

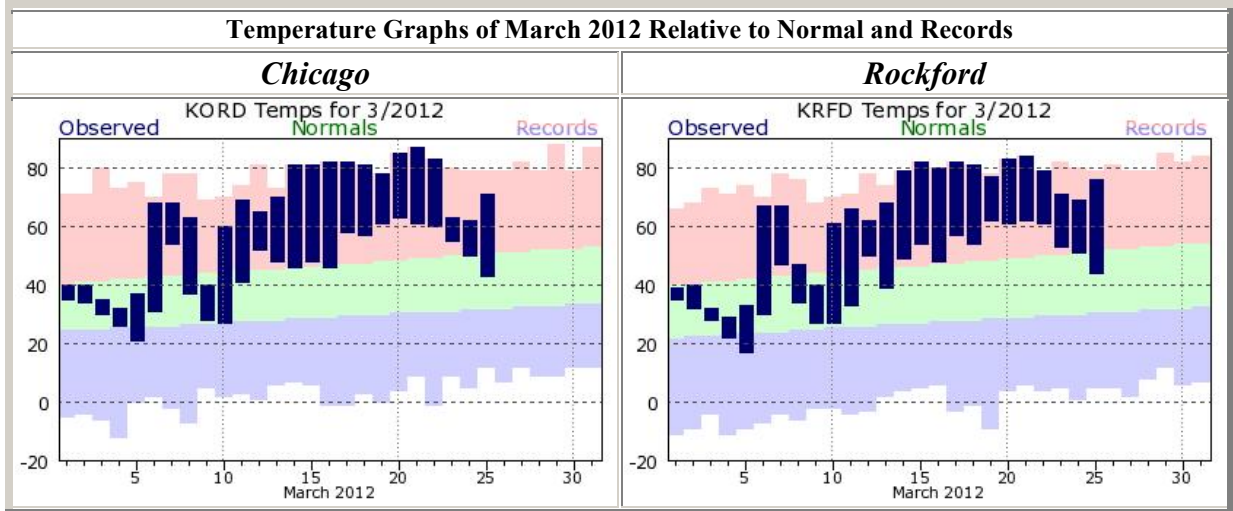
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Data for CHICAGO OHARE INTL AP, IL					
Date	Max Temp.	Min Temp.	Precip.	Snowfall	Snow Depth
2012-03-01	40	35	T	0.0	0
2012-03-02	40	34	0.19	T	0
2012-03-03	35	30	T	T	0
2012-03-04	32	26	T	0.3	0
2012-03-05	37	21	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-06	68	31	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-07	68	54	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-08	63	37	0.28	0.0	0
2012-03-09	40	28	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-10	60	27	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-11	69	41	T	0.0	0
2012-03-12	65	52	0.19	0.0	0
2012-03-13	70	48	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-14	81	46	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-15	81	48	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-16	82	46	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-17	82	58	0.00	0.0	0

Data for CHICAGO OHARE INTL AP, IL					
Date	Max Temp.	Min Temp.	Precip.	Snowfall	Snow Depth
2012-03-18	81	57	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-19	78	61	0.03	0.0	0
2012-03-20	85	63	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-21	87	61	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-22	83	60	0.16	0.0	0
2012-03-23	63	55	1.25	0.0	0
2012-03-24	62	50	T	0.0	0
2012-03-25	71	43	0.00	0.0	0
2012-03-26	47	37	T	0.0	0
2012-03-27	74	40	0.00	0.0	0

Reflecting on the Historic & Unprecedented March Warmth (Updated 1:30 PM Sunday 3/25)

Below is some information from Chicago and Rockford to reflect on the incredible long duration period of summer warmth that visited the northern tier of the United States roughly from March 14th-March 23rd. This historic out of season warmth not only broke warm temperature records every day of the 10 day stretch, it will result in the record for warmest March being shattered at both Chicago and Rockford.



Chicago - Records Broken

Date	Record	Previous Record (Year)
3 / 7	Warm Low: 54°	53° (2000)
3 / 14	High: 81°	77° (1995)
3 / 15	High: 81°	74° (1995)
3 / 16	High: 82°	78° (1945)
3 / 17	High: 82° / Warm Low: 52°	74° (1894, 2009) / 49° (1894)
3 / 18	High: 81°	74° (1903, 1918, 1969)
3 / 19	Tied High: 78° / Warm Low: 61°	Tied 1921 / 59° (1903)
3 / 20	High: 85° / Warm Low: 63°	76° (1921) / 53° (1918)
3 / 21	High: 87° / Warm Low: 61°	77° (1938) / 54° (1918)
3 / 22	High: 83° / Warm Low: 60°	79° (1938) / 59° (1938)
3 / 23	Warm Low: 55°	50° (1936)

[Statement on stretch of daily records broke](#)

Rockford - Records Broken

Date	Record	Previous Record (Year)
3 / 7	Tied Warm Low: 47°	Tied 1992
3 / 14	High: 79°	74° (1995)
3 / 15	High: 82° / Warm Low: 54°	73° (1995) / 49° (1945)
3 / 16	High: 80° / Warm Low: 48°	75° (1945) / 43° (1946)
3 / 17	High: 82° / Warm Low: 57°	75° (2009) / 45° (2003)
3 / 18	High: 81° / Warm Low: 54°	73° (1945) / 42° (1968)
3 / 19	Warm Low: 62°	54 ° (1945)
3 / 20	High: 83° / Warm Low: 61°	79° (1921) / 53° (1921)
3 / 21	High: 84° / Warm Low: 62°	78° (1938) / 53° (1918)
3 / 22	High: 79° / Warm Low: 61°	76° (1938) / 59° (1938)
3 / 23	Warm Low: 53°	49° (1935)

[Statement on stretch of daily records broke](#)

Interesting Daily Facts

March 14th

Chicago-O'Hare

- 81 at Chicago was 3rd earliest 80 degree reading for Chicago.

March 15th

Chicago-O'Hare

- In Chicago...this was the 2nd consecutive 80 degree day, breaking the previous record earliest recorded back to back 80 degree days. The previous earliest back to back 80 degree days on record in Chicago were April 1st and 2nd 2010.
- Chicago tied their record for most number of 80 degree days in March at 2...with the only other March with two 80 degree days occurring in 1986.

Rockford

- 82 at Rockford was the earliest 80 degree reading on record. Previous earliest 80 degree reading was 82 on March 23, 1939.

March 16th

Chicago-O'Hare

- 82 degrees at Chicago-O'Hare was the earliest it has been this warm in Chicago. Previously...the earliest 82 degree reading was not until March 27, 1945.
- Chicago set a new record for most number of 80 degree days in a March with three...the previous record for greatest number of 80 degree days during March was 2 set back in 1986.
- March 16th was the 3rd consecutive day above 80...which shattered the previous record for earliest in the season to have 3 consecutive 80 degree days. Previously the earliest Chicago has ever seen 3 consecutive 80 degree days was back on April 14-16 1976.

Rockford

- Rockford tied their record number of 80 degree days in March with two. The previous years which also had two 80 degree days in March were 1907, 1939 and 1986.
- March 16th was the 2nd consecutive 80 degree day in Rockford, which established a new record for earliest in the season to see back to back 80 degree days. Previously the record earliest back to back 80 degree days in Rockford were on March 23-24 1939.

March 17th

Chicago-O'Hare

- Chicago extended the new record for most number of 80 degree days in a March with 4. It was the 4th consecutive day above 80...which broke the previous record for earliest in the season to have four consecutive 80 degree days. Previously the earliest Chicago had ever seen four consecutive 80 degree days was back on April 14-17 1976.

Rockford

- Rockford broke its record for number of 80 degree days in March with 3.
- Rockford also broke the record for earliest three consecutive 80 degree days. Previously, the earliest Rockford has ever seen three consecutive 80 degree days was back on April 4-6 1929.

March 18th

Chicago-O'Hare

- Chicago extended the record for most number of 80 degree days in a March up to five days. March 18th was also the 5th consecutive day above 80...which broke the record for earliest in the season to have five consecutive 80 degree days. Previously, the earliest Chicago had ever seen 5 consecutive 80 degree days was back on April 23-27 1915.

Rockford

- Rockford extended the record for most number of 80 degree days in a March up to four days. March 18th was also the fourth consecutive day above 80...which broke the record for earliest in the season to have four consecutive 80 degree days. Previously, the earliest Rockford had ever seen four consecutive 80 degree days was back on April 23-26 1915.

March 19th

Chicago-O'Hare

- This was the sixth consecutive day the record high was at least tied.

Rockford

- The record warm low of 62 was the earliest a low temperature of 62 had been observed on record in Rockford. The previous earliest 62 degree low temperature was on March 26, 2007. March 19, 2012 and March 26, 2007 are now both tied for the second warmest low temperature on record for March in Rockford, with the warmest low temperature on record for the month being 63 degrees, observed on March 30, 1998.

March 20th

Chicago-O'Hare

- This was the 7th consecutive day the record high for the date was at least tied.
- It was the 6th 80 degree day this March, extending the record for number of 80 degree days in March.
- The 85 degrees observed was the third warmest March temperature on record in Chicago, only surpassed by 87 degrees on March 31, 1981 and 88 degrees on March 29, 1986.

Rockford

- This was the 5th 80 degree day this March, extending the record for number of 80 degree days in March.
- The 83 degrees observed was the third warmest March temperature on record in Rockford, only surpassed by 84 degrees on March 31, 1986 and 85 degrees on March 29, 1986.

March 21st

Chicago-O'Hare

- This was the 8th consecutive day the record high for the date was at least tied.
- It was the 7th 80 degree day this March, extending the record for number of 80 degree days in March.
- The 87 degrees observed was tied for the second warmest March temperature on record in Chicago, tied 87 degrees on March 31, 1981 and surpassed by 88 degrees on March 29, 1986.

Rockford

- This was the 6th 80 degree day this March, extending the record for number of 80 degree days in March.
- The 84 degrees observed was tied for the second warmest March temperature on record in Rockford, tied 84 degrees on March 31, 1986 and surpassed by 85 degrees on March 29, 1986.

March 22nd

Chicago-O'Hare

- This was the 9th consecutive day the record high for the date was at least tied.
- It was the 8th 80 degree day this March, extending the record for number of 80 degree days in March.

Rockford

- The record high temperature was 79 degrees, so new high temperature records were broken eight of the last nine days.
- Six 80 degree days this March is the record for number of 80 degree days in March.

March 23rd

Chicago-O'Hare

- This was the 6th record warm low set since March 14th and the 10th consecutive day a record warm temperature of any type was set.

Rockford

- This was the 9th consecutive record warm low set since March 15th and the 10th consecutive day in which a record warm temperature of any type was set.

On Records

- The all-time record high for the month of March in Chicago is 88 degrees set back on March 29, 1986. For Rockford, the all-time record high for the month of March is 85, also set back on March 29, 1986. Neither was reached in this warm stretch, but both were very close to being broken.
- Chicago broke or tied daily high temperature records on nine consecutive days from March 14-22. This was the second longest stretch of standing daily temperature records of any type for Chicago dating back to 1871. The record for standing consecutive temperature records is ten daily high temperature records from August 25-September 3, 1953. See [here](#) for more.

- Rockford broke daily high temperature records on eight of nine days from March 14-22. Only March 19th did not reach a record high.
- At Rockford, the daily records for warm lows were broken for nine consecutive days between March 14-23. Dating back to 1893, no other stretch of standing warm low records is of this duration for Rockford. See [here](#) for more.

Regarding 80 degree temperatures in March

Chicago-O'Hare

- In Chicago...prior to this year there had only been 10 days in March with highs in the 80s, which means on average, Chicago only sees an 80 degree high in March once about every 14 years. Already this month, there have been eight days at or above 80. Including the eight days at or above 80 this March, there have now been a total of 18 March days at or above 80 in Chicago. This means about one third of one percent of all March days have been in the 80s in Chicago.
- The last time Chicago saw an 80 degree temperature during the month of March (prior to this year) was over 22 years ago back on March 12, 1990, when the high temperature was 81.

Rockford

- In Rockford, prior to this month, there had been a total of 12 days in the 80s in March dating back to 1906, which means Rockford averages an 80 degree day in March approximately once every 11 years. Therefore, only about four tenths of one percent of March days in Rockford have high temperatures in the 80s. There have been six days at or above 80 this March. Including the six days at or above 80 this March, there have now been a total of 18 March days at or above 80 in Rockford.
- Prior to this year, the last time Rockford had an 80 degree day in March was on March 26, 2007, when the high temperature was 80.

More Interesting Statistics on the Historic Warmth of March 2012

Through March 22nd, Chicago has seen eight days at or above 80° this month and six at Rockford. To help put into perspective just how unusual this is...here are a few more 80° statistics.

- 80° warmth is not very common even in April, let alone mid March. Chicago only averages about 1 day in the 80's in April each year. Only once in the 140 recorded years of weather observations has April produced as many 80° days as have been observed this March. That was set back in 1977, when 8 days peaked at or above 80°.
- In Rockford, 80° warmth is slightly more common in April due to its greater distance from the cooling effects of Lake Michigan. Rockford averages 3 days in the 80's in April. Its record for the highest number of days above 80° was set in

April 1915 with 9 days. There have been three April's that have recorded at least 7 days in the 80's.

- 8 of 18 (roughly 44%) of Chicago's 80° days in March, dating back to 1871, have occurred in March of 2012. For Rockford, 6 out of 18 (roughly 33%) of Rockford's 80° days in March have occurred this March of 2012.

A Final Word

- In Chicago, the warmest March on record occurred in 1910 and then in 1945, which both averaged 48.6 degrees. Chicago's average temperature for the first 24 days of March is 54.6°. Not only would this shatter the record for the warmest March ever, if the month ended yesterday, it would rank as tied for the 3rd warmest April in Chicago! Based on forecast temperatures through the end of the month, March will finish with an average temperature around 54 degrees (give or take a couple tenths), breaking the old record by about 5 degrees!
- In Rockford, the warmest March on record was in 1945, with an average temperature of 48.2. Through March 23rd, the average monthly temperature for March 2012 was 53.1 degrees, which if the month ended yesterday, would not only shatter the record for warmest March, it would rank as tied for the 12th warmest April in Rockford! Based on forecast temperatures through the end of the month, March will finish with an average temperature around 53 degrees (give or take a couple tenths), breaking the old record set in 1945 by almost 5 degrees!
- Thus at the current pace, it is a certainty that Chicago and Rockford will shatter their current record warmest Marches, as well as rank high amongst the warmest Aprils. In fact, through March 24th, Chicago-O'Hare's average temperature would rank as tied for the 24th coolest May in Chicago, with March 2012 ranking as the 4th coolest May in Rockford!