

## = Hurricane Cora =

Hurricane Cora was the first tropical cyclone of the 1978 Atlantic hurricane season to reach hurricane strength . Forming from a disturbance that exited the African coast on August 7 , the storm moved at an unusually high forward speed for a cyclone in the Atlantic Ocean in August . The storm later reached hurricane strength and formed a well @-@ defined eye that lasted only 12 hours before the eye rapidly lost organization for unknown reasons , though the post @-@ season report on the storm mentions the possibility that its high speed caused the eye to dissipate . The storm moved west @-@ southwestward , weakening before making landfall on the island of Grenada . The storm lost its circulation and became a tropical wave on August 12 . The remnant crossed over Central America into the Pacific Ocean , where it reintensified , becoming Hurricane Kristy .

Cora was an unusual cyclone , maintaining an unusually low latitude for the Atlantic in August at high speeds , similar to the tracks of Tropical Storm Alma in 1974 and Tropical Storm Fran in 1990 . The hurricane was also upgraded into a hurricane based solely on satellite photography , the second time this occurred . Although it passed through the Windward Islands and the Lesser Antilles , only minor effects were reported . Cora was also responsible for altering weather conditions allowing for a takeoff of the historical flight of the Double Eagle II hot air balloon .

## = = Meteorological history = =

In early August , a disturbance was observed in satellite images moving off the coast of Africa on August 4 . Moving westward along the Intertropical Convergence Zone at a forward speed of roughly 20 mph ( 32 km / h ) , the disturbance showed no signs of development until a cloud mass broke away from the ITCZ on August 6 . The separated mass began rapidly organizing , becoming Tropical Depression Three late on August 7 . The tropical depression continued to gain organization and was upgraded to a tropical storm on August 8 , receiving the name Cora .

The newly named tropical storm continued to grow , reaching hurricane strength later that day after developing a well @-@ defined eye , peaking early on August 9 with 90 mph ( 140 km / h ) winds , a minimum pressure of 980 mbar , and gale ? force winds extending 100 mi ( 160 km ) from the center . The hurricane began to shift into a west @-@ southwest track while moving at 23 mph ( 37 km / h ) . The hurricane would continue in this direction throughout its lifespan . Only 12 hours after forming , the eye rapidly dissipated on satellite imagery for unknown reasons , although the hurricane 's high forward speed may have played a part . After becoming disorganized , a Hurricane Hunter aircraft ? the first one to fly in the storm ? reported that the cyclone had winds of only 65 mph ( 105 km / h ) , the highest winds recorded in the storm . After the report , Cora was downgraded into a tropical storm early on August 10 . The dissipating storm continued on , striking the island of Grenada on August 11 as it weakened into a tropical depression . On August 12 , the depression weakened into a tropical wave near Aruba due to continental influence despite atmospheric conditions being favorable for development . The wave was notable in that it was almost completely devoid of any cloudiness or convection . The remnants of Cora crossed Central America and uneventfully continued westward until August 18 , when its remains contributed to the formation of Hurricane Kristy .

## = = Impact , records , and naming = =

While passing through the Lesser Antilles , reports of squalls with wind speeds of 45 mph ( 72 km / h ) were received from St. Lucia and Barbados . Rain was also reported , but totals were not large due to the storm 's quick passage . One death was attributed to Cora on St. Lucia when a 22 ? year old stepped on a high tension power line that was downed by the winds from the storm in Castries . In addition , an industry on the island reported tree losses of two to four percent from the storm . No reports of damage were received from the other Windward Islands and damage on Grenada , if any , is unknown . Although it remained far to the south , Hurricane Cora affected weather conditions that reached as far north as Presque Isle , Maine , where balloonists Ben Abruzzo , Maxie Anderson

, and Larry Newman were preparing to make the first ever transatlantic balloon flight on the Double Eagle II . The winds created by Cora 's influence would give the hot air balloon the northerly push required for takeoff according to Anderson . After six days , the Double Eagle II completed the flight , landing near Miserey , France . Cora also affected another record attempt when swimmer Diana Nyad was delayed due to the hurricane 's influence . The planned marathon swimming record attempt was for her to swim from Cuba to Florida , a total of 103 mi ( 166 km ) . The record attempt ultimately failed after 42 hours .

According to the preliminary report on the hurricane , neither track forecasts or intensity forecasts panned out for the storm . The track forecasts called for a path more northward than the actual track whereas following the development of the eye , intensity forecasts called for further strengthening until it became clear the cyclone was weakening . When it was upgraded to a hurricane on August 8 , Cora became the second hurricane to have been upgraded to that intensity based solely on satellite presentation after 1975 's Hurricane Doris . The hurricane was also the second of three storms in the season to reform or be reclassified as East Pacific storms . The other two were Tropical Storm Bess ( which became Hurricane Iva ) , and Hurricane Greta @-@ Olivia . Of these , only Greta maintained its circulation over land . This was the only time an Atlantic hurricane was named Cora .