



The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

February 2020

January 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	372
Observers with no missing reports	193
Percent of total	52
Average Daily Reports per Day	273
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	315/11
Significant Weather Reports	30
Condition Monitoring Reports	21
E-T Reports	0
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	3.77" (La Porte)

We had 30 observers that came just one observation short of having a complete month. Don't forget to go back and check at the end of the month to ensure you haven't missed a day!

We would like to give a special shout out to the observers that add comments to their daily observations. There were over a dozen observers that entered their ice totals on January 18th. CoCoRaHS provided the NWS ground truth that we would not have gotten otherwise.

We'd also like to acknowledge the 2 new observers that joined CoCoRaHS from Tippecanoe County and Clark County in January. Thanks for joining the team!

January Precipitation in Indiana

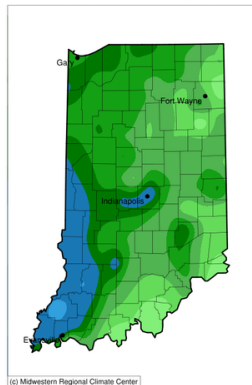
The January 2020 statewide precipitation was 4.59 inches, a full 2 inches above the 1981-2010 average! Snowfall was well below normal with as much as 6"-8" below normal to the north and 2"-4" below normal to the south. In the southern half of the state, liquid precipitation (including snow water equivalent) ranged from 125 percent to over 200 percent of normal with the wettest counties in the west-central, northwest, and east-central part of the state. The driest part of the state (still above normal, though) was along the Ohio River. Of the observers that provided data every day, 1 observer (Princeton 1.0 NW [Gibson County]) saw 7.55 inches for January with a one-day maximum of 2.19 inches on January 12th! The lowest January total was observed in Jasper County (Wheatfield 4.1 WSW) with only 1.10 inches.

CoCoRaHS Observers Found a Whale Tail of Additional Precipitation!

This issue's example of how your observations illuminate precipitation patterns comes from a precipitation event from January 9-11, 2020. When only NWS CoOp data was plotted, there was a definite tongue of additional precipitation that extended from the west into the central part of Indiana. However, when CoCoRaHS observations were added to the map, check out the whale tail of additional precipitation that was identified over Tippecanoe and White Counties! We knew this was a significant precipitation event, but who knew there was enough falling to bring out the whales?

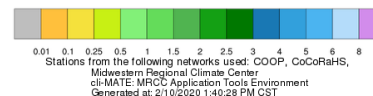
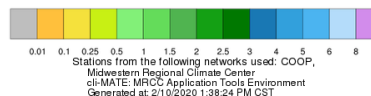
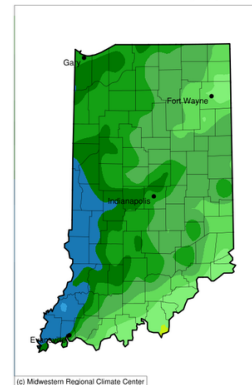
Only using observations from the NWS COOP Network

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
January 09, 2020 to January 11, 2020



Observations that include CoCoRaHS data

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
January 09, 2020 to January 11, 2020



Stations from the following networks used: COOP, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/10/2020 1:38:24 PM CST

Stations from the following networks used: COOP, CoCoRaHS, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/10/2020 1:40:26 PM CST

Snow Reporting

Unlike liquid precipitation measurements that are reported to the nearest one-hundredth of an inch, snowfall measurements should be reported to the nearest tenth of an inch and snow depth to the nearest half inch. Also, when using a ruler to measure snowfall and snow depth, remember that many rulers have a buffer edge before the tick marks begin. Be sure not to include this buffer width! Additionally, most rulers have tick marks in eighths rather than tenths of an inch. Be aware of this and make any necessary conversions. There are snow rulers that have tick marks representing tenths of an inch sold by [Weather Your Way](#).

Use the Significant Weather Reports (SWR) to report precipitation accumulations in between regular observation times. Significant Weather Reports are supplemental reports, and it is possible to file several Significant Weather Reports during a day. These can be submitted as often as needed to report rainfall or snow accumulation.

If you are measuring snow at intervals DO NOT clean off your snowboard after the measurement. The snowboard should only be cleared at your next regular observation time. The snowfall to report on your next Daily Report is the maximum depth measured since your last regular observation. If, for example, you have measurements of 1.0", 1.7", 2.0" for your SWRs, and you measure only 1.6" on your snowboard at your next daily observation, the new snow you should report is 2.0". That is the maximum depth before settling and/or melting occurred.

These reports are immediately transmitted to the National Weather Service and may be used to assess the need for warnings or other advisories and to allow them to monitor on-going storm conditions. Remember, a Significant Weather Report does not take the place of your Daily Precipitation Report at your normal observation time. They should not be used to report 24-hour rainfall totals. Be sure to include the precipitation duration if you are reporting a precipitation amount (the time since you last read your rain gauge). For example, if your observation was at 7:00 a.m. this morning and you check the gauge again at 5:00 p.m. then your duration is 10 hours. That is helpful information in interpreting your amount.

If you Move or Change your Email Address

If you are moving to a new home and want to continue to participate in CoCoRaHS, please let us know as soon as possible. Your observations are tied to a specific location, so we don't want observations from your new location associated with your previous location. The value of the observations are increased by their continuity at that location, so consider suggesting to the buyer or new tenant of your home that they participate in CoCoRaHS! We have a brochure that you can download, print and give to them.

When you know your new address, let us know. When you are ready, we will close your old station and open a new station at your new address (DO NOT sign up for CoCoRaHS again). Once that's done, you can enter observations from your new location. If you are moving to a different state, we can help you get in touch with that state coordinator so you can get started there.

Let us know if you change your email address so that your record is up to date. You can update your email address in the CoCoRaHS database yourself by logging in and clicking on My Account in the top line menu. Click on Edit in the My Information box. Make any corrections, then click save.

Please also send a message to andrew.j.white@noaa.gov with the email change as well, so we can update your address on our newsletter mailing list. This list is maintained separately from the main CoCoRaHS database.



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