

Decorah Weather - March 2024 Summary

by Richard Bernatz

Weather data available online at <http://faculty.luther.edu/~bernatzr/DecWx/>

1. MARCH 2024 TEMPERATURES

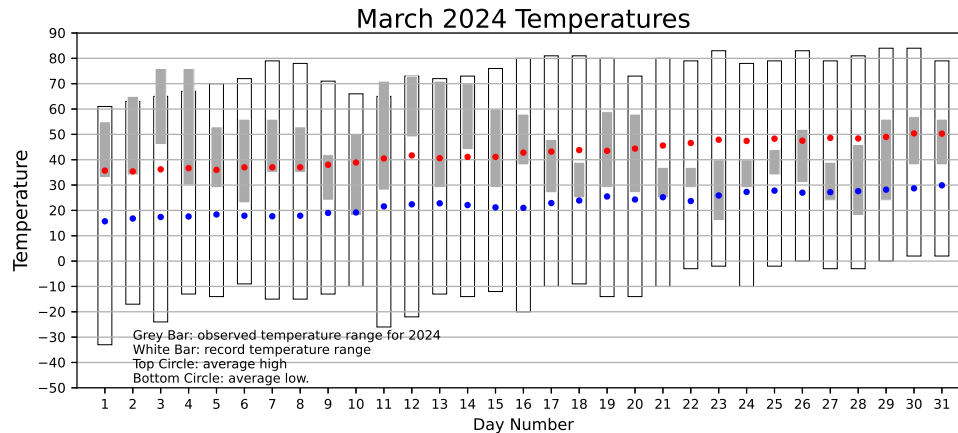


Figure 1: **Grey Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2024, **White Bar:** Record temperature range, **Red Circle:** average high, **Blue Circle:** average low.

Temperature (° F)	March 2024	Historical	Deviation
Average High	54.6	42.9	+11.7
Average Low	30.2	22.9	+7.3
Daily Average	42.4	32.9	+9.5

Table 1: March 2024 average temperatures compared to March averages.

- MARCH 2024
 - Record temperatures : Six record maximum temperatures. Records high temperatures (old records and year in parentheses) are 65° F on the 2nd (63° F in 1964), 76° F on the 3rd (65° F in 1946 and 1983), 76° F on the 4th (67° F in 19663), 71° F on the 11th (66° F in 2021), 73° F on the 12th (ties with 1990). A record maximum minimum of 46° F on the 3rd (42° F in 1983).
 - Average temperature : 42.4° F (9.5° F warmer than average)
 - Warmest temperature : 76° F on the 3rd and 4th
 - Coldest temperature : 16° F on the 24th
 - Heating degree-days (65° F basis) : 699.5, 293.8 degree-days less than the historical average of 993.3
- ALL MARCHES SINCE 1893 (132 years)
 - Compared with March 2024, 2 Marches were warmer and 129 Marches were cooler.
 - Warmest average : 51.0° F in 2012
 - Coldest average : 20.3° F in 1899
 - Warmest temperature : 84° F on the 29th of 1895 and on the 30th of 1986
 - Coldest temperature : -33° F on the 1st of 1962

2. MARCH 2024 PRECIPITATION

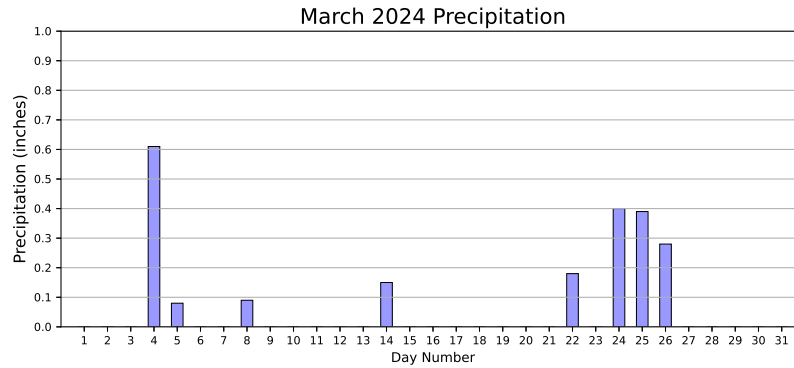


Figure 2: March precipitation for Decorah.

- MARCH 2024
 - Total precipitation for March 2024 : 2.18 inches, 0.28 inches more than the average amount of 1.90 inches
 - Eight days with measurable precipitation (average is 7 days)
 - Greatest 24-hour precipitation total of 0.61 inches on the 4th
 - Measurable snowfall 4.0 inches, 3.6 inches less than the average of 7.6 inches
 - Two days with measurable snowfall (average is between three and four days)
- ALL MARCHES SINCE 1893 (132 years)
 - Compared with March 2024, 48 Marches were wetter and 83 Marches were drier.
 - Wettest March : 4.74 inches in 1913
 - Driest March : 0.05 inches in 1910
 - Snowiest March : 29 inches in 1959

3. TWELVE-MONTH SUMMARY

Month	Year	Ave Temp (°F)	Deviation (°F)	Rank† (#/Total)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)	Rank‡ (#/Total)
April	2023	50.5	+3.2	23/130	2.84	-0.26	66/130
May	2023	63.0	+4.1	17/128	4.19	-0.04	58/127
June	2023	71.1	+2.8	22/129	2.36	-2.39	109/129
July	2023	72.5	-0.1	63/129	3.32	-0.76	69/130
August	2023	74.9	+4.5	11/131	0.91	-3.14	125/131
September	2023	69.3	+7.0	1/130	5.54	+1.84	26/130
October	2023	54.3	+4.0	19/130	2.78	+0.45	46/130
November	2023	40.0	+4.7	19/131	0.18	-1.65	128/131
December	2023	36.0	+14.1	1/131	1.07	-0.14	71/131
January	2024	24.0	+7.6	14/131	1.56	+0.51	24/131
February	2024	38.1	+17.9	1/131	0.37	-0.59	107/130
March	2024	42.4	+9.5	3/132	2.18	+0.28	49/132

Table 2: A summary of the last twelve months. †- The smaller the number (#), the warmer the month. ‡- The smaller the number (#), the wetter the month. Boxed entries are within the historical top or bottom ten.

- Eleven of the past 12 months were warmer than average, including March 2024 (the 8th in a row).
- March 2024 is the fourth month, of the last 12, with greater than average precipitation.
- Precipitation deviations. last 3 months: +0.20 inches; last 6 months: -1.13; last 9 months: -3.21 inches; last 12 months: -5.90

4. WINTER SUMMARY : NOVEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

This current winter season concludes with a severity rank of 131th out of 131 seasons based on the 15 measures of winter severity*. The winter of 1950-51 is the most severe for this interval, 1916 is the second most severe. Other more severe winters (in decreasing severity order): 1898, 1911, 1977, 2013, 1978, and 1958

The factors for this season that are worth mentioning include:

- The months of December and February this season are the warmest on record for their respective months. January 2024 ranked as the 14th warmest January, and March 2024 is the third warmest March on record.
- The length in days from the first measurable snowfall to the last this season is 119 days, just seven more than the average. It is the only one of the fifteen winter “measures” that ended above average..
- The maximum daily temperature failed to reach 32° F on just 12 days. The average number is 57. The previous lowest number of below 32° F days was 24 in 2011, the second least “wintry” winter.
- The average daily maximum temperature reading was 46° F. The average is 34.8° F.
- The average daily minimum temperature reading was 26.0° F. The average is 16.0° F.
- Total November - March snowfall measured 17.3 inches. The average is 36.6 inches.

*Severity is calculated using 15 weighted measures. Six measures use daily maximum temperatures : average maximum, number of days with maximum less than 32, 20, 10, 0, and -10; six use daily minimum temperatures : average minimum, numbers of days with minimum less 10, 0, -10, -20, -30; and three use snowfall : total snowfall, number of days with measurable snowfall, and the number of days between the first and last snowfalls.