth sheet of ice. two inches long, one inch thick.
- Ice pieces that resembled icicles.
- Small hailstones that exploded.

Some interesting accounts of blue colored ice blocks in Greece (from <https://web.archive.org/web/20141010002845/http://www.vembos.gr/forteanfalls.htm>):

- *"Blue Ice" Mysteries* : Late in November, 1981, Mrs. Androniki Maglara in Poros, Argolis, Peloponnese, heard a loud bang on her rooftop. Upon examination, she saw a block of "blue ice" the size of a human fist. "At first," she said, "I thought they were pieces from my solar heater and I called a technician who explained that the 'blue ice' had nothing to do with the heater. Then I worried, and I called the police. I kept one of these things in the refrigerator. What are they?" The police, after a field investigation, didn't seem to be interested in the curious incident. A chemist friend of Mrs. Maglara performed some simple experiments, but couldn't determine the composition of the "blue ice." Also, it was certified that the rooftop had blue **stains** that proved to be indelible. Apparently they were caused by the blue ice chunks melting. The piece that was found by Mrs. Maglara was kept in the refrigerator and later was said to be brought to Athens for a full scientific examination, but nobody knows for sure what finally happened to it. (Source: *Apogevmatini*, 26 November 1981).

On June 16, 1985, in Demiri village, near Tripolis of Arcadia, in central Peloponnese, a strange object falling with tremendous speed and emitting a whistling sound as it was coming down hit a hangar belonging to Konstantinos Nikolopoulos. The sound of the impact terrified Nikolopoulos and his friends Konstantinos Dimopoulos and Demetrios Dalamangas, who were sitting together chatting in the yard of the house. The object must have been enormous, since even after shattering on impact, the largest piece was the size of a watermelon! The collision was so hard that a great hole was made in the hangar, and one of the thick, wooden, support beams was broken like a match. The three men approached the fallen debris and discovered that it was blue in color (like the object of Poros, four years earlier). Suddenly, a few minutes after the fall, the debris started to melt at a faster speed than that of normal water-composed ice. Its smell was undefinable, and it was not toxic or corrosive. They touched the pieces and found that **their hands were colored blue**. The biggest piece of ice was put into the refrigerator.

The next day, a Greek Air Force helicopter arrived at the scene, carrying Col. Andreas Varrenis, two other officers, and two scientists. They examined the chunk that was left, which had been carried to the police station by Mr. Nikolopoulos the day before. The first test was for radioactivity. The conclusion was that the "ice" was not radioactive. The officers took the object into the helicopter and left, carrying the "ice" to the Ministry of National Defense. On June 18th, the Minister of Defense, Antonis Drosoyannis, told reporters that the object was something unexplained and that it had to be sent for further analysis and research either to the Democritus Center for Nuclear Research or to the General Chemistry of the State. What finally happened remains a mystery. (Source: *Apogevmatini*, 18 June 1985; *Ethnos*, same date; *Nea*, same date).