



The Hoosier Observer

Indiana CoCoRaHS monthly e-newsletter

March 2020

February 2020 Statistics

Total observers reporting	345
Observers with no missing reports	188
Percent of total	54
Average Daily Reports per Day	262
Max # of Daily Reports and Day	286 / 13
Significant Weather Reports	14
Condition Monitoring Reports	23
E-T Reports	0
Max Daily Rainfall (County)	2.09" (Hendricks)

Warmer weather is returning to Indiana. Now is a great time to start observing again if you took a break during the cooler months. Put those inner tubes back in and help track precipitation as we move into spring flooding season.

March is the big month for recruiting new observers. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining, now is the time! Help Indiana win CoCoRaHS March Madness.

We'd also like to acknowledge the 5 new observers who joined CoCoRaHS in February from the following counties: St. Joseph, Marion (2), Grant, and Delaware. Thanks for joining the team!

February Precipitation in Indiana

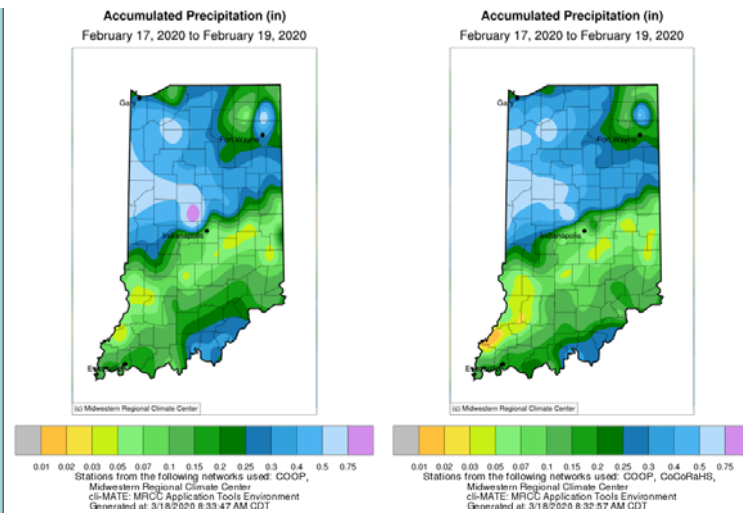
The February 2020 statewide precipitation was 2.76 inches -- only 0.4 inches above the 1981-2010 average. Snowfall was below normal in the southern half of Indiana (by as much as 3 inches) and above normal in the northern half (by as much as 3.5 inches). Liquid precipitation (including snow water equivalent) was near normal across much of the state with the exception of central and east-central Indiana that was 125 percent to 150 percent of normal. The driest part of the state was to the north along the Indiana-Michigan border and the counties along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Of the observers that provided data every day, one observer ((KB9LGS)OOLITIC 2.2 N [Lawrence County]) saw 4.99 inches for February. However, the one-day maximum record occurred in Hendricks County (PLAINFIELD 1.1 W) with 2.09 inches on February 10th! The lowest February total was just shy of one inch, observed in La Porte County (HANNA 0.2 NNW).

CoCoRaHS Observers Help Smooth Some Extremes

This issue's example of how your observations illuminate precipitation patterns comes from a precipitation event from February 17-18, 2020. When only NWS CoOp data was plotted, there were some areas of extremes that appeared, such as the >0.75-inch bullseye near Indianapolis and the side-by-side "eyes" in northeastern Indiana. However, when your CoCoRaHS observations were added to the shaded interpolated map, both areas of extremes were dampened. Perhaps those CoOp observations were erroneous, or perhaps they were very real, but also very isolated compared to nearby areas. For flooding awareness and communication efforts, also notice how your CoCoRaHS observations in the southwestern part of Indiana highlighted the strong gradient of very little precipitation (orange shading) along the Wabash River to the much higher amounts along the Ohio River. This spatial detail helps the NWS and state emergency managers better monitor areas of risk and improve their targeted communication to local communities!

Only using observations from the NWS COOP Network

Observations that include CoCoRaHS data



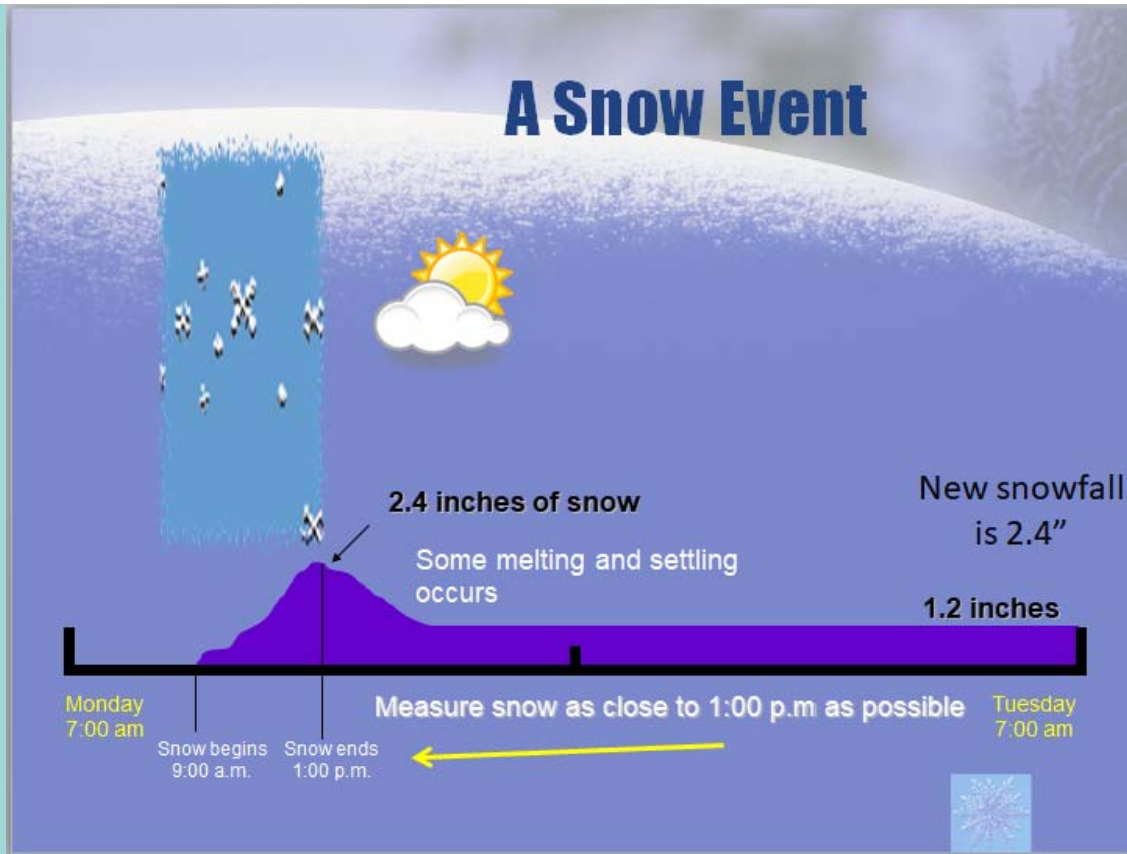
Welcome to Our New March Madness Observers in March

With just over half of March behind us, 17 new volunteers in 12 different counties have joined us so far during CoCoRaHS March Madness, from Vanderburgh County in the southwest to Porter County in the northwest to Ripley and Switzerland counties in the southeast and many other counties in between. Welcome! This is your first newsletter, which comes out about this time each month and contains news about CoCoRaHS in Indiana as well as observing and reporting tips. You may start reporting your precipitation as soon as you have your rain gauge. Some of you may be using the mobile app to submit your observations, but to get the full CoCoRaHS experience you really should spend some time on the CoCoRaHS web site (www.cocorahs.org) looking through all that CoCoRaHS has to offer.

A (Final?) Word About Spring Snow

Are we done with snow this season? Hard to know for sure, but probably, though we have had snow in April on a number of occasions. We had a situation two Saturdays ago that doesn't happen often during the winter but does occasionally happen in the spring and early fall. There was snow in western parts of Indiana during the morning that moved into and impacted eastern parts of the state later in the day. Snow ended in the early afternoon, with up to four inches on the ground in some places. Temperatures were just above freezing and rose a bit during the afternoon. There was also some rain during the afternoon, and then another period of light snow during the evening.

The 24-hour snowfall is defined as the maximum accumulation of snow **before melting and settling occur**. In order to measure accurately, snow must often be measured right after it stops falling, especially in situations where it is likely to melt or wash away before the next regular observation. For example, if 1.4" of snow was measured after it stopped snowing about 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, by Sunday morning only 0.5" may have remained on the snowboard. The ground may have been covered in white late Saturday morning, but by mid-afternoon there was more grass showing than snow due to the melting. In this example, report 1.4" of new snow for the regular observation Sunday morning as that was the maximum accumulation for the 24-hour period. Here is a graphic which shows another example.



Sometimes we are not home or otherwise cannot measure the snow after it stops falling. What should you do if you cannot or do not measure and there is melting that occurs by the next regular observation? We follow the same guidelines as the National Weather Service.

In cases such as this, use your best estimate based on a measurement of snowfall at the time of observation along with knowledge of what took place in the last 24 hours. Input may be obtained from other people who were near the station during the snow event. If your observation is an estimate and not based on direct measurement, record in your remarks "snow amount based on estimate." If you don't have an estimate where you know the snow you measure at your regular observation time is less than what had fallen due to melting, you should report "NA" for new snowfall and describe the situation, e.g. "Only 0.2" on snowboard, but there was significant melting overnight. No estimate of snowfall."

Editing Your Observations

A common question from observers is how to edit their data. You can edit any report you submit. To edit your Daily Precipitation Report, for example, log in and then select LIST/EDIT MY REPORTS. Click on the pencil icon next to the report you need to edit, and go from there.

CoCoRaHS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK
 "Because every drop counts"

Home | States | View Data | Maps My Data | My Account | Admin | Logout

My Data Entry : Daily Precipitation Report Form

1 click daily precip.

2 click pencil icon

3 enter correct value

4 click Submit Data

Submit Data Reset

Station Number : TX-CML-46
 Station Name : Cibolo 3.9 N
 Denotes Required Field
 12/19/2012 *Observation Date
 7:30 AM *Observation Time
 0.00
 Yes No
 Observation Notes

Submit Data Reset

Station Number : TX-CML-46
 Station Name : Cibolo 3.9 N
 Denotes Required Field
 12/15/2012 *Observation Date
 7:30 AM *Observation Time
 0.49 *Rain and Melted Snow (inches) (to the nearest hundredth increment) (Report was taken at regular gauge during the past 24 hours)
 Yes No
 Observation Notes: (This will be available to the public)

Submit Data Reset

My Data Entry : Daily Precipitation Report Form

102 Records.

Date	Time	Station Number	Station Name	Precip in.	Snow in.	Snow State	County	Actions
12/19/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/18/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/17/2012	6:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/16/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.04	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/15/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.05	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/14/2012	6:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/13/2012	6:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/12/2012	6:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/11/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/10/2012	7:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.34	0.0	NA	TX Comal	
12/7/2012	6:30 AM	TX-CML-46	Cibolo 3.9 N	0.00	0.0	NA	TX Comal	

me increments) for this later, so please save it.

Submit Data Reset

For questions or comments concerning this web page please contact info@cocorahs.org.

This same procedure can be used for any report you submit, including Multi-Day reports, Significant Weather Reports, etc. Mobile app users can also edit their data, although the procedure is different. You access the editing function through the station history option in the app. Select the menu in the upper left-hand corner, and select History for a list of your recent daily reports. Touch any of the reports on the screen, and a dialog will pop up asking if you want to edit this entry.

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 that 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 andrew.j.white@noaa.gov 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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