**Reading 4 SW**; Berks County, PA; Lat 40.316251, Lon -75.988661, Elev 320 ft ASL

CoCoRaHS ID: PA-BR-2, Reading 3.5 SW; CWOP ID: FW1703 Observation time: 2359 EST

Observer in Charge: Jeffrey R. Stoudt

Period of Record: Precipitation/Snow - January 1983, Temperatures - June 1984

**March 2021**

DAILY DETAILS (Sundays, monthly extremes in **bold**)

TEMPERATURES

DAY MAX MIN OBS PCPN SNOW DEPTH REMARKS (all times are military EST)

1 47 31 31 0.17 P Light rain, drizzle AM; fog before dawn

2 38 23 26 P

3 56 22 35 P

4 47 29 29 T T P Few feeble flakes late afternoon

5 40 23 32 P

6 **37** 31 31 T T P Snow flurries, mainly 0900-1100

**7** 43 25 **25** P

8 48 **19** 34 P P = Patchy snow, coverage less than half

9 67 32 37 0 (quantitively same as trace)

10 68 31 47

11 77 40 59 Foggy early, then sunny and warm

12 69 51 52 T Sprinkles predawn

13 52 33 46

**14** 59 33 33

15 44 25 33

16 41 31 36 0.02 T 0 Light snow, sleet, or rain briefly at times

17 48 35 45

18 47 44 44 **1.24** Rain dawn to dusk, then light and occasional…

19 49 31 31 T …till shortly after midnight

20 59 27 34

**21** 67 27 38

22 66 29 44

23 70 33 50

24 57 50 55 0.84 Steady rain, mostly light, daylight

25 64 54 **60** 0.03 Drizzle, fog AM; light showers after dusk

26 **80 53** 53 T Sprinkles before dawn; then mostly sunny, windy

27 70 43 56

**28** 64 47 47 0.79 Rain daybreak-dusk; aft lull; few brief spurts

29 55 35 35

30 67 31 52

31 67 49 53 0.06 Occasional light rain PM

SUM 1763 1067 3.15 T 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 45.6 (+3.6)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 56.9 (+5.3)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 34.4 (+2.1)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 80 (+6) on 26th (record 89 on 30 Mar 1998)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 54 on 25th (record 63 on 16 Mar 1990)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 19 (+3) on 8th (record 5 on 06 Mar 2015)+

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 37 on 6th (record 25 on 14 Mar 1993)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 594 (4107)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 2 (2)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 3.15 (-1.27)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 11.09 (+0.34)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.24 on 18th (record 3.12 21 Mar 2000)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.24 on 18th-18th (rec 3.62 21-22 Mar 2000)

Total Monthly Snowfall (Dep): T (-4.9)

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 42.8 (+15.0)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: T on 16th+ (record 14.0 on 13 Mar 1993)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: T on 16th-16th+ (rec 14.1 on 13-14 Mar 1993)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 1 on 1st

Days with Hail: 0

Days with Thunder (Dep): 0 (-1)

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 34 on 26th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.63 on 20th

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.46 on 28th

HIGHLIGHTS

The first quarter of March 2021 was predominantly cooler than normal, then the remaining three quarters were mostly warmer than normal. The result was a final monthly average of 45.6 (+3.6). The warmth was keyed by a high of 77 on the 11th, which was later outdone by a high of 80 on the 26th. Officially for Reading (RDG), the high of 77 on the 11th surpassed the record high of 72 from 1977, and the high of 81 on the 26th narrowly missed the record high of 82 from 1921. The minority coolness could boast no colder than 19 on the 8th and a coolest daily high of 37 on the 6th. However, the early chill helped to preserve the patchy remnants of February’s copious snow accumulations. The final patches of undisturbed snow did not disappear until the afternoon of the 9th. And 17 days contained freezing temperatures, which is average for March. Of the majority warmth, four days failed to cool below 50, the warmest low 54 on the 25th. The low of 53 on the 26th, when paired with the high of 80, produced 2 cooling degree days (CDD). CDD is a metric mostly for the warmer half of the year, and is unusual, but not really rare, for March. A March with CDD occurs every few years on average. Unlike January and February, when temperatures were pinned within a rather narrow range of 33 and 42 degrees respectively, a few individual days this March ranged greater than 35 degrees, including a range of 40 (27/67) on the 21st. A few days prior, on the 18th, an all-day rain restrained the temperature within 3 degrees (44/47). Last March (2020) was one of five Marches that averaged warmer than this March. It averaged 47.3 with extremes of 24/78.

The snow blitz of February ended before the start of March. March brought a few traces of snow or sleet on the 4th, 6th, and 16th. Precipitation of any type was scarce through the midpoint, allowing a substantial deficiency to develop. Significant rain fell on a few days during the second half, keyed by 1.24” on the 18th. But these were not nearly enough to recoup the deficiency. And the month ended at 3.15 (-1.27). March 2020 brought a near-normal 4.44, which was favorably distributed during the month, and included as much as 1.60 in 24 hours. And there was also only a trace of snow, on only one day. In Berks County, near normal totals of 3.6 to 4.3 inches soaked western, north-central, and southeastern townships. In between, totals of 2.6 to 3.6 prevailed, including 2.71 at RDG.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MARCH)

Avg Temp 45.6 – 6th warmest of 37 (35.9 in 1993 to 52.3 in 2012)

Precip 3.15 – 14th driest of 39 (0.69 in 2006 to 8.26 in 1993)

Snowfall T – 2nd least (5-way) of 39 (0.0 in 2012 to 16.4 in 1984)