**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 2024**

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

TEMPERATURES

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

1 52 **24** 40 T Very light rain after 2200

2 52 37 48 1.06 Lgt-mod rain AM; lgt rain, drizzle till 1800

**3** 66 43 45

4 69 45 49

5 50 44 49 1.01 Rain AM; tapered, ended early PM

6 54 **49** 52 0.26 Foggy daybreak; light rain after 1400

7 60 40 40 0.06 Occasional light rain before 0800

8 59 33 43

9 **45** 41 44 **1.62** Rain dawn onward, mod-heavy 1600-2000

**10** 48 36 37 0.03 T 0 Brief rain showers, 3/16” hail, wet flurries

11 55 37 40

12 69 36 45

13 73 38 49

14 **78** 41 **64** 0.01 Gusty shower, pressure-jump after 2345

15 73 48 48 0.06 Showers before 0100

16 62 38 51

**17** 63 43 43 T Few drops at daybreak

18 50 34 34

19 49 33 36 T T 0 Brief snow flurry ~0750

20 60 33 33 0.01 Shower mid-afternoon

21 **45** 27 **30**

22 47 **24** 40 0.01 Rain toward 2359

23 47 32 32 1.59 Rain into early PM

**24** 50 30 33

25 57 28 35

26 63 31 45

27 49 43 47 0.34 Occasional rain/drizzle mostly midday

28 51 41 41 0.04 Occasional light rain AM, mostly before 0100

29 58 37 39

30 61 38 47 0.13 Few showers PM

**31** 61 41 46 Easter

SUM 1776 1145 6.23 T 0

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Average Monthly Temperature (Dep): 47.1 (+5.1)

Average Maximum Temperature (Dep): 57.3 (+5.7)

Average Minimum Temperature (Dep): 36.9 (+4.6)

Extreme Daily High Max Temp (Dep): 78 (+6) on 14th (record 89 on 30 Mar 1998)

Extreme Daily High Minimum Temp: 49 on 6th (record 63 on 16 Mar 1990)

Extreme Daily Low Min Temp (Dep): 24 (+8) on 1st,22d (record 5 on 06 Mar 2015)+

Extreme Daily Low Maximum Temp: 45 on 9th,21st (record 25 on 14 Mar 1993)

Heating Degree Days (Season): 548 (3901)

Cooling Degree Days (Season): 0 (0)

+ Most recent of more than one occurrence

-- more --

Total Monthly Precipitation (Dep): 6.23 (+1.81)

Total Annual Pcpn through Month: 15.05 (+4.30)

Greatest Calendar Day Pcpn: 1.62 on 9th (record 3.12 21 Mar 2000)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Pcpn: 1.63 on 9th-10th (rec 3.62 21-22 Mar 2000)

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

Total Season Snowfall (Dep): 17.8 (-10.5)

Greatest Calendar Day Snowfall: T on 10th,19th (record 14.0 on 13 Mar 1993)

Greatest Floating 24-Hour Snowfl: T on 7th-7th (rec 14.1 on 13-14 Mar 1993)

Maximum Depth of Snow/Ice: 0

Days with Hail: 1

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

Highest Wind Gust (MPH): 32 on 11th

Maximum Barometric Pressure: 30.62 on 1st

Minimum Barometric Pressure: 29.47 on 10th

HIGHLIGHTS

March 2024 was wet and mild. Total precipitation of 6.23” (+1.81) was fifth greatest of 42 during March and was comprised of four days of over 1.00 inch, greatest 1.62” on 9th followed very closely by 1.59 on 23rd. More than 4 inches (4.04) had soaked the area by the 10th resulting in only isolated minor flooding. Grounds dried considerably during the following twelve days during which only 0.09” fell. Then 1.59” within slightly over 12 hours on the 23rd resulted in soggy grounds again. Rains from this storm reached around 3” in the Delaware Valley area. Finally, a modest half inch fell the last eight days of March. Brief flurries of wet snow on 10th and 19th were all the snow this month, the first occurrence of which was preceded by rain showers and 3/16” diameter hail. Last March (2023) brought also only a trace of snow. Rainfall last March was deficient with 2.75”. March precipitation totals in Berks County fell mostly within the range of 5.4 and 6.8 inches, including 5.52” officially for Reading (RDG). But some lesser amounts occurred in western Berks County.

This March was somewhat backward temperature-wise.  Mild to warm days prevailed for two weeks with no freezing temperatures after a seasonably cool first day which began with the month's minimum, a modest 24 degrees.  Warmth peaked the four days prior to the midpoint with highs of at least 69, including the maximum of 78 on the 14th.  All of these warm days came well short of date record warmth.  Chill arrived for the vernal equinox, continued for several days thereafter, which was then followed by seasonable or slightly milder days till end of month.  The chilly period consisted of six consecutive daily freezing lows, included 24 again on the 22nd, and was immediately preceded by two lows of 33.  Therefore, six of the seven freezing lows occurred early in the spring part of March.  Even so, the seven days undercut eight of March 2020 for least days of freezing lows in March during last 40 years.  Further, the coolest daily high was a very modest 45 on the 9th and 21st, two of only seven daily highs in the 40s.  There was no unusually warm daily low, the mildest 49 on the 6th. Despite the chilly interlude that began spring, the final average temperature this March of 47.1 (+5.1) tied March 2000 for fifth warmest of 40. March 2023 was not quite as warm with average of 43.5. This March marked five consecutive warmer than average. However, six of the seven preceding Marches were cooler than average. Officially at RDG, the average of 46.9, with extremes of 25/77, ranked eighth warmest of 127. The reputably windy month of March was not quite so windy at Reading 4 SW with gust of 32 mph on 11th while gust of 53 mph was clocked at RDG.

RANKINGS AND EXTREMES FOR THIS MONTH (MARCH)

Avg Temp 47.1 – 5th (2-way) warmest of 40 (35.9 in 1993 to 52.3 in 2012)

Precip 6.23 – 5th wettest of 42 (0.69 in 2006 to 8.26 in 1993)

Snowfall T – 2nd (7-way) least of 42 (0.0 in 2012 to 16.4 in 1984)