

A.A.V.S.O.

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Neal J. Heines Editor.

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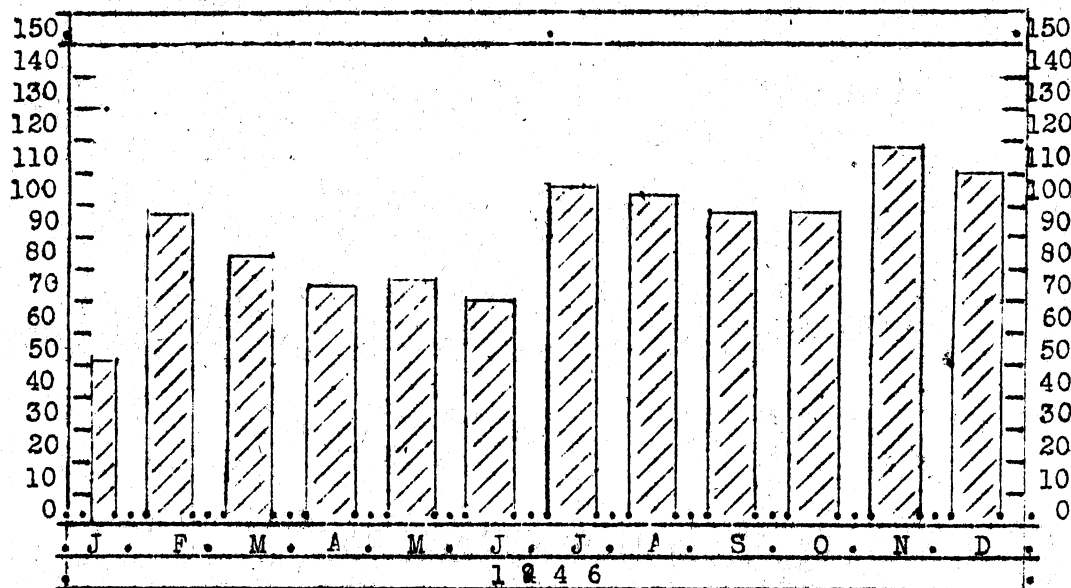
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Word has been received from Dr. A. G. McNish, Chief, Basic Ionospheric Research section, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, where the reductions of the Solar Division observations are made, that the annual Preliminary Relative Sunspot Number as determined from our observations is for 1946, 92.1. At about the same time we received from Dr. M. Waldmeier, Director of the Federal Observatory of Switzerland, the Provisional Number for 1946 which was ~~also~~ 92.4.

Congratulations, fellow observers, for the splendid work that was accomplished last year by all of you. This should serve as an impetus to the "B" group of observers to attain "A" qualifications. It is understood, of course, that weather and some personal conditions, retard or opportunity for observation. With the increase of the sun's declination, earlier rising and later setting, the number of observations will increase as they do each year.

Below is a Bar Graph and table of the J.D. Monthly Relative sunspot for 1946.

AAVSO Solar Division Preliminary Relative Sunspot Numbers.



January -----	51.1	July -----	107.9
February -----	88.4	August -----	106.1
March -----	85.6	September ---	103.9
April -----	74.1	October -----	103.7
May -----	78.8	November ----	118.3
June -----	74.8	December ----	112.5

In our January Bulletin page 29, we listed Mr. H. H. Clayton's prediction of the coming sunspot maximum as 1949.5. It has been pointed out, to us, by Mr. Bowerman,

from his previous correspondence with Mr. Clayton as early as 1945, Mr. Clayton had set the maximum prediction in early 1938. We are happy to have had this correction given to us by Mr. Bowerman. Mr. Clayton had devised a newer method which very unfortunately was not published prior to his death.

During the past month we received a request from Mr. H.W. Clough of Arcade N.Y. to become affiliated with the AAVSO Solar Division. We are indeed very fortunate in having Mr. Clough with us. He has for many years been intensely interested and very active in Solar work. He has written and much has been published concerning his research. Mr. Clough sent us a number of reprints which we have now placed in our permanent files for future reference. In 1942, it is revealed in the reprint material, Mr. Clough predicted the next sunspot maximum as 1948.5.

We wish to acknowledge an error in our last Bulletin and Supplement. The color of the Willson Filters was given as yellow whereas it should have been stated in both the supplement and Bulletin that it is green. Several orders have been received by the Willson Products Company for this excellent filter, in sets, and all of us who are doing visual observing should take advantage of the availability of these filters as a very much more efficient count can be obtained through their use. We repeat their address, Willson Products Company, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania.

It will not be long before the migratory birds begin their spring migration. In fact, one of our observers reported his first observation of them last week. From my own observations I find that in 1939 small high flying, fast, migratory birds were observed as early as February 1st. The majority flight, however, takes place in early March with the peak numbers being observable between the 13th and 20th of that month in this particular area. We ask that you review the March 1946 Bulletin, Number 6, pages 13 and 14 for complete instructions in this project. We had a few enthusiasts last year and we hope to have more this coming period. Little is known about the high flying migratory birds and we can make a fine contribution to the science of Ornithology with a little extra effort and time. The first observation this year came from our new member Mr. John Loebbeck of Lincoln Park, Forest Road, New Jersey. Although we have had reports of seeing Migratory birds by the projection method of observation the better observations are made by the visual method.

We welcome to our observing group of the AAVSO Solar Division, a new member in South Africa, Mr. George J. Caraioryis, Khartoum, Sudan. Mr. Caraioryis was recommended to us by our very enthusiastic Prof. Plakidides of the Laboratory of Astronomy at Athens, Greece.

Mr. R.L. Williams of Greene, N.Y. has asked for a supplementary issue of the S.D. Bulletin on Group Determination by the individual observer. This is a very timely request and we will, in the near future, issue just such a supplement.

Be sure and hold May 1947 open for the Spring meeting of the AAVSO. The exact date has not as yet been given but will be announced in the March Bulletin. We have received word that it is likely to be held at Hood College, Fredrick, Md. Dr. Leah B. Allen has for many years observed sunspots and we are happy to have the occasion to visit with her at her observatory there.

We should all be on the alert with respect to observations as the coming months may find us in the maximum period of sunspot activity. Following is a paragraph from a letter received here May 1946 from Dr. M. Waldmeier which reads as follows, "Concerning the next sunspot maximum I have given recently a prediction which will appear in Terrestrial Magnetism: time of maximum 1947.6, largest smoothed relative monthly number as 139. We are approaching very quickly a maximum of unusual intensity". Keep in mind that 1946 had a relative number of very nearly one hundred (92.1), and, that November 1946 gave us a count to make possible a monthly number for that month of 118.3. With the present activity increasing, notably in the southern solar hemisphere, recently, anything can happen from now to early 1948. Keep on the alert. Maximum cannot be determined at the time of occurrence but time will surely reveal it. GOOD SEEING.