



# The Hoosier Observer

## Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

May 2020

### April 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	418
Observers with no missing reports	233
Percent of total	56
Average Daily Reports per Day	333
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	377 / 30
Significant Weather Reports	9
Condition Monitoring Reports	35
E-T Reports	87
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	2.80" (Warrick)

Another great month for observations across Indiana. It has been great to see so many new observers join over the last few months and we've appreciated all the communication back and forth as Indiana continues to see a huge increase in observers and observations.

This last month was the best month for observations across the state since the middle of 2016 and May is already on track to beat April. As always, feel free to reach out to any of the state or regional coordinators if there is anything we can do to help.

To the 102 new observers, thanks for joining the team! They represent 45 unique counties across Indiana!

### April Precipitation in Indiana

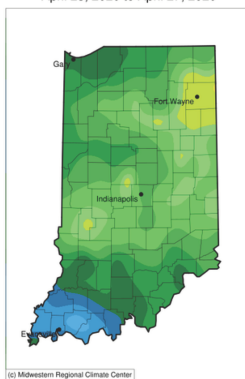
The April 2020 statewide precipitation was 2.96 inches -- 0.97 inches below the 1981-2010 average. The driest part of the state was throughout the central region with the northwest counties actually receiving 1-2 inches above normal precipitation. Of the observers that provided data every day, one observer VALPARAISO 2.2 WNW [Porter County]) observed 6.28 inches in April! However, the one-day maximum record occurred in Warrick County (BOONEVILLE 4.5 WSW) with 2.8 inches on April 26th! The lowest April total was 1.51 inches, observed in Howard County (KOKOMO 4.6 ESE).

### Impact of Including Your Data

A rain event passed through Indiana between April 25 and 27 that dumped as little as a tenth (0.1") of an inch to almost three (3.0") inches. The maps below show the detailed differences when CoCoRaHS data is added. At first glance, it may not seem like a lot. However, note the southwestern part of the state. Without CoCoRaHS data, it appeared as if more rainfall fell over a broader area than what CoCoRaHS observers reported. In contrast, the northwestern counties had more precipitation - particularly Lake and the northern part of Elkhart counties - than would have been realized without the CoCoRaHS reports. This additional data helps emergency managers and hydrologists better assess where flooding is more likely and potential recharge for groundwater supplies.

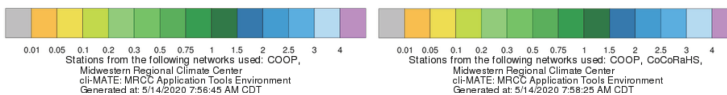
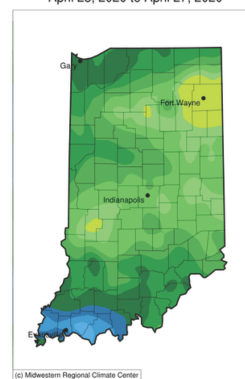
Without CoCoRaHS data

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
April 25, 2020 to April 27, 2020



With CoCoRaHS data

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
April 25, 2020 to April 27, 2020



### Over 100 Hoosiers Join CoCoRaHS

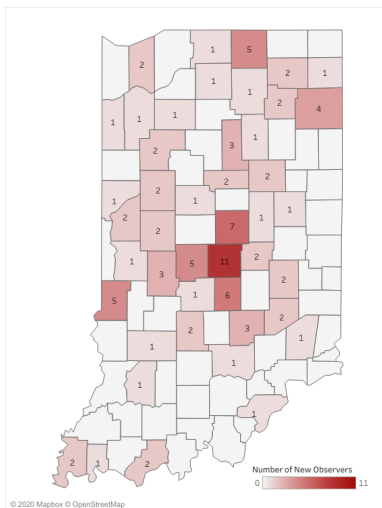
From April 1 through May 12, 102 people signed up to become a CoCoRaHS observer. This is an incredible accomplishment and many thanks go to John Orick and Jody Heaton for promoting the program and various webinars through their Indiana Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs! The 102 new members of our Indiana CoCoRaHS family are from 45 of the 92 Indiana counties (see map) - another impressive feat!

On April 15th and 16th, duplicate [informational](#) webinars about the CoCoRaHS program, the value it brings to a wide variety of stakeholders, and how simple the volunteer, citizen science effort can be presented.

Then on May 7th, duplicate [training](#) webinars were offered that went into greater detail on how to properly make observations and submit the data online or through one's mobile device.

All CoCoRaHS observers are asked to go through training before submitting observations so that the (inter)national program can promote uniform practices to the observers and users of the data. Additionally, all observers should be using the standard plastic 4" diameter manual precipitation gauge to ensure consistent instrumentation is being used by everyone.

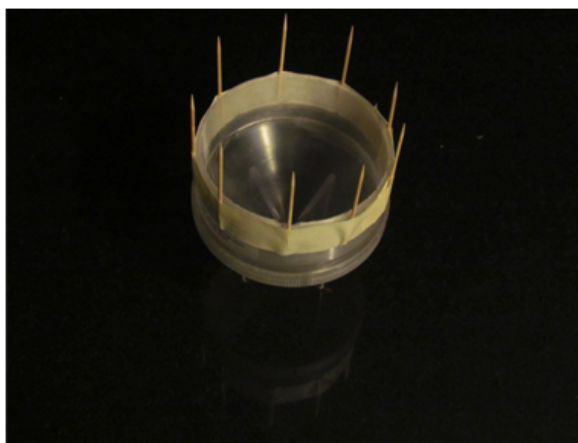
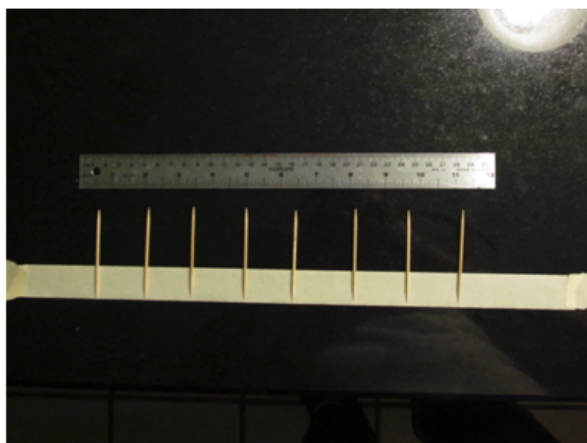
New CoCoRaHS Observers  
April 1 - May 12



### Keeping Birds at Bay

It's spring, and birds sometimes decide to use your rain gauge for a perch and/or a porta-potty. Although a properly perched bird or two can be a great photographic opportunity, more often than not they leave a mess. We have seen many ideas to keep birds away from rain gauges, including stuffed cats, real cats, plastic owls, rubber snakes, and more. Probably the easiest thing to do is use tape to attach tooth picks or thin, rigid wires to the rim of the gauge about every 1 ½ to 2 inches and sticking up about 2 inches above the rim. Here are some instructions on making the toothpick deterrent.

1. Get about a 14-inch long piece of ¾-inch duct tape. Since you won't find duct tape in a ¾" width, you will need to rip a strip approximately that wide from a wider strip. Lay it adhesive side up on a flat surface, and fasten down each end with a small piece of tape.
2. Arrange toothpicks on the tape about 1" to 1 1/2" apart. Round toothpicks are best – they have a little more heft to them. Press the toothpicks on to the tape so they adhere.
3. When you have arranged all the toothpicks, cut the strip free on both ends, inside of where you taped it down.
4. Wrap the tape with the toothpicks around the edge of the funnel, keeping the top edge of the tape at or just below the edge of the funnel. Overlap the ends, and then press firmly all around the funnel.



### 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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