

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY, March, 2002

NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DEKALB, IL

Day	Record HI	Record LO	Average HI	Average LO	Obs. HI	Obs. LO	Obs. Avg.	CDD	HDD	Precip. (in)	Snowfall (in)
1	65	-13	40	23	31	16	23.5	0	41.5	0.00	0.0
2	66	-9	40	23	32	18	25	0	40	0.32	4.5
3	72	-5	41	24	33	8	20.5	0	44.5	0.36	3.5
4	70	-13*	41	24	13	-13	0	0	65	T	T
5	71	-9*	41	24	17	-9	4	0	61	0.02	0.4
6	69	-7	41	24	31	12	21.5	0	43.5	T	T
7	70	-7	42	24	42	29	35.5	0	29.5	0.00	0.0
8	77	-13	42	24	47	29	38	0	27	0.19	0.0
9	73	-3	43	25	62	29	45.5	0	19.5	0.22	0.0
10	69	0	44	26	52	12	32	0	33	0.11	0.2
11	69	-3	44	27	28	12	20	0	45	0.00	0.0
12	72	-6	45	27	44	23	33.5	0	31.5	0.00	0.0
13	77	5	45	27	52	28	40	0	25	0.00	0.0
14	71	5	45	27	58	34	46	0	19	0.00	0.0
15	74	9	45	27	61	36	48.5	0	16.5	0.00	0.0
16	77	-1	46	27	42	28	35	0	30	0.00	0.0
17	71	-2	46	28	45	28	36.5	0	28.5	0.00	0.0
18	79	-1	47	28	42	32	37	0	28	T	0.0
19	78	-8	47	29	48	33	40.5	0	24.5	0.00	0.0
20	77	2	48	29	48	34	41	0	24	0.02	0.0
21	77	4	48	28	48	21	34.5	0	30.5	0.03	0.5
22	78	1	48	28	22	12	17	0	48	0.00	0.0
23	80	0	49	29	37	14	25.5	0	39.5	0.00	0.0
24	84	3	49	29	50	27	38.5	0	26.5	0.00	0.0
25	81	3	50	30	40	21	30.5	0	34.5	T	T
26	80	7	50	32	31	21	26	0	39	T	T
27	82	9	51	33	42	22	32	0	33	0.00	0.0
28	82	8	52	33	48	26	37	0	28	0.00	0.0
29	84	12	52	33	54	35	44.5	0	20.5	0.07	0.0
30	84	5	52	33	51	33	42	0	23	0.56	0.0
31	81	7	52	32	49	28	38.5	0	26.5	0.00	0.0

*New Record

Temperature

1896-1995 AVG. HI: 45.7(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. LOW: 27.4(F)
 1896-1995 AVG. TEMP: 36.8(F)
 March 2002 AVG. HI: 41.9(F)
 March 2002 AVG. LO: 21.9(F)
 March 2002 AVG. TEMP: 31.9(F)

Precipitation

March TOTAL: 1.90in
 March AVG: 2.43in.
 SNOW: 9.1in.
 AVG SNOW: 4.7in
 YEAR TO DATE: 3.88in.
 YEAR TO DATE AVG: 4.89in

Degree Days

COOLING: 3/02: 0.0
 1/02-Now: 0.0
 HEATING: 3/02:1025.5
 7/01-Now: 5367.0

Discussion

After experiencing one of the warmest winters on record, March hit us with our first month of below average temperatures since October. The average temperature this month was 31.9°F, almost 5 degrees off average (36.8°F). March started off bitterly cold with two new record lows. We reached our coldest reading of the year with a low of -13°F on the 4th followed by -9°F on the 5th. This marked the first time that temperatures had dipped below zero for the season. These cold temperatures were ushered in by 8" of snow that fell on the 2nd and 3rd of the month.

Temperatures moderated quickly, though, as we enjoyed a high temperature of 62°F on the 9th of March. The warmer temperatures brought rain and wind with it as well. We recorded 0.52" of precipitation, most of which was rain, from the 8th through the 10th as well as high winds with gusts to 40mph. This briefly brought temperatures back down for the next few days. After warming back up to 61°F on the 15th, temperatures moderated somewhat. We saw two more smaller cold snaps on the 22nd and 26th, but overall the second half of the month saw temperatures that were much more consistent and closer to average. No significant precipitation was recorded again until the 30th when we received 0.56" of rain.

Overall, we were a bit under average for total precipitation as we measured 1.90" for the month. We recorded almost double the normal snowfall, though, with 9.1" in all. For the year, we are now an inch under average for precipitation. Looking back at this past winter (December, January, February), the feature that stood out the most was clearly the exceptionally mild temperatures. The average temperature for the winter came out to be 29.67°F, which was the 4th warmest on record dating back to 1896! We fell far short of the average 25.1" of snowfall totaling only 16.8" for the three month period.

Soren Hall, Weather Director/Cooperative Observer, NIU

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

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