



The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

May 2024

April 2024 Statistics

Total observers reporting	587
Observers with no missing reports	339
Percent of total	58
Average Daily Reports per Day	469
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	512/30
# Days with 400 Reports	30
# Days with 500 reports	4
Significant Weather Reports	10
Condition Monitoring Reports	34
E-T Reports	72

Coordinator Update

We've surged into the month of May with over 40 more reports per day compared to this time last year, so if you're a new observer, or have restarted your observations in the last couple of months, we really thank you for helping to push Indiana into uncharted waters for daily observations.

We missed the all time record for daily reports by only 23 reports in April and we'd love to reach it this month. It's so important to check for those missed zero dates as we had 63 observers in April that just missed that complete month by 1 day. Had those observers caught the missed

April 2024 Precipitation

The statewide total precipitation for April 2024 was 6.63 inches, 2.24 inches above normal or 151 percent of normal. This was the fifth highest April precipitation total on record since 1895. April 2011 was wettest with a statewide average of 9.61 inches. It has been a while since we have seen light blue and pink on our monthly precipitation maps (Figure 1). Figure 1 displays precipitation data from only NWS COOP stations (left) and precipitation data from both NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS observers (right). Once again, CoCoRaHS helped fill in the gaps. There were several pockets across central Indiana that observed more than 8 inches of precipitation. We can't thank you enough for your continued observations!

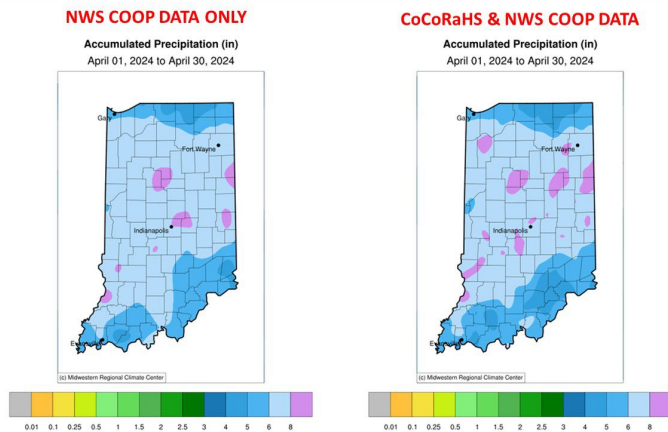
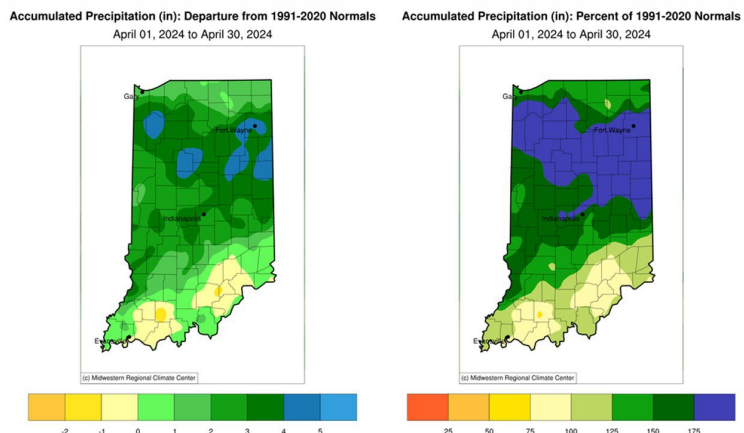


Figure 1: Left - Accumulated precipitation for April 2024 using NWS COOP Data only. Right - Accumulated precipitation for April 2024 using NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS Data. Click for a larger image.

North-central Indiana had precipitation totals that were in excess of 175 percent of the 1991-2020 climatological average. Southern Indiana observed near normal to slightly below normal precipitation for the period (Figure 2).



day, we would have broken the record.

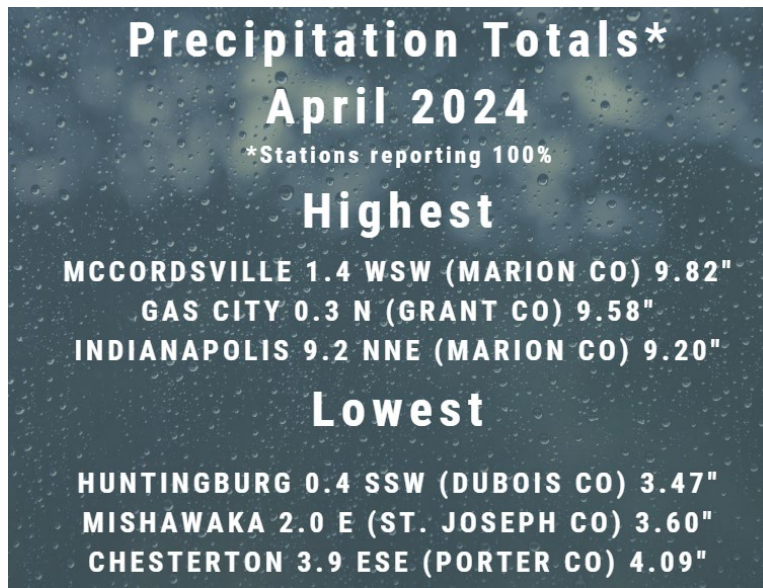
We'd also like to recognize the 7 new Indiana observers (Crawford, Clay, De Kalb, Hendricks, Marion, Parke, Randolph) that joined CoCoRaHS in the last month. Thanks for joining the team!

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.

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

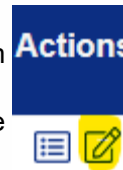
CoCoRaHS station totals reporting 100 percent of data ranged from 3.47 inches to 9.82 inches in April. The highest and lowest precipitation totals for stations reporting 100% are listed below.



Check Your Reports Each Day! Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS

Morning schedules can be hectic, and often we are multi-tasking to get things going in the morning. It's easy to mis-enter your observation, for example entering 11.00" instead of 0.11", in a rush to get it done. It really is easy to check your observation. If you are entering it on the web site, you get a list of your last seven observations. On the mobile app, your observation will appear on a list with your recent observations. Please take a moment to check the confirmation screen to be sure that you entered what you intended. If you do enter something incorrectly, please use the edit functions to edit and save your corrections.

You can edit any of your reports by logging in and then select the report you want from the list in the left-hand menu LIST/EDIT MY REPORTS. When the list displays, click on the pencil icon next to the report you need to edit, and go from there. On the mobile app you can edit reports through the History option.



If you are entering more than one report at the same time, be sure to go back and check after entry to be sure you have recorded the correct amounts with the correct dates series of observations. One of the most frequent errors is the mismatch between dates and amounts when a series of observations are entered.

Reporting Hail - Take the Extra Step Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS

As you know "hail" is part of the CoCoRaHS name. Spring and early summer is prime time for hail, especially the large variety. We often see observers mention hail in their comments, but then forget to submit a separate hail report. The CoCoRaHS hail database is the only one of its kind in the country. When you observe hail, please submit a hail report as soon as possible with as much information as you can provide (you can

always go back and add to or edit your report later). As soon as you submit the hail report it is also transmitted to your local National Weather Service office. These reports are critical in severe weather situations and may be one of the triggers for a severe thunderstorm warning, for example. You can find the link to the hail report in the left hand menu once you log in on the web site. It is not available on the app.

Enter My New Reports

- [Daily Precipitation](#)
- [Multi-Day Accumulation](#)
- **Hail**
- [Significant Weather](#)
- [Monthly Zeros](#)
- [Condition Monitoring Report](#)
- [Evapotranspiration](#)

You can submit up to four photos with your hail reports. These can be actual photos of hail, or photos of your hail pad if you use one. Only one photo will be viewable with the report, selected by CoCoRaHS staff. The remaining photos will be retained and associated with your report, and may be shared with the National Weather Service. For your photos to be as useful as possible, please follow [these guidelines](#) below for taking photos of hail and hail pads.



Spring Means Dew, So What to Do?
Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS



We've had several mornings with heavy dew this spring, the kind which soaks your shoes after a brief trip across the lawn. You may find your gauge dripping with water, and some measurable water in the measuring tube. As water condenses in the funnel, it will often run off into the inner measuring tube and accumulate to a measurable amount, sometimes as much as 0.02". Should you report this?

No - it should not be reported as your daily gauge catch. Dew is the result of the condensation of water vapor in the air, not precipitation. You should report zero for precipitation in this case, but you can note the dew in your comments. Since most dew forming situations are under clear skies, you can rule out the moisture as precipitation. However, there may be cases where it rain the afternoon before, clears overnight, and dew forms because of all the moisture in the cooling

air. Unless you checked your gauge after the rain stopped, there is no way to separate the rain from any dew the next morning. Report the total in your gauge, and make note of the dew in your comments. If you're not sure whether the water in the gauge is from rain or dew, you might have to do a little detective work. Check the radar and surrounding reports. If there is no sign of precipitation, then it is likely dew. If you really aren't sure, then enter your amount and leave a note in the comments section to that effect.

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.



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