

NC COCORAHs

From the mountains to the coast...
Every Drop Counts!



Spring 2020

Much of this spring (March through May), North Carolina was wetter and cooler than normal. We even saw some early tropical storms bring rainfall to the state. During these events, CoCoRaHS observers filled the gaps between existing weather networks and provided valuable data. Condition monitoring reports also gave decision makers and scientists on-the-ground impacts information that was important for drought monitoring. We thank all of our observers for your reports, for "every drop counts!"

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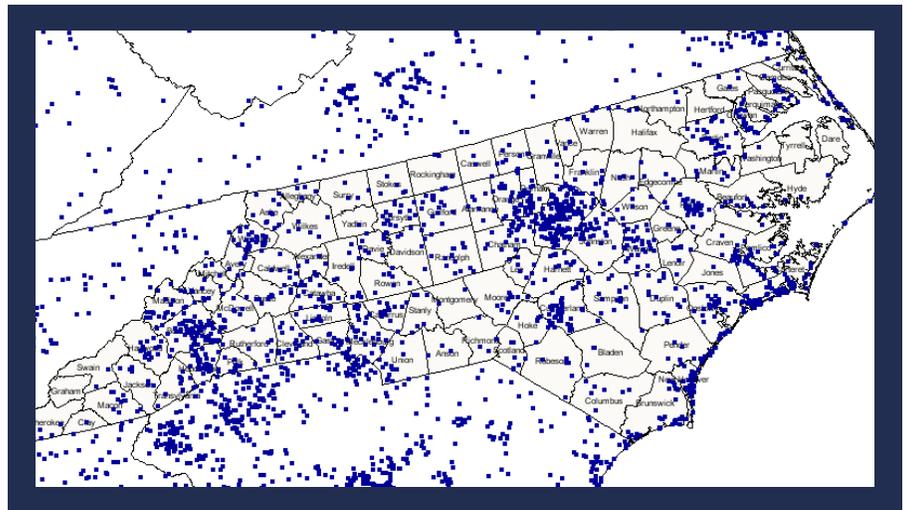


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COCORAHS SPRING SPOTLIGHT

Active CoCoRaHS Stations, Spring 2020



NUMBER OF ACTIVE
OBSERVERS

1,021

NUMBER OF NEW
OBSERVERS

55

NUMBER OF REPORTS

61,272

NUMBER OF CONDITION
MONITORING REPORTS

351

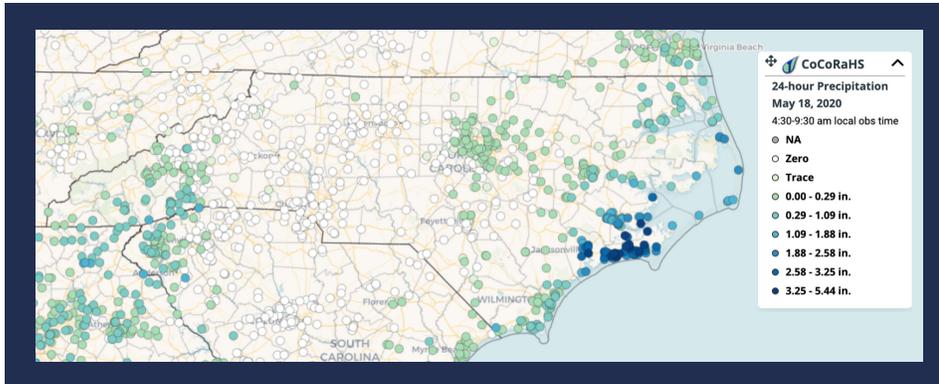
HIGHEST 1-DAY
RAINFALL REPORT

8.39"

It was a very wet spring and CoCoRaHS observers helped to fill data gaps in existing weather networks during rainfall and tropical storm events. In fact, we received over **61,000 reports** from March through May! Furthermore, we received about **350 Condition Monitoring reports**, which helped us to really capture on-the-ground impacts of this rainfall to local environments and landscapes.

NC now has **1021 active observers**, and **55 new observers** joined the network this spring. One observer in Polk County (NC-PK-5) reported the **highest 1-day rainfall total this spring of 8.39"** on May 20th! A low pressure system with heavy rainfall caused flooding and landslides in Polk County, leading to evacuations and rescues. We're thankful that our observers could capture this local heavy rainfall.

2020 TROPICAL STORMS



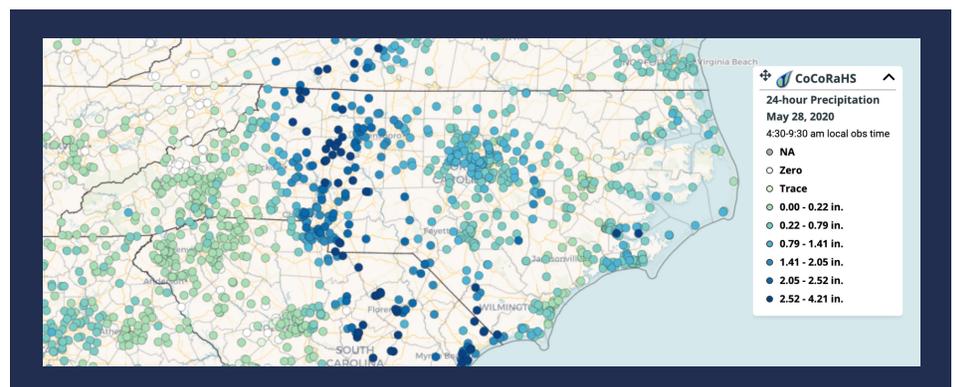
Tropical Storm Arthur

This storm developed on March 17th, growing from a low pressure system in the Atlantic. North Carolina experienced high winds and rain along its coast as the center remained offshore.

During Tropical Storm Arthur (May 17th-18th), CoCoRaHS observers submitted **1,323 daily precipitation reports**, and the **highest 1-day observation of 5.44"** was taken the morning of May 18th by observer NC-CR-95 in Carteret County. This county experienced more than just one station with heavy rainfall amounts; in fact, it had the top 10 daily CoCoRaHS rainfall reports, all over 3.5", from that period.

Tropical Storm Bertha

On March 27th, this storm came onshore north of Charleston, SC. As the low pressure system moved through North Carolina, it brought up to 4" of rainfall in the southern and western Piedmont.

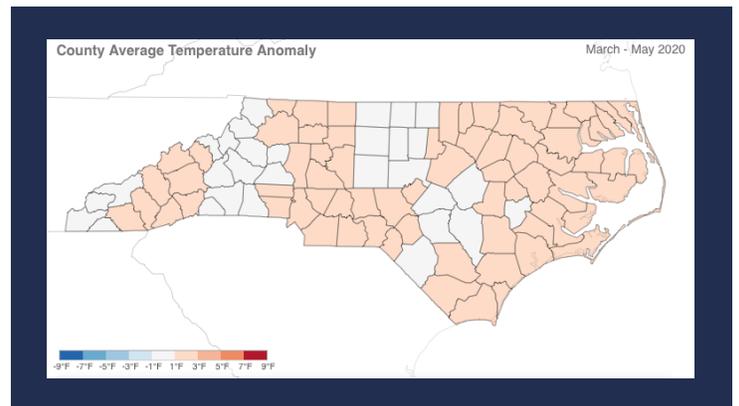


North Carolina CoCoRaHS observers submitted **1,445 daily precipitation reports** during the period of Tropical Storm Bertha (May 27th-May 28th). As the low pressure system moved inland through NC, the southern and western Piedmont received the highest rainfall totals. There were 6 reports that reached 3"+ on the morning of May 28th and the **highest CoCoRaHS daily report of 3.5"** was submitted by observer NC-AG-5 in Alleghany County.

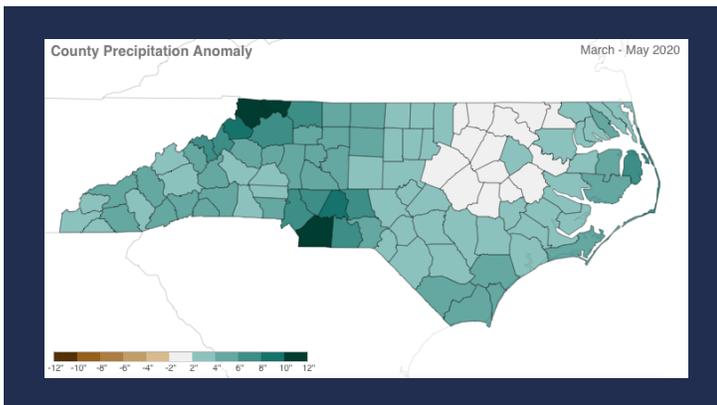
A CLOSER LOOK AT SPRING

TEMPERATURE

This spring, North Carolina's **statewide spring temperature average was 59°F** (1.1°F warmer than the 1901-2000 average). While most counties were near average or less than 2°F above average for the season, there were large monthly differences. Spring began with a very warm March, being the **5th warmest March** on record of 56°F (since 1895) and 6.7°F above average. Many counties in western NC reached at least 7.5°F above average. On the other hand, NC had the **10th coldest May** on record (since 1895) with statewide average temperature of 63.4°F (3°F below average). Several western NC counties had the top 5 coldest May's on record. Rutherford County had its 2nd coldest May on record! Temperature was a wild roller coaster ride this spring, but it led to a pleasant progression to summer.



Temperature Anomalies, Spring 2020



Precipitation Anomalies, Spring 2020

PRECIPITATION

Most of the state received above average precipitation this spring as multiple low pressure systems and a few tropical storms moved through the state. In fact, this was North Carolina's **10th wettest spring** on record (since 1895), with **statewide average precipitation of 15.8"** (4" above the 1901-2000 average). Furthermore, it was the **3rd wettest May** on record, with 7.2" of rain (3.2" above average)! As for county precipitation, Ashe County experienced their highest spring rainfall on record with 24.1" (11.3" above average). Union County had their 2nd-highest spring rainfall on record with 20.9". It's safe to say that all of this rainfall has kept drought out of North Carolina this spring.