

Atlantic Coast Observers Network
MARYLAND / DELAWARE CHAPTER

EXTREME HEAT

An extended warm spell of record proportions which began on November 26th continued until it was broken with the passage of a cold front on the 8th. The maximum temperatures continued to climb as time went by. The heat peaked on the 6th and 7th. Temperatures reached into the low 80's at the following stations: 82 at **Jug Bay Wetlands**; 81 at **Forest Glen**, and **Hollywood**. These were all monthly maximum temperature records. Minimum temperatures failed to fall below 60 at the following stations; 62 at **Morganza**, 61 at **Ridge** (two days), and 60 at **Maryland Science Center**, **John Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel**, **Forest Glen**, **Washington Gas Light in Rockville**, **South Bowie**, and at **Hollywood**. Cooling Degree Days were noted by a few observers, unheard of for December. **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E** best summed up this warm spell in his monthly comments, "There has not been a prolonged warm spell at this time of the year that has even come close to this in the last 100 years".

COLD TEMPERATURES

A change in the upper air jet stream pattern brought a strong arctic cold front through the two state region early on the morning of the 22nd, but not after setting daily maximum temperature records at some stations. The temperatures which peaked out in the mid to upper 60's at many locations around sunrise fell steadily until reaching the low to middle teens the next morning. The cold spell lasted until the middle of January. The coldest temperatures occurred on the morning of the 26th and the 30th at most locations. The temperatures did not fall below zero this month. A zero reading at **Eagle Rock** was the coldest temperature.

SNOW

Snowfall this month was below normal. The only storm to bring more than one inch of snow (east of the mountains) occurred on the 23rd in an area from northwest of Washington, north through Baltimore and its western suburbs and then northeastward into northern Delaware. The heaviest storm total of 3.0" fell at the following locations: **Baltimore NWS BWI Airport, Baltimore 2 SE, Bear 2SW, DE**. This was the heaviest snowstorm of the month and gave this area it first White Christ-

EXTREMES REPORTED BY ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Jug Bay Wetlands	82
Forest Glen	81
Hollywood	81
California	80

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	0
Owings Mills 2 SE	7

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Ridge	46.4
Baltimore 2 SE	46.3
Whaleysville	43.6

COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	37.7
Owings Mills 2SE	38.9
Westminster 4SSE	39.3
Union Mills 2SE	39.4

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Ridge	3.72
Whaleysville	3.55
Bryans Road 2WSW	2.85

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Hagerstown 1E	0.49
Smithsburg 3NE	0.72
Westminster 4SSE	0.73

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	11.5
Baltimore 2SE	3.0
Bear 2SW, DE	3.0

mas since 1995. The only other general snow occurred on the 31st.

DROUGHT DEEPENS

Below normal precipitation further added to the drought conditions across most of the two state region. The driest areas this month stretched west from Northern Delaware, across Northern Maryland west to Washington County. Carroll County was the driest county. Its average was only 0.80".

January's Report will include the 1998 Summary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR DECEMBER 1998

Dan Hanson of Millersville 1 SE

3rd-7th - Unprecedented five consecutive days of temps over 70.

7th - One cooling degree day, the first ever for Dec. 23rd&24th-2" of snow was enough to bring traffic to a halt. It brought the first white Christmas since 1993

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

7th - Record max Dec temp of 77. (33 years of records)

8th - Heaviest precip of month of 0.49"

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

Unseasonable warmth early with a return to winter to close out the month.

22nd - Wind damage in the area with passage of strong cold front. Temps dropped from 63 to 11 on the 23rd.

Herb Close of Manchester 1 SW

Warmest December on record (10 years) . This month had the most 70+ days (5) in my 20 years of record keeping in Carroll County (here and at Finksburg 2NW). This was also the driest December in station history.

3rd - First 70 deg temp ever in December

6th - 75 deg set a new December max temp. Old was 66 in 1994.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

22nd - First arctic blast in 2 years.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 ENE

Dec was the first month since June 1988 with less than one inch of precipitation. Record daily max temps on the 2nd,3rd,5th,6th,7th&8th. 75 on the 7th broke the Dec max temp of 74 set 12/28/84. 1.80" of precip fell during the last 82 days of the year (10/11-12/31).

Rob Rickell of Union Mills 2 SE

7th - 74 All-time maximum temperature for December

Jack Thomas of Middle Mt, Thurmont

13th - First snowflakes of the winter!!

Rich Giannola of Olney

25th - White Christmas

30th - Lunar Halo

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N

7th - Warmest Dec temp ever.

25th - Coldest day since 1/20/97

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

Mean max temp 74.1 degrees the first 7 days.

6th & 7th - 80 and 81 degrees - Unbelievable!

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

Avg. max 69.0, avg. min 43.9 during the first 8 days - pretty ridiculous! - more like October.

6th - 76 degrees tied December max temp set 12/8/80.

7th - 2 Cooling Degree Days

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW

Warmest Dec since 1991. Driest since 1985. Precip since 7/1 10.72" below normal.

23rd-24th - 3.0" of snow. The snow cover lasted until the 28th.

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

10th - Heavy frost.

31st - Very light snow giving a dusting to cars, yards, and sidewalks.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

2nd - 8th - Station daily record temp each day.

5th & 6th - 78 degrees new Dec max temperature

7th & 8th - 81 degrees new Dec max temperature. It broke the monthly record set and tied on the 5th & 6th 25th - Sunshine bright, snowy white and a glittery sight because of ice on wires and trees.

Marlene Walchli of California 3 NW

23rd - Snow changed to sleet and then freezing rain.

24th - Freezing rain / drizzle changed to snow / sleet.

31st - Snow AM, Crystal clear skies PM

John Zyla of Ridge

15th - Heavy frost

22nd - 66 at 9:39AM, 27.7 at midnight

23rd - Sleet, snow grains, icy film on trees.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

2nd - Record high of 66. Old record 65 in 1905

3rd - Record high of 73. Old record 67 in 1932

5th - Record high of 76. Old record 74 in 1982

6th - Record high of 77. Old record 69 in 1982

7th - Record high of 74. Old record 73 in 1953

21st - Record high of 61. Old record 60 in 1957.

This was the 5th warmest and 4th driest Dec on record in the last 100+ years.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

4th & 5th - 74 new Dec max temperature.

4th - 58 new Dec max minimum temperature.

Kenny Boggs of Whaleysville

24th - 1/4" ice in my yard. I could have ice skated.