The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

February 2024

January 2024 Statistics

Total observers reporting	467
Observers with no missing reports	299
Percent of total	64
Average Daily Reports per Day	372
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	399/09
# Days with 375 Reports	13
# Days with 500 reports	0
Significant Weather Reports	5
Condition Monitoring Reports	26
E-T Reports	0

February Coordinator Update

With warmer weather on the horizon for the next couple of weeks, it's a great time to get back into the swing of things with reporting even if it is only on the dry days. We'd love to get days where we're back to 400 reports as we near the recruiting season.

With the Precipitation Absurdity (Formerly March Madness) recruitment drive coming up, now is a great time to start thinking about people that you know that might be interested in setting up a CoCoRaHS station. We'd love to be one of the top states in 2024!

January 2024 Precipitation

Austin Pearson, Climatologist, Indiana State Climate Office

The statewide total precipitation for January 2024 was 5.23 inches, which was 2.28 inches above normal or 177 percent of normal. Nearly the entire state saw more than 3 inches of precipitation over the month (Figure 1). The entire state saw precipitation in excess of 125 percent of normal precipitation (Figure 2). CoCoRaHS station totals ranged from 3.65 inches to 8.33 inches in January.

See January 2024's Highest and Lowest precipitation totals for stations with no missing data.

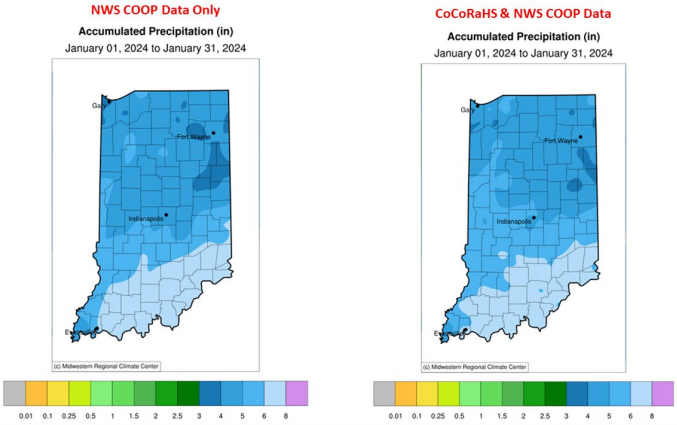


Figure 1: Left - Accumulated precipitation for January 2024 using NWS COOP Data only. Right - Accumulated precipitation for January 2024 using NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS Data.Click for a larger image.

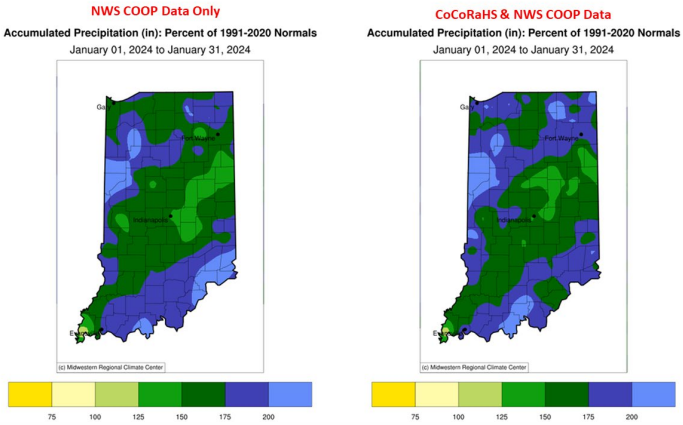


Figure 2: Left - January 2024 accumulated precipitation represented as the percent of 1991-2020 climatological average using NWS COOP Data only. Right - January 2024 accumulated precipitation represented as the percent of 1991-2020 climatological average using NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS Data. Click for a larger image. Click the link for January 2024 departure from normal map.

We'd also like to recognize the 3 new Indiana observers (Delaware, Hamilton, Pulaski) that joined CoCoRaHS in the last month. Thanks for joining the team!

Archived Newsletters

If you are ever interested in viewing past issues of *The Hoosier Observer*, visit the State Newsletter Archive on the CoCoRaHS website and scroll down to Indiana. You may also access other state newsletters from this website as well.

Snowfall continued below normal for most in the state. Heaviest snow totals occurred in northern Indiana as a result of a lake effect event (Figure 3). GOSHEN 3.0 WSW (Elkhart Co.) took the top spot for stations with 100 percent reporting with 21.4 inches. GRANGER 1.8 ENE (St. Joseph Co.) and MILL CREEK 1.9 NNE (LaPorte County) followed with 19.8 and 19.2 inches, respectively. WASHINGTON 1.5NW (Daviess Co.) measured 0.8 inches, which was the lowest 100% reporting total in the state.

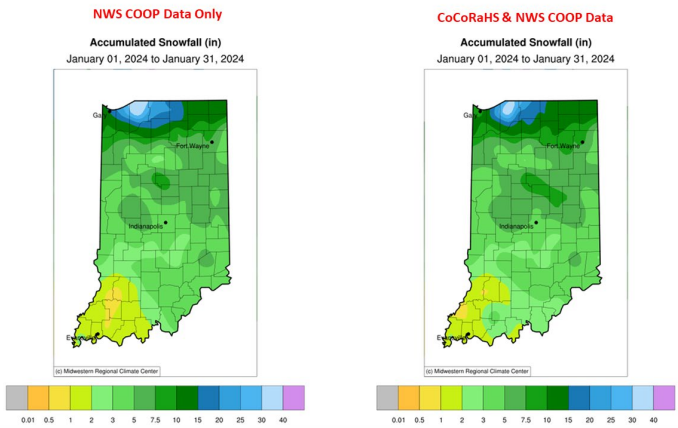
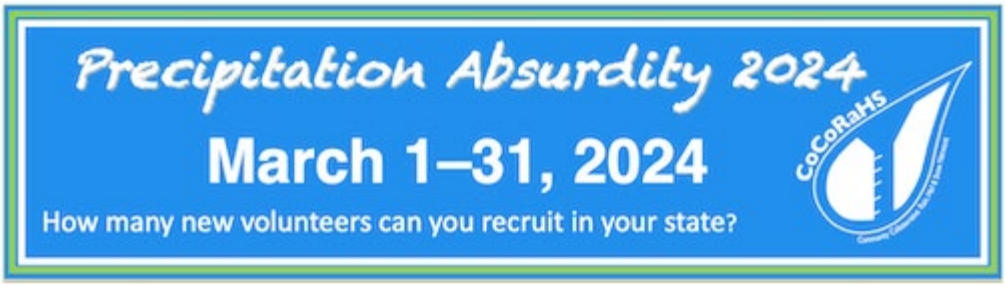


Figure 3: Left - January 2024 accumulated snowfall using NWS COOP Data only. Right - January 2024 accumulated snowfall using NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS data. Click links to see Departure from Normal and Percent of Mean snowfall maps.



Watch Precipitation Absurdity Trailer by clicking the image above.

CoCoRaHS Precipitation Asburdity is our friendly recruiting contest to see who can recruit the most new volunteers during the 31 days of March. You will notice that the contest's name has

changed in 2024, formerly March Madness. In order to not violate any copyright laws, we have decided to go in a new direction. This may sound absurd, but well it is. It's still the same contest, same cup, just a different name going forward. There is always a need for a greater number of observations, as the saying goes **"*the rain doesn't fall the same on all*"**. Due to the variability of precipitation, amounts measured can be quite different only a block or two away. Help fill in the gaps by recruiting a friend or relative during our contest. The more observations, the clearer the picture, the better the understanding of where it did and did not rain.

The contest is broken down into two categories: "**Traditional Count**" . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers in March. The second category is "**Per Capita***" or population weighted . . . the state that recruits the greatest number of new observers per one million of it's total population. The winning state in each category receives the "**CoCoRaHS Cup**" to keep and exhibit for a year until next year's contest (*in the tradition of the NHL's Stanley Cup*). The cup usually travels around the state during the year, so check with your state coordinator for it's whereabouts at any certain time.

You may monitor current standings, beginning March 1, on the **CoCoRaHS Precipitation Absurdity 2024 Website**. Let's win it for Indiana!

Winter: Where art thou?

Jacob Dolinger, Climatologist, Indiana State Climate Office

Hoosiers are hardy, but that wasn't a quality that was important this winter. Meteorological winter—December 1 to February 29—is drawing to a close, and it doesn't quite feel like it ever really happened. There was one notable cold weather outbreak in mid-January, but besides that, temperatures were generally at or above normal. Even when accounting for the January freeze, the month ended 0.1°F above normal. This comes on the heels of an incredibly warm December across the state, which was 7.4°F above normal and the 3rd warmest December on record. Overall, this has been a top 5 warmest winter for a variety of locations across Indiana, including Fort Wayne, South Bend, Lafayette, Terre Haute, and Richmond.

We also saw that the warm temperatures meant that precipitation didn't always fall as snow. We've had some snow, but nothing jaw-dropping. As of writing, Lafayette 8 S has received 9.1 inches of snow since December 1, but should receive 20.3 inches in a normal season. In Indianapolis, where we've seen 8.1 inches of snow, the normal annual total is 25.5 inches. Down near Evansville, snowfall is below 50 percent of normal, and up through northeast Indiana as well (Figure 1).

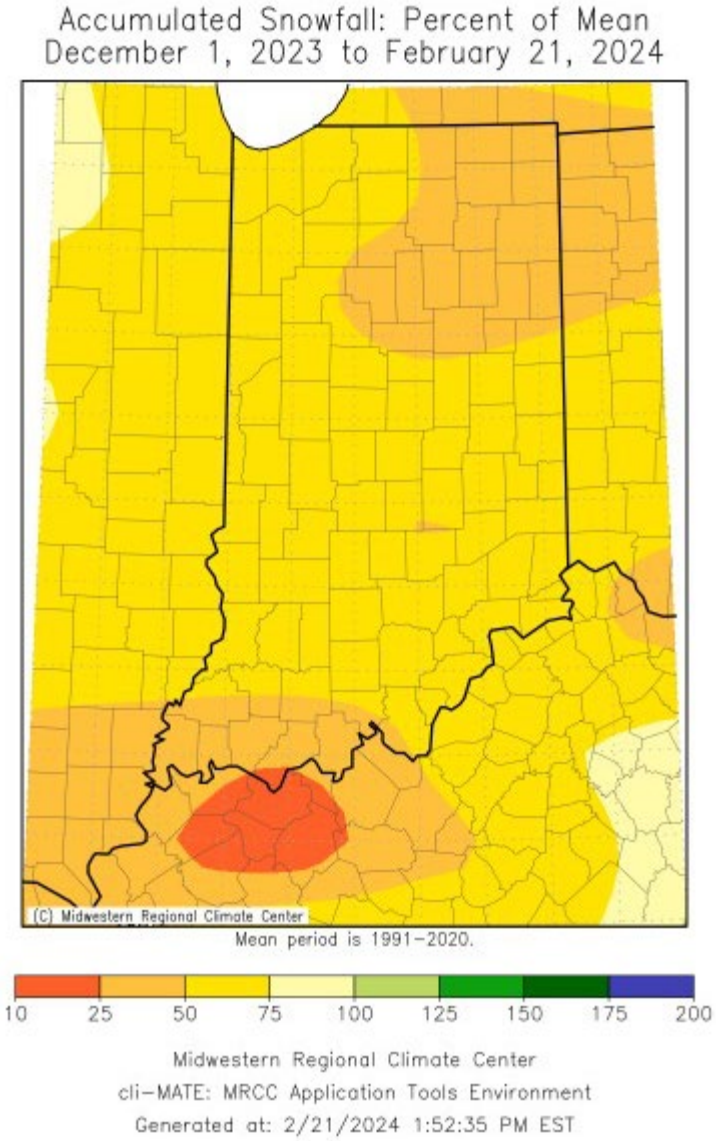


Figure 1: Accumulated snowfall for December 1, 2023 through February 21, 2024 represented as the percent of 1991-2020 climatological average.

If you're hoping for more snow, you may be disappointed. The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is predicting a 60-70 percent chance of above-normal temperatures for much of northern Indiana, and 50-60 percent moving south through the state. The monthly outlook for March has the eastern half of the state in only a slight chance for above-normal temperatures, but the longer-term three-month outlook has an even higher chance of above-normal temperatures through May (Figure 2).

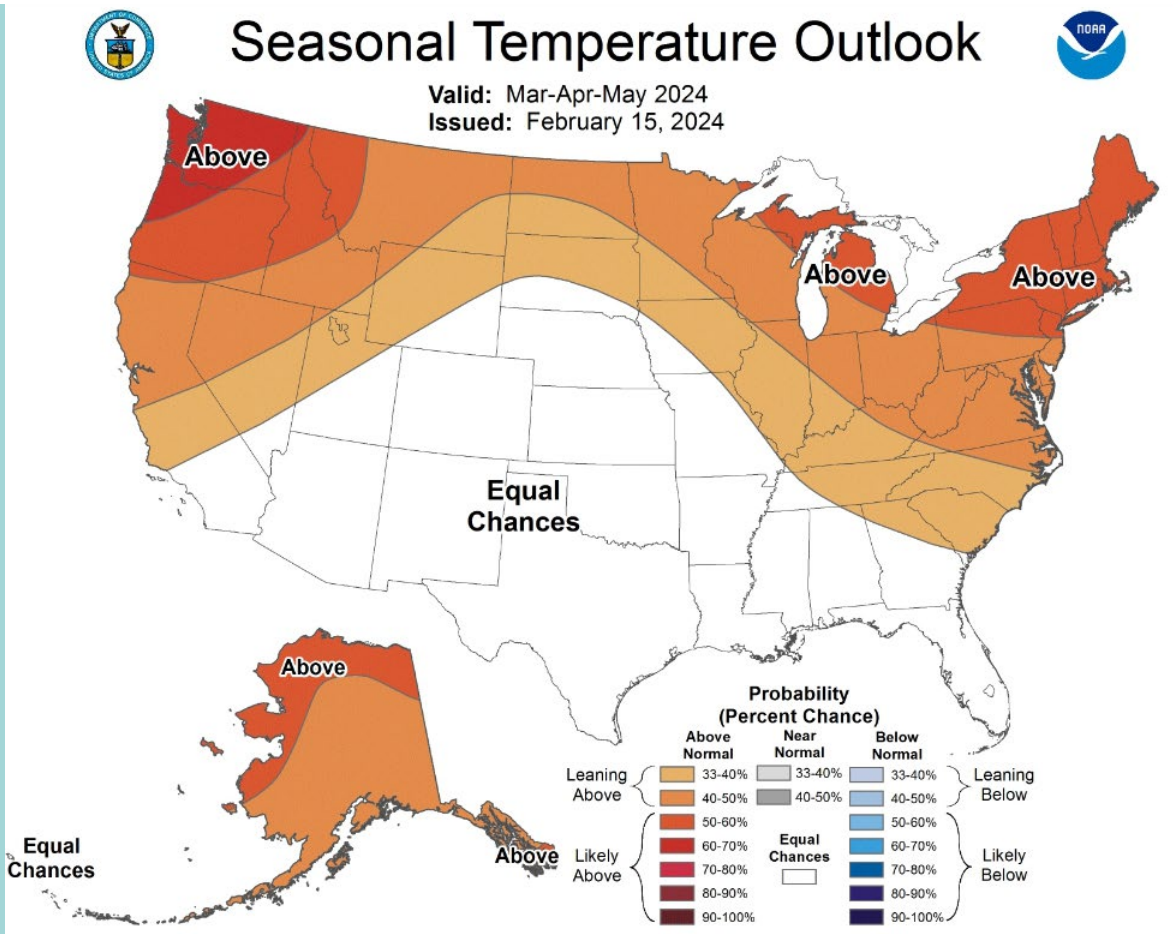


Figure 2: National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) seasonal outlook for March, April, and May 2024.

Don't put the snow boots away just yet, though. Historically, snow is not uncommon in March, and a good winter whiplash in April isn't unheard of either. South Bend saw 1 inch of snow on April 1, 2022, and in Fort Wayne there was over 4 inches of snow on April 20, 2021.

Some Data Entry Tips

Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS

Each day, after submitting your observation, please check what you submitted is what you intended to submit. Typographical errors are easy to make (e.g. entering 5.00 when you meant to enter 0.05), and a few moments to look at your report or the map to see what you entered can help eliminate these errors. They are often obvious and easily corrected, but few moments on your part to check what you entered will save our QC staff time correcting them and notifying you of the correction.

When going back to enter (add) data, you must select either Daily Precipitation or Multi-day Accumulation under the Enter My New Reports menu. You cannot enter a new report by editing the date on an existing report. If you change the date of an existing report and submit it, you will overwrite the report you are editing. When you enter a series of observations at one time, be sure to go back and double-check that you have entered the correct amounts for the correct dates. The Data Explorer Observation Calendar is an easy straightforward way to see what amounts you have entered for what dates and should be a part of your regular data checking routine.

Did you mistakenly enter a multi-day amount as a daily report? To correct it, first set to the daily report to NA, and then you will be able to submit the multi-day accumulation report. If you still get an error, make sure there is no other daily report in the range of your multi-day report.

Remember that the start date of your multi-day report is the day after your last daily report. Drop me a note and let me know what reports were set to NA and we can have them deleted from the database.

If you are having difficulty either entering observations or editing observations on the mobile app, use the web site.

When You Have Nothing to Report

Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS

If for some reason you don't make your observation a certain day, don't enter a zero report (unless you are sure there was no precipitation). We often see these in the middle of an area that has received widespread precipitation (those little white dots really stick out on the map). We have seen this in areas that have received snow. An observer didn't measure snow and did not or could not get out to measure the gauge contents, so they entered zero. Zero is a measurement, so entering zero implies that you made your observation. There is also no reason to enter a report if all the values are NA for a particular day, unless you have comments. Reports that are all NA and have no other information eventually are deleted from the database.

That being said, if you miss an observation you can submit a multi-day accumulation report at your next regular observation to take care of the day you missed.

Closing Stations

Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS

In general, a station will be closed if there is a year or more of inactivity (i.e. no observations). We do this to try and get a realistic idea of active stations and to keep station maps less cluttered. When a station is closed, it is marked closed but it is not removed from the database. The basic station information and all the data are still there. However, if you log in and your station is closed, you will see a blank screen. If circumstances change and you want to resume reporting rainfall, reactivating your station is easy - just email us or CoCoRaHS headquarters (info@cocorahs.org) and request that your station be re-opened. Once we verify that your address and other metadata are the same, your station can be opened within a few minutes.

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 a 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 in-sco@purdue.edu 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.

Indiana CoCoRaHS Coordinators

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