



# The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

June 2020

### May 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	504
Observers with no missing reports	254
Percent of total	50
Average Daily Reports per Day	388
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	441 / 19
Significant Weather Reports	23
Condition Monitoring Reports	50
E-T Reports	221
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	4.85" (Clark)

It has been another amazing month for growth for CoCoRaHS in Indiana, and we'd like to thank each one of you for helping us reach that point. We saw 86 more people report and 2055 more reports during the month of May compared to April.

We'd love to keep this growth up through the summer months, so if you know someone who might be interested in joining, we'd love for you to put us in contact with them.

To the 25 new observers, thanks for joining the team!

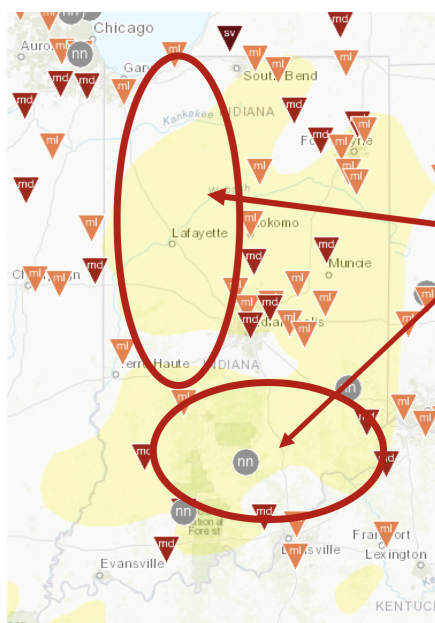
### May Precipitation in Indiana

The May 2020 statewide precipitation was 4.96 inches -- 0.06 inches above the 1981-2010 average. The driest part of the state was along the western border from west-central to the southwest counties where 1-2 inches less precipitation was seen than normal. Of the observers that provided data every day, one observer HENRYVILLE 2.6 E [Clark County]) observed 11.12 inches in May! This same observer also held the 1-day maximum record with 4.85 inches on May 25th. The lowest May total was 2.57 inches, observed in Tippecanoe County (LAFAYETTE 2.2 S).

### Condition Monitoring Reports - For the Dry Side and the Wet Side of Things

by Steve Hilberg

Condition Monitoring Reports are a great way to keep your finger on the pulse of the environment around you. Many of you already include extensive comments in your daily observations. Those types of comments can be very useful on a weekly basis as a Condition Monitoring Report. These reports are most useful when they are consistent. The hard part is making it a weekly habit. I have a reminder that pops up on my phone calendar every Sunday to remind me to submit my report. Unfortunately, at this time you cannot submit a CMR on the mobile app, so you have to use the web site. These reports are widely utilized, particularly for development of the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor. On the map below you can see the CMRs on top of a layer depicting the U.S. Drought Monitor for that week. You will also notice big "CMR holes" where we have no regular reports. If you are an observer in these areas in particular, please consider getting started submitting a Condition Monitoring Report each week. It's easy to do and we have plenty of support information online to help you get started.



**Condition Reports Needed!**

### More on Bird Deterrents

by Steve Hilberg

After a recent month's newsletter article on dealing with birds on your rain gauge, one of our observers emailed me with another idea. He dealt with

his "dirty bird" problem by placing a slightly higher perch near the gauge. "The birds choose it every time", he said. Since I had a problem this year with birds (some years more than others, and this was one of them), I thought I would give it a try. I had an "arm" on my rain gauge post which had held another rain gauge. I grabbed two pieces of scrap wood to make a perch that was higher than the gauge and attached it to the arm so it was pointing away from the gauge. I have not had a bird improperly use my gauge since! Great idea! Here's a photo of what I did.



### Comments --- We Love Comments!

by Steve Hilberg

As I review observations across the country each day I am always surprised by the lack of comments from observers who are recording astounding amounts of rain in a relatively short period of time. How can you record 7 inches of rain in a day and not say anything about that? Maybe it's shock, or maybe the measurement speaks for itself. A simple comment about what occurred or about your observation assists with quality control and can help those using the data. For example, measurements that fall exactly on a tenth or whole inches can raise questions sometimes (did the observer miss entering the hundredths digit? could this be an estimate? etc.), and comments clarifying this clears up any ambiguity right from the start. For example, if you measure 3.50" for your daily observation, you can include a comment to the effect of "About 3.00 inches fell during afternoon thunderstorms with another 0.50 overnight" or something that indicates to us that your daily precip value is what it is. Comments such as this help us verify that this is really 3.50 inches and not 0.35 inches and are really useful during the convective season where rainfall amounts can differ greatly over a short distance. Any comments that help place your observation in context are really helpful. Your comments are most helpful when they are relevant to the observation or the environment around your station. Remember that comments are public and viewable by anyone. Please refrain from making political observations or any kind of disparaging statements in your daily comments. There are many other online forums and venues that are more appropriate for such comments. Thanks.

### 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](mailto: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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