

Who would have thought Chicago would be warmer than Richmond, VA for days at a time? This weather is so unprecedented that it is almost scary! Chicago had only experienced 10 days EVER in March that reached 80 degrees or higher in its entire 141 years of records... we have had 5 in the past 5 days and more are expected through Tuesday! We have broken high temperature records by historically large margins (8 degrees for St. Patrick's Day).

The average high temperature for Chicago was 46F at the start of this heat wave. We are breaking all kinds of records... too many to keep track of! We have never had 5 temperature records in a row in any month until now!

The rarity of 80 degree temperatures in the middle of March is driven home when one considers Chicago's all time warmest temperatures in any year since 1870.

Top 5 warmest high temperatures in Chicago in any year (1870-2012) through March 17th. Today (3/18/2012) was at least 81F.

82F 3/16/2012

82F 3/17/2012

81F 3/12/1990

81F 3/14/2012

81F 3/15/2012

We are also on pace to destroy the monthly mean record for March by almost 10 degrees and are about 20 degrees above average for the month so far!

The daffodils are blooming, grass is green, and trees are budding... trees may be getting green by the end of the week!