



SECOND MONTH WITH MUCH ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES THIS WINTER.

For the second month this winter, temperatures averaged much above normal. January was the only month with temperatures close, but still above normal. Record maximum temperatures were reported by NWS stations on the 19th and 27th. Precipitation was below normal as was snowfall across the two state area.

Most of the observers reported that their maximum temperature failed to stay at or below freezing. This is very unusual for the month of February. Herb Close of Manchester 1 S had 2 days below freezing. The following observers each had one (1) day where the temperature failed to get above freezing: Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW, Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills 2 SE, Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE, Ray Muller of Finksburg, Wilmington DE ASOS, and Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E. Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock observed 6 days. She was also the only observer to report a temperature of below zero.

The first seven days of the month saw above normal temperatures. Maximum temperatures across the area were generally in the 40's and 50's. Night time temperatures were generally in the high 20's and 30's, not bad for the early portion of February!

The middle of the month was the only portion of the month that saw below normal temperatures. From the eight to the

17th, temperatures generally averaged below normal. Maximum temperatures were generally in the 30's to low 40's across the area while night time temperatures were generally in the mid teens to upper 20's. The 15th was the only day during that period to have temperatures above normal.

Snowfall for the month was limited to the coldest week of the month, the 8th to the 16th. On the 8th & 9th, the heaviest snow of the winter season so far fell. Amounts across the area were fairly uniform. The greatest amount observed was 8.0" at Eagle Rock in the far western portion on Maryland, next was 7.9" in north central Maryland, and finally 7.7" at Bear 6 WSW in northern Delaware. Other amounts were in the 5 to 7 inch range. Lesser amounts fell in St. Marys County, Washington County and on the Eastern Shore. On the 13th-14th an average of a little more than 1" of snow fell before it changed to rain. No other measurable amounts of snow fell except for Eagle Rock.

Five precipitation events occurred during the month. They were: 4th-5th, 8th, 13th-15th, 22nd, and 26th. No excessive amounts fell.

Jug Bay Wetlands was the only site to record more than 1" in one day.

<u>MONTHLY EXTREMES</u>
<u>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE</u>
Hagerstown 1E 81
Smithsburg 81
Ridge 78
<u>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE</u>
Eagle Rock -4
Finksburg 12
Parkton 5 SW 13
<u>WARMEST AVG. TEMP.</u>
Balt. Custom Hse NWS 46.0
National NWS 44.7
Baltimore 2 SE 44.5
<u>COLDEST AVG. TEMP</u>
Eagle Rock 34.3
Parkton 5 SE 38.1
<u>MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION</u>
Jug Bay Wetlands 3.46
Whaylesville 3.40
<u>MINIMUM PRECIPITATION</u>
Dulles NWS ASOS 1.51
Manchester 1 S 1.64
<u>MAXIMUM MONTHLY SNOW</u>
Eagle Rock 19.3
Owings Mills 10.0
<u>MINIMUM SNOWFALL</u>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR GROUP CONTACT:

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OBSERVER'S MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

Second warmest February since records began in 1983.

Dan Hanson of Baltimore 4 SW

Warmest February since records began in 1991. Had 3 days in which the winds gusted over 50 MPH.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

18th 10:20 PM- Large halo around moon & long contrail in front of it.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

An unspectacular - comparatively speaking - February. Even the 7.9" snow on the 8th was rather uneventful occurrence.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE

Warmer than normal temperature with mostly normal precipitation.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 NE

27th - Record maximum . Second highest February temp on record.

A mild winter:

Avg. max. temp 43.4, Avg. min. temp 27.7

Avg. temp 35.6 +3.6

Precip. 11.63", Snowfall 15.8"

Marty Brumback of Indian Head

February was unusually warm. Had max.'s above 60 for five straight days, 18th - 22nd.

Bob Mills of Frederick

Record high temp of 76.1 on 2/27. Old record was 68 in 1961.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

20 days with snow cover, all 3" or more, this month - the first 20 days of the month. Max. snow cover was 8" on the 8th-10th, 13th-14th, & 17th.

Paul Schlosser of Kingsville 1 S

Some very warm readings second half of month.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 1 N

Warmest February on record (since 1979). First February with no maximums below freezing.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

2nd warmest on record. Record is 41.0 in 1990

Stan Rossen of Glenmont 1 NNE

Station daily record maximums set on the 19th (73), 21st (70), 22nd (69 tied), 26th (61) & 27th (76). Station daily record maximum minimums set on the 5th (40), 27th (50) & 28th (47). Station record maximum observation temps set on the 19 (50 tied) 21st (64), 27th (58), & 28th (50).

Jeff Taylor of Germantown 1.5 W

14th - Fog, Snow , IP, Glaze & Rain

27th - Incredible warmth.

Gary Gallaher of Bear 6 WSW, DE

Second warmest average temp and warmest average minimum temperature in 31 Februarys dating back to 1963. A storm track west of the mountains brought periods of warm temperatures and windy conditions the last half of the month.

27th - Second warmest Feb. temperature of 73.

John Zyla of Ridge

Roller-coaster ride on temperatures all month. Very low snowfall: 2.4" 1997 vs. 21.5" 1996. Barometer very seldom below 30.00".

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

8th - Wet snow sticking to everything.

9th - Dense fog with zero visibility as temps dropped to 20.

19th - Very warm 67, near record 69 set 1948

21st - Record high of 72 beats 70 in 1930.

22nd - Warm 62 this morning. High damaging west winds blew in beginning around 10:30 AM with may gusts to 45+ mph with peak gust of 52 at 10:41 AM. Tree and wire damage reported and some slight structural damage from high winds.

27th - Extreme record high of 81 beats old record of 67 in 1961. Very strong WSW winds this afternoon with gusts to 46 MPH caused some more minor damage to trees, wires, roofs, etc.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg

Entire month - ZZZZZ

4th & 14th - Mixed snow and sleet fell

27th - Max. temp of 81 smashed the old February max. temp record of 70 set on 2/25/96.