



ATLANTIC COAST OBSERVER NETWORK, MD / DE / DC CHAPTER WITH DATA FROM NEARBY AREAS

RECORD EARLY MONTH TEMPS NO SNOW EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS RECORD MARCH PRECIPITATION IN NORTHEAST

March 2000 was a month of extremes: 1.) Record early 80+ degree heat; 2.) Lack of snowfall, and; 3) heavy rains.

The month began on a warm, dry note. The temperatures broke the 80 degree mark at almost all ACON Stations and at the four NWS ASOS Stations on the 8th. The warmest temperature of 86 degrees was observed by **Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1E**. This temperature broke the previous record by 11 degrees. Records at Hagerstown go back to the late 1890's. 85 degree temperatures were reported by: **Jug Bay Wetlands, Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2 SE, Marty Brumback of Bryans Head 2 ESE, Rob Cohen of Potomac 4 N, Joe Terry of Forest Glen, and Floyd Abell of Hollywood**. This was the earliest that temperatures this high has been observed at many if not all stations. The above normal temperatures of February and early March brought out the Washington Cherry Blossoms much earlier than normal.

As a result of the lack of cold temperatures snow was not a work to be used during March at most locations. The only station to observe measurable snowfall was **Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock**. At her station in Garrett County a total of 14.9 inches fell. 10 inches fell on the 21st-22nd as wet snow while the rest of the region received rain. Traces of sleet was observed in Carroll County, Washington County in Maryland and York County in nearby Pennsylvania.

The first third of the month was dry. The warm weather and dry weather dried out the ground enough to do some early spring plantings. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW DE** reported the

ground to be dry enough to work and planted some early onions and spinach. Five periods [(11th-12th), (16th-17th), 21st-22nd), (25th), and 27th-28th)] of rain fell this month. Four of these periods brought heavy rains of over an inch to portions of the area. **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW**, who reported a station record March rainfall of 8.68", observed five days with over an inch of rain. Wilmington ASOS NWS reported 9.14", breaking their previous record of 8.17" set in 1912. Rainfall over the balance of the area was generally in the four inch and five inch range.

The heaviest rains of the month fell on the 21st-22nd. A storm which stalled in Eastern Maryland due to strong high pressure to the north brought extremely heavy wind (51 MPH gust) driven rains to Northern Delaware and Northeastern Maryland. Northern Delaware received the heaviest. **Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE** reported a storm total of 5.18" and **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW** 4.46". Storm totals across the balance of the area was generally in the 2 inch range. The temperatures during the storm, which stalled over eastern Maryland, remained cold. Wet snow fell in the higher elevations of Western Maryland. Seven stations reported a two (2) degree difference between the maximum and minimum temperature while **Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW DE** reported a one (1) degree difference.

John Zyla was the only observer to report hail this month. It fell on the 11th.

Two to four thundershowers / storms days were reported.

EXTREMES REPORTED BY

ACON OBSERVERS

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Hagerstown 1 E	86
Six Other Stations	85

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE

Eagle Rock	10
Smithsburg 3 NE	17

WARMEST AVG. TEMP.

Baltimore 2 SE	52.3
Ridge	51.7

Bryans Road 2 ESE	51.0
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COLDEST AVG. TEMP.

Eagle Rock	41.2
Millersville 1 SE	46.1
Westminster 4 SSE	46.1

MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION

Wilmington 4 NNE DE	9.36
Bear 2 SW DE	8.68
California 3 NW	5.51

MINIMUM PRECIPITATION

Gaithersburg 2 WNW	3.75
Baltimore 2 SE	3.75
Eagle Rock	3.84

MAXIMUM SNOWFALL

Eagle Rock	14.9
4 Stations	T

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OBSERVER NEWS

Herb Close of Manchester 1 S - As of press time Herb is arranging a gathering on Saturday, May 13 4 PM to ?. Kevin will provide additional information.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE is expecting his second child on Oct 24.

OBSERVER COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2000

Jim Canavan of Wilmington 4 NNE

21-22nd - Heavy, cold rain. Storm total 5.14".

Gary Gallaher of Bear 2 SW, DE

21st-22nd - A stalled low pressure area brought March record heavy rains (4.46"), stream and local flooding, and strong winds.

21st - Temperature rise was only one (1) degree—Max 41, min 40.

Record March station precipitation. Record March 24 hour precipitation of 4.14" set on the 21st-22nd. This was the third warmest March in station history and the first March since 1977 with no snowfall.

Three days with thunder.

Jug Bay Wetlands

8th - Almost clear. Very high stratus & plane contrails.

Al Kreinik of Parkton 5 SW

30th - Heavy morning frost.

Three days with thunder.

Marty Sharrow of Owings Mills

27th - AM frost, Increasing clouds with heavy PM rains.

Astronomical winter was a "No Show" for its waning weeks. Significant rainfall finally arrived in time for the growing season.

Joe Manfre of Baltimore 2SE

Slightly more than normal precipitation (+0.37")

Two days with thunder.

Bobby Miller of Millers 4 N

Warmest March on record (18 years) breaking the previous 1990 record by 1 degree.

31st - Heavy morning frost.

Four days of thunder.

Ralph Hartsock of Westminster 4 SSE

2nd - Sunny, windy and colder.

11th - Rain and thunderstorms, heavy at times.

First month since September with above normal rain.

Rebecca Harvey of Eagle Rock

21st-22nd - 10 inches of wet snow.

One day with thunder.

Rich Giannola of Olney

30th - Solar halo at 7:45 PM.

March 2000 was the first March in 14 years of records with no snowfall. Three years had traces 1987,88,98. Three days with thunder.

Rob Cohen of Potomac 4N

Warmest March on record by 2.8 degrees

First snow-less March since 1977.

9 out of the last 10 March's have had at least 4" of precip.

Three days with thunder.

Kevin Shaw of Gaithersburg 2 WNW

March 2000 was my warmest and first March without snow in station history. There were no days with the max temperature in the 30's. Daily maximum temperature records were set on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 25th (tied).

Joe Terry of Forest Glen

The pattern transitioned to wet and stormy. Large temperature swings were evident mid month. Storm on 21st produced the most rain since Floyd but pressure remained high and steady.. Three thunderstorm days

Bill Hudelson of South Bowie

6th - Clear with scattered AM frost.

31st - Mostly clear light frost 7 AM.

March 2000 was an unremarkable March with no roar of a lion. Three days with thunder.

Floyd Abell of Hollywood

8th Station record high for date and early March.

27th Late day & evening showers some heavy.

Four days with thunder.

John Zyla of Ridge

11th -1st Thunderstorm of year! Half-inch hail fell from 3:30PM-3:36 PM.

Four days with thunder.

Greg Keefer of Hagerstown 1 E

8th - Record high of 86. Old record was 75 set in 1974.

9th - Record high of 79. Old record was 77 set in 1964.

19th - Cloudy cool high of 43.

21st - Light overnight rain became heavier by dawn also a bit of wet snow mixed in with the rain. Rain all day moderate at times also some sleet mixed in at times especially late afternoon.

March 2000 tied 1976 for the 6th warmest on record. Record warmest is 52.1 set in 1945.

Two days with thunder.

Jim Vaughn of Smithsburg 3 NE

What a strange month. March came in like a thirsty lamb and left as a wet musty lamb. We were above average for rainfall but set a record for snowfall (or lack of it).

21st - Stationary low pressure, minor flooding. Greatest 24 hour precipitation since 2.92" fell on May 8, 1998, a period of 674 days. Greatest 24 hour precipitation for March since 2.67" fell on March 4, 1993.

Three days with thunder.

Rob Rickell of Hanover 2 S, PA

20th - Sleet mixed with rain at the beginning.

21st - Heavy rain with some sleet. at the end. Long Arm Reservoir, 1/2 mile south of my location has filled completely. Water is now flowing briskly over the spillway.

Four days with thunder.