



The Hoosier Observer
Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

April 2021

March 2021 Statistics

Total observers reporting	498
Observers with no missing reports	283
Percent of total	57
Average Daily Reports per Day	393
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	446 / 26
Significant Weather Reports	5
Condition Monitoring Reports	21
E-T Reports	32
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	2.87" / (Vanderburgh)

We wanted to welcome back many of our seasonal observers that have begun reporting again after the long winter months. You may have seen an email from Andrew just checking in if it had been a while. We're glad to see many of you reporting again with reports in April so far much higher so far. To all of the new observers that joined during March Madness, welcome as well!

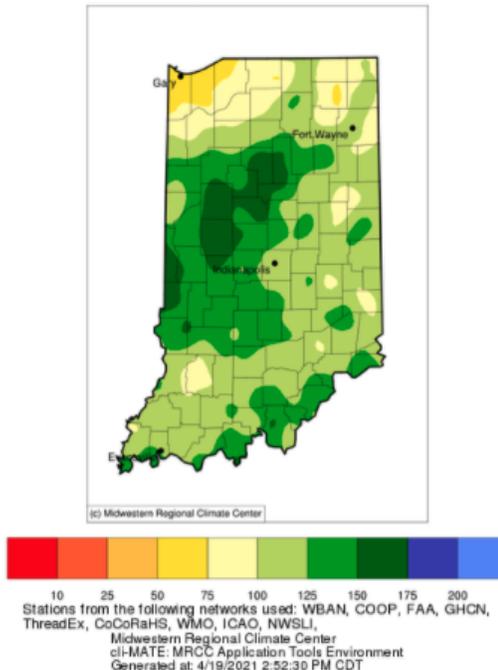
During March, we had 42 observers who missed having a complete month by just 1 day. The start of a new month is always a great time to go back and check and ensure you didn't forget to put in a zero on one of the days. Your zeroes really do matter!

We'd also like to acknowledge the 29 new observers (Allen, Boone, Clinton Elkhart, Hamilton[2], Hendricks[2], Howard[2], Jay, Kosciusko[2], Lawrence, Marion, Marshall, Monroe [2], Morgan, Putnam[3], Randolph, St. Joseph, Steuben, Tipton[2], Vanderburgh, Washington) that joined CoCoRaHS in the last month. Thanks for joining the team!

March 2021 Precipitation in Indiana

The March 2021 statewide precipitation was 3.67 inches -- 0.43 inches above the 1981-2010 normals. The map shown illustrates the percentage of the 1981-2010 normal precipitation for March 2021 where most of the state received greater than normal amounts with only a few counties in the north and scattered around the eastern and southern parts of the state that had slightly below-normal amounts. Of the observers that provided data *every day*, the greatest precipitation total for the month was 6.48 inches at HUNTINGBURG 0.4 SSW (Dubois County), whereas the lowest monthly precipitation total was only 1.33 inches at DYER 1.0 WNW (Lake County). Of those with complete monthly records, the maximum 1-day total was 2.87 inches on March 12 at EVANSVILLE 3.5 ESE (Vanderburgh County).

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1981-2010 Normals
March 01, 2021 to March 31, 2021



2021 Challenge: Recruit More Observers

With March Madness now over, let's not lose the momentum we had going to recruit new observers throughout the year. This year, we're asking all of you to help continue recruiting with us and we'll acknowledge those of you who recruited the most throughout the year. So keep spreading the word. Be sure to ask those who will sign up to be an observer to give credit to you for where they heard about CoCoRaHS. That way we can keep track of all of those you helped bring on board. Word of mouth is great advertising and you're our best promoters!

Submit 100 Daily Observations -- Become Part of History.

By Steve Hilberg

Many CoCoRaHS observers don't realize that once you have submitted 100 daily observations, you become part of the national climate data archive at the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). They are then distributed through the data feeds from NCEI and can be readily accessed by users throughout the world. CoCoRaHS data is used in products developed and distributed by the Regional Climate Centers (including the maps above), State Climatologists, the National Weather Service and other NOAA agencies, USDA, USGS, and many others. Fifty years from now, someone may be using your observations for a climate or precipitation study! For the first time, CoCoRaHS observations will be part of the new 30-year climate normals calculated for the period 1991-2020.

Comments ... We Like 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. I've been looking through the postings recently, and there are about 40-50 observations with comments

each day on days where there is little precipitation. On days with rain or snow, that numbers jumps to 120 to 150 or more, depending on the situation.

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 precipitation 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 is 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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