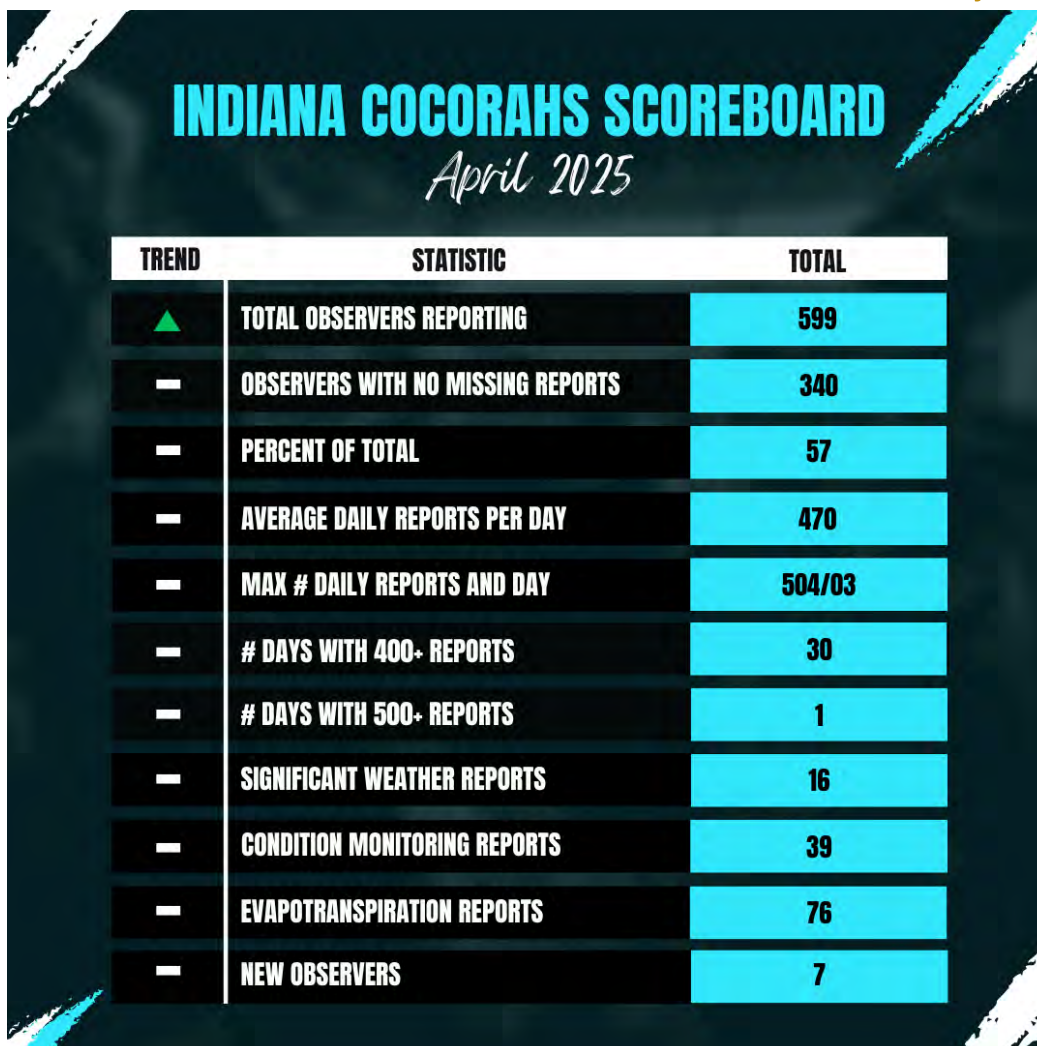




## The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

May 2025



The trend section in the graphic above compares this month's data to the same month from the previous year. A change of 10 or more is necessary for a trend arrow to be displayed as either pointing up or down. If the change is less than 10, a white dash is used to indicate that the data is similar to that of the previous year.

#### Coordinator Update **Andrew White, NWS Indianapolis**

As always, we'd like to begin this section by thanking everyone for their observations this month. We've noticed many of you returning over the last month, but we're hoping to see a few more who have stopped reporting in recent months get back into the swing of things.

Our total number of reporting observers continues to hover around 600, yet we haven't experienced a 600-report day for the state. We'd love to achieve that in 2025, so if you've been on the sidelines for a while, now is a great time to get started as we enter the summer months when precipitation becomes increasingly spotty.



We'd also like to acknowledge the seven new Indiana observers (Clark, Gibson, Hamilton, Huntington, Johnson, Owen, Putnam) who joined CoCoRaHS last month. Thanks for becoming part of the team!

# Indiana's Precipitation Report

## Austin Pearson, Indiana State Climate Office

In April, statewide precipitation reached 6.07 inches, exceeding normal levels by 1.68 inches, which is 138 percent of the usual amount. Despite this overall surplus, totals in northern Indiana were less than 4 inches (Figure 1), which were 0.5 to 0.9 inches below normal (Figure 2). The totals in northwestern Indiana also measured less than 4 inches. Crown Point 1.1 N in Lake County recorded the lowest total for April 2025 at 1.38 inches. In contrast, southern Indiana saw precipitation totals that were 2 to 4 inches above normal, with most locations receiving over 5 inches of precipitation throughout the month. Once again, for the second consecutive month, Galena 4.3 ENE in Floyd County reported the highest total with 13.00 inches.

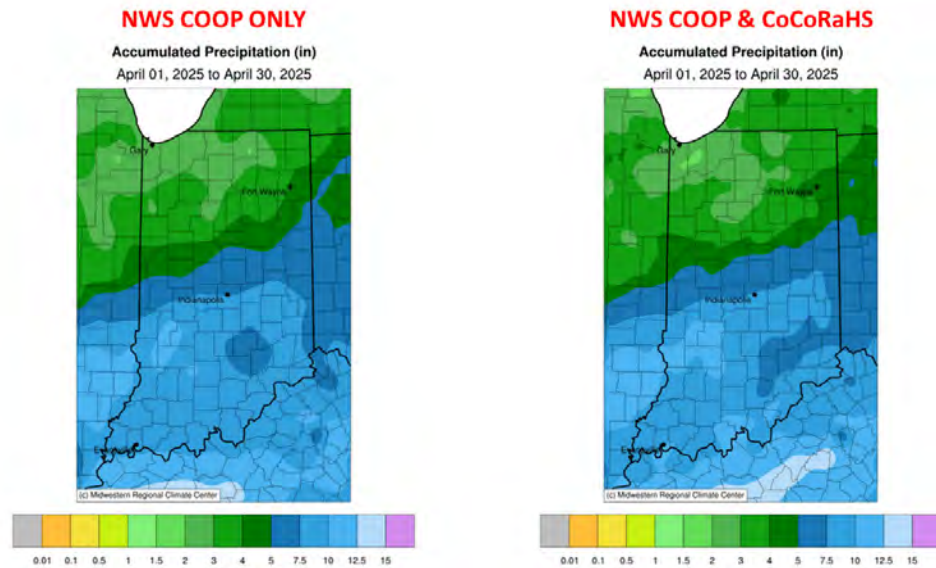


Figure 1: Left - April 2025 accumulated precipitation from NWS COOP network only. Right - April 2025 accumulated precipitation including both NWS COOP and CoCoRaHS.

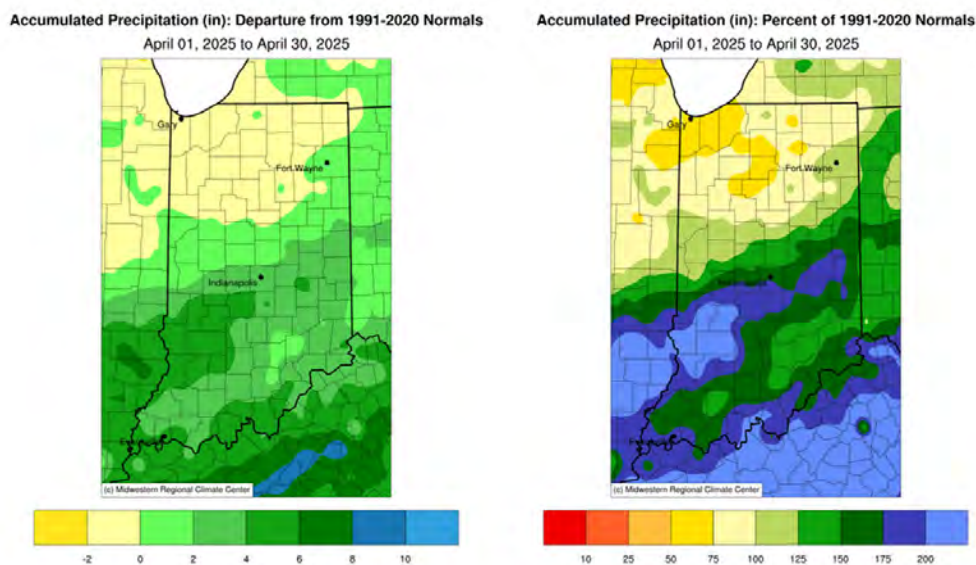


Figure 2: Left - April 2025 accumulated precipitation represented as the departure from the 1991-2020 climatological normal. Right - April 2025 accumulated precipitation represented as the percent of the 1991-2020 climatological normal.

Precipitation in May has varied, but most of the state has generally been on the dry side. Areas from Vermillion and Parke Counties to Lake Michigan have received between 25% and 75% of the normal precipitation through May 27 (Figure 3). Conditions were dry enough that

thunderstorm winds on May 16 prompted the National Weather Service Chicago Office to issue rare dust storm warnings for Benton, Newton, Jasper, Lake, and Porter Counties. Farmers in these counties were further ahead due to the drier conditions, which exposed **emerged soybeans to severe damage** and led to widespread replanting decisions. Southern Indiana faces challenges as well, with limited windows without rain to plant. The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Indiana Crop Weather Report indicated that 76% of corn and 71% of soybeans have been planted, both nearly on schedule despite the challenging conditions.

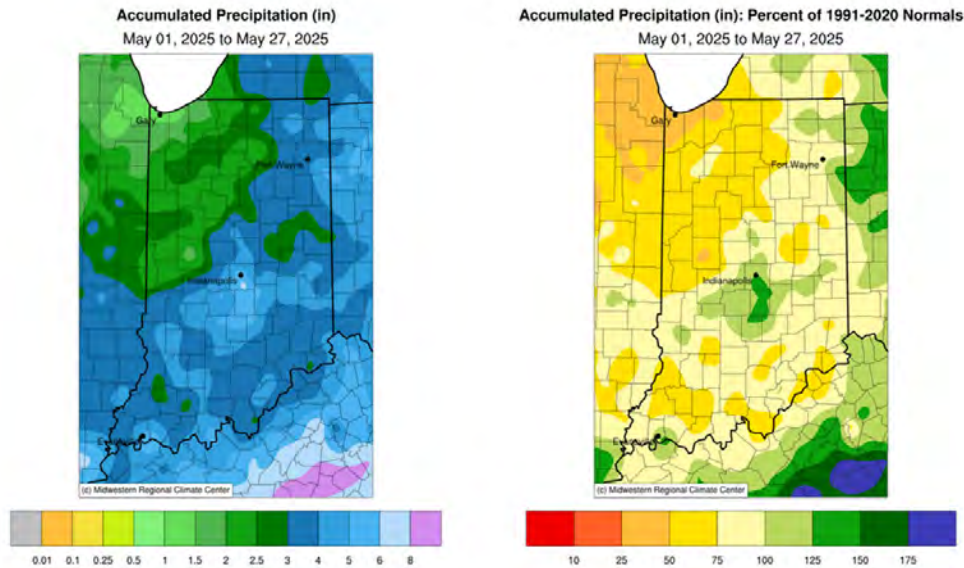


Figure 3: Left - May 1-27, 2025, accumulated precipitation represented as the departure from the 1991-2020 climatological normal. Right - May 1-27, 2025, accumulated precipitation represented as the percent of the 1991-2020 climatological normal.

So, here we are at the end of May, and abnormally dry (D0) and moderate drought (D1) conditions are once again spreading across northern Indiana. On April 29, 2025, the US Drought Monitor indicated that just over 14% of the state was experiencing D0 conditions, whereas the May 27, 2025 map showed that just over 32% of the state was facing either D0 or D1 conditions (Figure 4). How will this hold up moving into June? The **Climate Prediction Center** anticipates near-normal precipitation during the first week of the month, with an increased likelihood of above-normal precipitation extending through the second week. Time will tell.

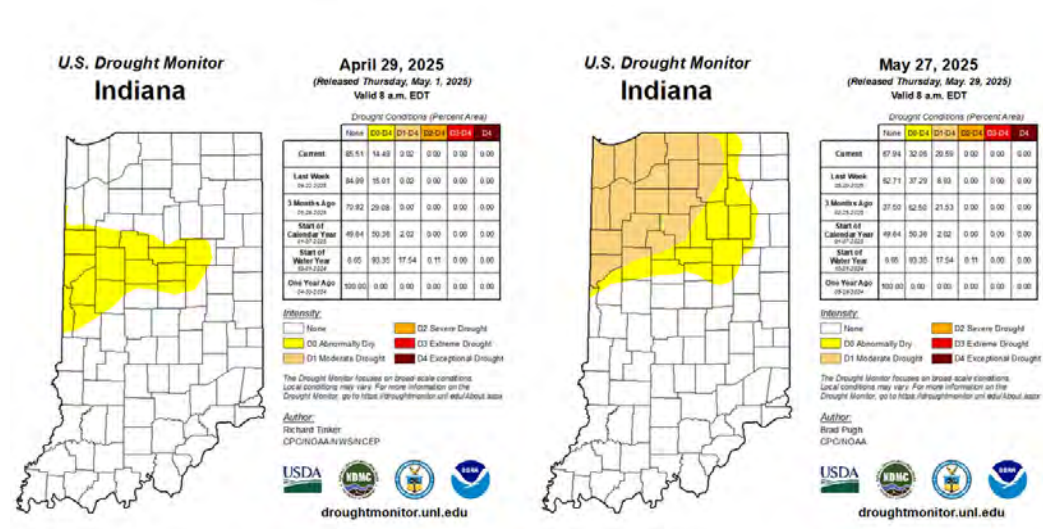


Figure 4: Left - April 29, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map. Right - May 27, 2025, US Drought Monitor Map.



**April 2025**

## Highest Precipitation Totals

Galena 4.3 ENE	Floyd Co	13.00"
Elnora 0.1 SW	Daviess Co	11.59"
Milltown 5.7 SSE	Harrison Co	11.29"
Springville 6.0 W	Greene Co	11.22"
Spencer 7.0 S	Owen Co	11.22"

## Lowest Precipitation Totals

Crown Point 1.1 N	Lake Co	1.38"
Valparaiso 2.8 W	Porter Co	1.54"
Valparaiso 0.9 NNW	Porter Co	1.57"
Valparaiso 4.3 SW	Porter Co	1.59"
Valparaiso 2.2 NW	Porter Co	1.64"

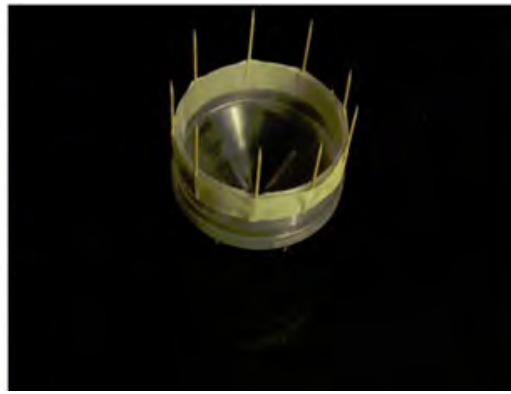
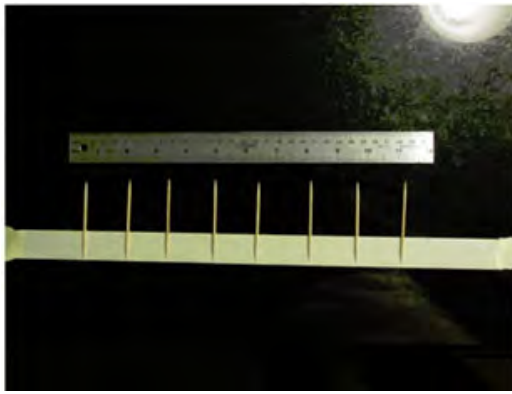
*Stations considered had 100% daily precipitation reports.*

### The Birds

**Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Headquarters**

It's spring, which means we start hearing about issues with birds perched on the rain gauge. If you haven't encountered this yet, birds sometimes choose to use your rain gauge as a perch and/or porta-potty. While a properly perched bird or two can present a great photographic opportunity, more often than not, they leave a mess behind. We've come across numerous ideas to deter birds from rain gauges, including stuffed cats, real cats, plastic owls, rubber snakes, and more. The new Tropo gauges feature bird wires that are inserted into the edge of the funnel. If you have a Stratus gauge, the simplest approach is to use tape to attach toothpicks or thin, rigid wires to the rim of the gauge, extending about 1½ to 2 inches upward from the rim. Here are some instructions for creating the toothpick deterrent.

- Cut a piece of duct tape approximately 14 inches long and ¾ inches wide. Since duct tape doesn't come in a ¾" width, you'll need to tear a strip of that width from a wider roll. Place it adhesive side up on a flat surface, and secure each end with a small piece of tape.
- Place the toothpicks on the tape approximately 1" to 1 1/2" apart. Round toothpicks are preferable as they are slightly heavier. Press the toothpicks onto the tape to ensure they stick.
- When you have arranged all the toothpicks, cut the strip free at both ends, just inside where you taped it down.
- Wrap the tape, along with the toothpicks, around the edge of the funnel, ensuring that the top edge of the tape is at or just below the funnel's edge. Overlap the ends and press firmly all around the funnel.



Another way to keep them off your gauge is to provide them with a higher perch 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 create something else to give the birds a spot to check out their surroundings without using your rain gauge. Here's what I did one year. It worked like a charm.

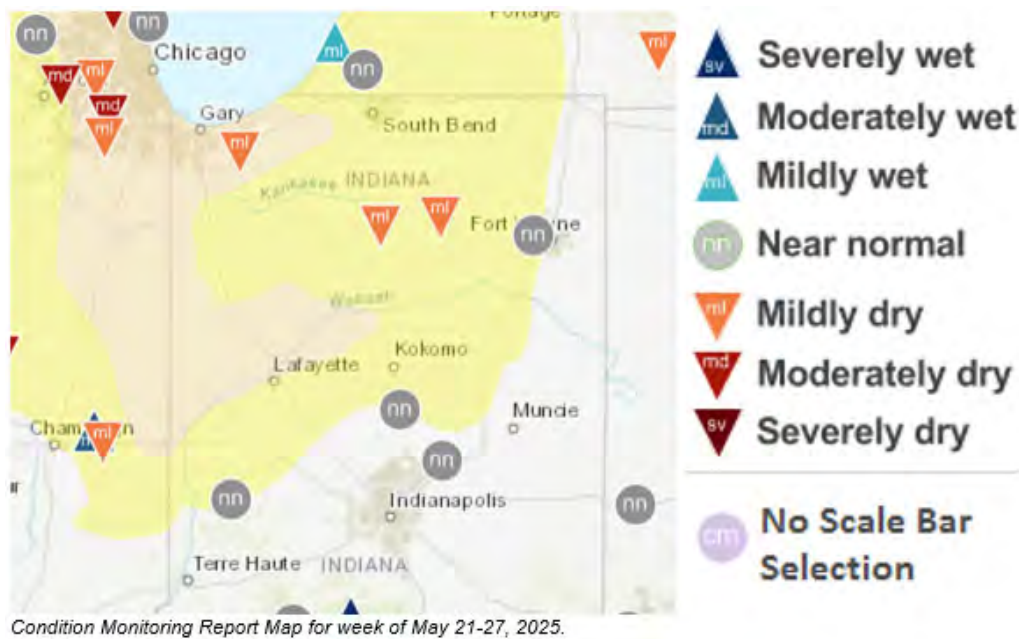


**Submit 100 Daily Observations**  
***Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Headquarters***

New observers may not realize this, but once you have submitted 100 daily observations, your CoCoRaHS observations 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 are 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 the your observations for a climate or precipitation study!

**We Need Your Condition Monitoring Reports**  
***Austin Pearson, Indiana State Climate Office***

The northern third of the state has begun to dry out over the last month, and even experienced a dust storm that damaged crops in the region. The most recent US Drought Monitor indicates that 32% of Indiana is experiencing abnormally dry (D0) or moderate drought (D1) conditions. There has been significant variation in precipitation from north to south. Precipitation amounts often do not tell the whole story. Where can you find the anecdotal information that describes the local impacts of weather that is too wet or too dry? CoCoRaHS **Condition Monitoring Reports** (CMR) provide this type of information. The US CMR Map can be accessed [here](#).



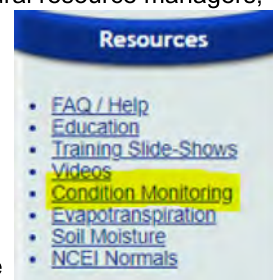
The CMR symbols are clickable to view more detailed reports, which can be seen for Rochester 2.4 NW below.

## Rochester 2.4 NW

<b>Station Number</b>	IN-FL-3 (48 CM Reports in prior 12 months)
<b>Report</b>	I have had 0.80 inches of rain at my location during the past 7-days. Soil is still dryer than normal at my location for this time of year.
<b>Condition</b>	Mildly Dry
<b>Date</b>	Sat May 24 2025
<b>Summary Data</b>	<a href="#">CoCoRaHS summary data by week for this station.</a>

Close

We need more observers to submit regular CMRs from across the state. The CMRs are a valuable resource for U.S. Drought Monitor authors, agriculture, natural resource managers, and others. These are quite simple to complete, and once you become accustomed to them (as with most things), they become second nature. The purpose of these reports is to describe the general moisture conditions at your location and their impacts, whether it's too dry or too wet. They don't (and shouldn't) need to be submitted every day. They are most valuable when submitted consistently (weekly), allowing users to see the changes that occur. We recommend submitting the CMR, located in the menu on CoCoRaHS.org, on Saturday or Sunday to ensure they are available for input into the Drought Monitor on Monday. However, if the weekend doesn't work for you, choose a day that suits you and stick to it. These reports aren't just for when conditions change; it's also helpful to track week-to-week if conditions remain steady in your area.



**If You Move, or Change Your Email Address**

If you're moving to a new home and want to keep participating in CoCoRaHS, please let us know as soon as possible. Your observations are tied to a specific location, so we want to make sure that your new observations are correctly associated with your new address. Observations are most valuable when they are consistent at one location, so you might also suggest to the new owner or tenant of your current home that they consider joining CoCoRaHS. We have a [brochure](#) available for download, print, and distribution.



Once you have your new address, inform [us](#) so we can close your old station and set up a new one at your new location. Please avoid signing up for CoCoRaHS again yourself. Once we've set up your new station, you can start entering observations from your new location. If you're moving to a different state, we can connect you with the state coordinator there to help you get started.

If you change your email address, please update your record in the CoCoRaHS database by logging in, selecting "My Account" from the top menu, and clicking "Edit" in the "My Information" section. Make your updates and click "Save."

Also, send a quick message to [in-sco@purdue.edu](mailto:in-sco@purdue.edu) with your new email address so we can update our newsletter mailing list, which is maintained separately from the main CoCoRaHS database.

#### [CoCoRaHS Newsletter Archive](#)

If you are interested in viewing past issues of The Hoosier Observer, visit the [Newsletter Archive](#) located on the Indiana State Climate Office Website.



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