

REACTION OF WEATHER ON ANIMALS

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Many animals are credited for some signs, they make due to some changes in the weather. Most of them are seen to be sensitive to the approach of rain or wet weather. Cats are credited with washing right over their ears when rain is approaching. They also become restless and wander aimlessly about the house when a thunder storm is expected. The braying of a donkey is said to be a sign of coming rain. Before the setting of winter, moles prepare a sort of basin in which they deposit a quantity of earthworms, as a store of food. When these basin are fewer in number than usual the mole catchers state that the winter is sure to be mild. The field mouse has been noticed carefully to cover up its hole to show the setting in of cold and snow. Bees are very sensitive to atmospheric changes. When they return to the hive and do not come out again for a time, rain is surely indicated. Working bees, when collecting honey are said to be so afraid of bad weather that if a cloud obscures the sun they will hurry home. Sheep in mountainous districts will change their feeding ground to the leeseide of the hills before the severe gales and rain arrives. This was most about the land animals. Now something about weather prediction by some birds and fish.

If domestic geese are seen to fly without any palpable reason, rain is to be expected. If ducks are noticed going out on to the gross fields in the day time in search of snails, a shower may usually be looked for. When the shrill voice of a pea-cock is heard, a change of weather is probable. If the swallow flies high, it is a sign of fine weather, but when it is near the ground, rain is to be expected. The movements of rooks are much watched by some agriculturists as an index to coming weather. If the rooks are seen settling noisily upon trees and flying, hither and thither instead of going straight away, a wet day is probable. If they are flying low in the winter, going and returning silently, early and late, before sunrise and after sun set, a sharp frost may be looked for. Fish are extremely sensitive to the weather, as the angler well knows, many species declining to feed when a change is in progress.

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