

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, MARCH 2001

NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DEKALB, IL

Day	Record Hi (F)	Record Lo (F)	Average Hi (1895-1995) (F)	Average Low (1895-1995) (F)	Observed Hi (F)	Observed Lo (F)	Observed Avg Daily Temp (F)	CD	HD	Precip (in.)	Snow-fall (in)
1	65	-13	40	23	27	8	17.5	0	47.5	0	0
2	66	-9	40	23	38	19	28.5	0	36.5	0.01	0.1
3	72	-5	41	24	41	24	32.5	0	32.5	0	0
4	70	-3	41	24	47	27	37	0	28	T	T
5	71	-7	41	24	30	18	24	0	41	T	T
6	69	-7	41	24	28	17	22.5	0	42.5	0	0
7	70	-7	42	24	36	20	28	0	37	T	T
8	77	-13	42	24	42	23	32.5	0	32.5	T	T
9	73	-3	43	25	33	20	26.5	0	38.5	T	T
10	69	0	44	26	38	21	29.5	0	35.5	0	0
11	69	-3	44	27	50	21	35.5	0	29.5	0.2	T
12	72	-6	45	27	42	28	35	0	30	0	0
13	77	5	45	27	46	30	38	0	27	0.13	T
14	71	5	45	27	43	29	36	0	29	T	T
15	74	9	45	27	47	29	38	0	27	0.1	0
16	77	-1	46	27	41	30	35.5	0	29.5	0.43	2.0
17	71	-2	46	28	32	26	29	0	36	0.17	2.4
18	79	-1	47	28	39	22	30.5	0	34.5	T	T
19	78	-8	47	29	44	24	34	0	31	0	0
20	77	2	48	29	46	29	37.5	0	27.5	0	0
21	77	4	48	28	52	31	41.5	0	23.5	0	0
22	78	1	48	28	54	28	41	0	24	0	0
23	80	0	49	29	55	30	42.5	0	22.5	0	0
24	84	3	49	29	47	22	34.5	0	30.5	0	0
25	81	3	50	30	29	18	23.5	0	41.5	0	0
26	80	7	50	32	25	13	19	0	46	T	T
27	82	9	51	33	35	14	24.5	0	40.5	0	0
28	82	8	52	33	41	21	31	0	34	0	0
29	84	12	52	33	48	27	37.5	0	27.5	T	0
30	84	5	52	33	49	34	41.5	0	23.5	0	0
31	81	7	52	32	54	37	45.5	0	19.5	T	0

Temperature
 1896-1995 AVG. HI: 45.7(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. LOW: 27.4(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. TEMP: 36.8(F)
 MARCH AVG. HI: 41.3(F)
 MARCH 2001 AVG. LO: 23.9(F)
 MARCH 2001 AVG. TEMP: 32.6(F)

Precipitation
 MARCH AVG: 2.43in.
 MARCH TOTAL: 1.04in.
 SNOW: 4.5in.
 YEAR TO DATE: 3.46in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 4.89in.

Degree Days
 COOLING: 3/01: 0
 1/01-Now: 0
 HEATING: 3/01: 1005.5
 7/00-Now: 6892

DISCUSSION

With only 1.04" of precipitation, this month fell way short of the average March precipitation of 2.43". The dry month was also a cold one. It was 4.4 degrees below average, capping off a colder than average winter season. In fact, as of March 31st, the DeKalb area has yet to reach the 60-degree mark for the spring season. November 5, 2000 was the last time 60 degrees was reached, almost five months ago! The month's 4.5" snowfall total was very close to average. The snow fell as a result of a very slow-moving low-pressure system that influenced the DeKalb area on the 15th and 16th. The system wrapped enough late season cold air into the area to change the precipitation, which began as rain, over to snow during the day on the 15th. It accounted for a good deal of the month's total precipitation, as the month was not an active one weatherwise. No measurable precipitation was recorded on the final 14 days of March 2001, which is an unusual feat during the normally dynamic transition period of early spring. This trend is sure not to continue into April and May. The spring season is typically a volatile time of year...generally the favorite time of year for meteorologists due to the season's severe weather nature. Keep an eye on the sky, and enjoy the warmer temperatures. We have survived yet another long winter here in northern Illinois!

Jesse Sparks, Senior Weather Director/Cooperative Observer, NIU
 Weather Office: (815) 753-0578

cast Information (updated once daily at approx. 7:30 am): (815) 753-1623

Climate Summary is supported by the Department of Geography, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Operations