



The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

August 2023

July 2023 Statistics

Total observers reporting	573
Observers with no missing reports	335
Percent of total	58
Average Daily Reports per Day	461
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	485/29
Significant Weather Reports	26
Condition Monitoring Reports	56
E-T Reports	215

August Coordinator Update

As always, we'd like to thank everyone for their reports through the month of July. This month stuck out a bit as we had 70 stations miss their complete month by just 1 day which is a lot higher than normal. With the dry spell at the beginning of the month it's easy to miss entering your zeroes so we always recommend you check out the monthly zeroes page when that email reminder comes in.

We came close but haven't been able to crack 500 reports since June. We've got quite a few days so far this August that are within just a few to get there, so be sure to go back and make sure you got those reports in. If it's been a while since you've reported, you can always do a multi-day report.

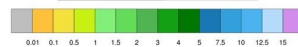
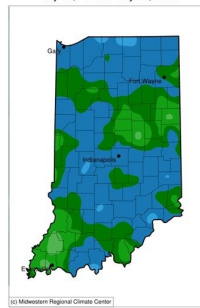
We'd also like to recognize the 7 new Indiana observers (Gibson, Morgan[2], Pulaski[2], Spencer, and St. Joseph) that joined CoCoRaHS in the last month. Thanks for joining the team!

July 2023 Precipitation

The statewide total precipitation for July 2023 was 5.12 inches, which was 0.83 inches above normal or 119 percent of normal. Heavy precipitation was seen across much of the state, but hyper local observations of more than 7.5 inches was observed this month. However, central and southwestern Indiana did see spots with 50 to 75 percent of normal precipitation. July 2023 state precipitation maps (accumulated precipitation and percent of normal) are included below for NWS COOP ONLY (right) and NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS (left).

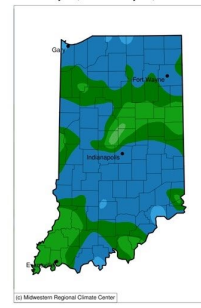
CoCoRaHS & COOP

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
July 01, 2023 to July 31, 2023



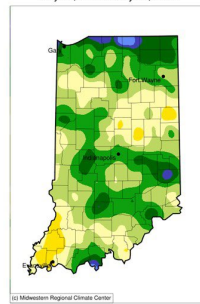
COOP ONLY

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
July 01, 2023 to July 31, 2023



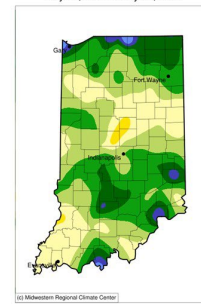
CoCoRaHS & COOP

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals
July 01, 2023 to July 31, 2023



COOP ONLY

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals
July 01, 2023 to July 31, 2023



Data from stations that had 100% reporting for July were as follows: The highest precipitation total in Indiana (9.32 inches) was measured at GOSHEN 3.5 NNW, located in Elkhart County. GOSHEN 4.6N, also located in Elkhart County, measured the second most precipitation, 9.27 inches (2.87 inches was reported on July 29). MILL CREEK 1.9 NNE (LaPorte County) measured 7.26 inches on July 29, which was the highest single day total in the state.

ANDERSON 2.0S, located in Madison County, measured 2.28 inches, which was 2.13 inches below normal for the month and took home the

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title of lowest precipitation total in the state. WASHINGTON 1.5 NW, located in Daviess County, measured 2.34 inches. This was the second lowest observation in the state with 100 percent reported data for July 2023.

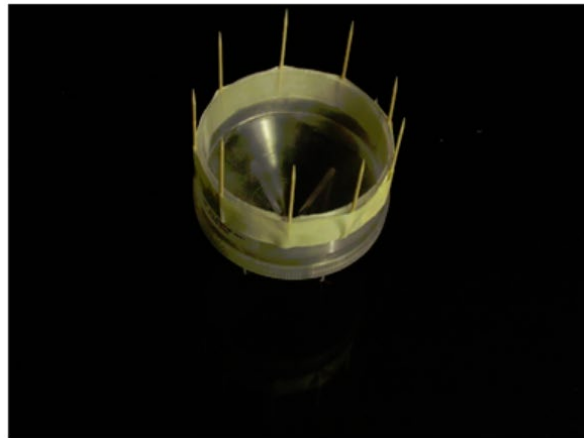
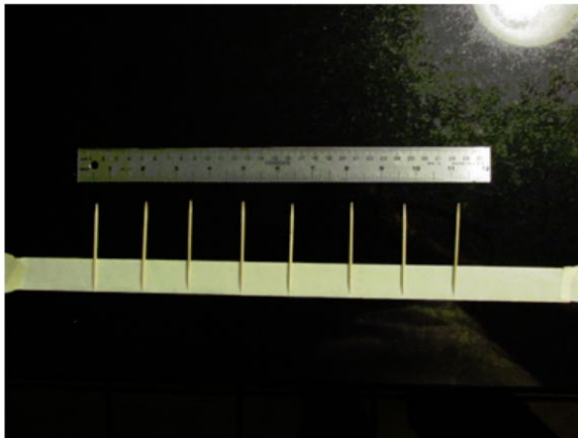
There are several stations with less precipitation, but did not have 100 percent of data reported for the month. Be sure to report zeros on days when no precipitation fell!

Birds on Your Rain Gauge?

By: Steve Hilberg

If you haven't discovered this already, 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 1 ½ to 2 inches and sticking up about 2 inches above the rim. Here are some instructions on making the toothpick deterrent.

- 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.
- 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.
- When you have arranged all the toothpicks, cut the strip free on both ends, inside of where you taped it down.
- 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.



Another way to keep them off of your gauge is to provide them with some place else to perch that is higher than the top of your rain gauge. This suggestion came from one of our observers. You can put up a shepherd's hook nearby or rig up something else to give the birds a place to check out the surroundings without using your rain gauge.

We Like to See Comments with Observations

By Steve Hilberg

I'm always a little amazed to see observations with multiple inches of rain with no comments about what occurred and the impacts. Comments about your observation, the current weather, or anything else that may help interpret your daily observation are encouraged. Some observers include comments about the progress of their gardens, or the flow in a nearby creek, or anything else that may be of interest. Information that helps explain your observation is especially of interest. For example, "Yes, I really measured 3.00" this morning. It came from a thunderstorm last evening" tells us more than you had three inches of rain. It tells us that it is not a misplaced decimal (in case there is a question based on surrounding reports), when it rained, and that it was a thunderstorm - all important information. So, don't be shy about including comments. Mobile app users - you can

include comments as well! Just click on the "Optional notes" field on your screen and type away. And yes, we do read them. Here are a few sample comments submitted by Indiana observers over the last month:

- **Angola 1.4N (7/5)** - Temperature 68 degrees, RH 98%, clear, wind calm, barometer 30.05"
- **Walkerton 5.7 ENE (7/10)** - No rain. Yesterday was sunny & warm with light NW winds & high temperatures of 82F. Clear & calm overnight with low temp of 59F by morning. Heavy dew with patchy fog at observation time.
- **Frankfort 0.9 SSE (7/19)** - Still smoke aloft, but thinner yesterday as there is more blue visible. Surface visibility was unrestricted. Temp 61F.
- **Fort Wayne 1.6S (7/20)** - This amount of rain fell in just under an hour (1.54").
- **Lebanon 4.4W (7/29)** - Hot and humid day yesterday with high near 91, current temp of 68. Fairly intense thunderstorm with heavy rain yesterday morning then another thunderstorm early this morning ending before observation (1.59 inches).

Dew on the grass and rain gauge at the observation time.

To see more of what type of comments are typically entered, click on View Data in the top menu and then select Daily Comments Reports below on the page.

Speaking of Dew...

By Steve Hilberg

As fall approaches heavy morning dew will become more common as nights become longer and cooler. Some nights dew just puts a haze on your car windshield and rain gauge, and other mornings you can soak your shoes walking ten feet through the grass. Dew accumulates on the outside and inside the funnel of your rain gauge, and if heavy enough droplets of water will run down the funnel into the inner measuring tube. You might come out one morning with heavy dew and find a Trace, 0.01 or even 0.02 of water in your gauge. What do you do?

Since dew is condensation (forms on the surface of an object) and not precipitation (falls from the sky), you do not report dew as Daily Precipitation. Don't report a Trace, either. You can, however, mention heavy dew and what was in your gauge in the comments. Not sure whether or not it rained? If there was rain in the forecast, or you have other reasons to think it might have rained (clouds, overcast), you can enter the amount of water in the gauge as precipitation and include a note about the dew and uncertainty about rain. Check and see what surrounding stations reported. If you have the means and desire, you can also look online to see what radar is showing. Sometimes being an observer means you might need to do a little detective work!

If You Move, or Change Your Email Address

By Steve Hilberg

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.

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