

# Historic & Unprecedented March Warmth Continues

(Updated 224 PM Sunday)

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...UPDATED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO IL  
224 PM CDT SUN MAR 18 2012 /324 PM EDT SUN MAR 18 2012/

...HISTORIC AND UNPRECEDENTED MARCH WARMTH CONTINUES...

**\*\*RECORDS BROKEN SO FAR SINCE MARCH 14TH BY DATE\*\***

**\*MARCH 14TH\***

CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH OF 81 (PREVIOUS: 77 IN 1995)  
ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH OF 79 (PREVIOUS: 74 IN 1995)

81 AT CHICAGO WAS 3RD EARLIEST 80 DEGREE READING FOR CHICAGO.

BOTH ROCKFORD AND CHICAGO SPENT MORE THAN 6 HOURS AT OR ABOVE  
THEIR  
PREVIOUS RECORD HIGHS FOR THE DAY.

**\*MARCH 15TH\***

CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH OF 81 (PREVIOUS: 74 IN 1995)  
ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH OF 82 (PREVIOUS: 73 IN 1995)  
RECORD WARM LOW OF 54 (PREVIOUS: 49 IN 1945)

82 AT ROCKFORD WAS THE EARLIEST 80 DEGREE READING ON RECORD.  
PREVIOUS  
EARLIEST 80 DEGREE READING WAS 82 ON MARCH 23 1939.

ONCE AGAIN BOTH ROCKFORD AND CHICAGO SPENT MORE THAN 6 HOURS  
AT OR  
ABOVE THEIR PREVIOUS RECORD HIGHS FOR THE DAY.

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 WAS 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 1986 THE ONLY OTHER YEAR WITH 2 80

**DEGREE DAYS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH.**

**\*MARCH 16TH\***

**CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH OF 82 (PREVIOUS: 78 IN 1945)  
ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH OF 80 (PREVIOUS: 75 IN 1945)  
RECORD WARM LOW OF 48 (PREVIOUS: 43 IN 1946)**

**82 ON MARCH 16 AT CHICAGO-OHARE IS THE EARLIEST IT HAS BEEN THIS  
WARM IN CHICAGO. PREVIOUSLY...THE EARLIEST 82 DEGREE READING WAS  
NOT  
UNTIL MARCH 27 1945.**

**THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 82 ON MARCH 16 IN CHICAGO NOW RANKS AS  
THE  
5TH WARMEST MARCH DAY ON RECORD EVER IN CHICAGO. THERE HAVE  
ONLY  
BEEN 4 DAYS WARMER THAN 82 IN CHICAGO DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH  
INCLUDING...88 (3/29/1986)...87 (3/31/81)...83 (3/31/1986 AND  
3/31/1978).**

**CHICAGO SET A NEW RECORD FOR MOST NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN A  
MARCH WITH 3...THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR GREATEST NUMBER OF 80  
DEGREE  
DAYS DURING MARCH WAS 2 SET BACK IN 1986.**

**MARCH 16 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 TIED THEIR RECORD NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN MARCH  
WITH 2.  
THE PREVIOUS YEARS WHICH ALSO HAD 2 80 DEGREE DAYS IN MARCH WERE  
1907...1939...AND 1986.**

**MARCH 16 WAS THE 2ND CONSECUTIVE 80 DEGREE DAY IN ROCKFORD  
WHICH  
ESTABLISHES 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 WAS MARCH 23-24 1939.**

**\*MARCH 17TH\***

CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH OF 82 (PREVIOUS: 74 IN 1894, 2009)  
RECORD WARM LOW OF 58 (PREVIOUS: 49 IN 1894)  
ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH OF 82 (PREVIOUS: 75 IN 2009)  
RECORD WARM LOW OF 57 (PREVIOUS: 45 2003)

CHICAGO SET A NEW RECORD FOR MOST NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN A MARCH WITH 4.

MARCH 17 WAS THE 4TH CONSECUTIVE DAY ABOVE 80...WHICH BROKE THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR EARLIEST IN THE SEASON TO HAVE 4 CONSECUTIVE 80 DEGREE DAYS. PREVIOUSLY THE EARLIEST CHICAGO HAS EVER SEEN 4 CONSECUTIVE 80 DEGREE DAYS WAS BACK ON APRIL 14-17 1976.

ROCKFORD BROKE THEIR RECORD NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN MARCH WITH 3. PREVIOUSLY THE EARLIEST ROCKFORD HAS EVER SEEN 3 CONSECUTIVE 80 DEGREE DAYS WAS BACK ON APRIL 4-6 1929.

**\*MARCH 18TH\***

CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH OF 80\* (PREVIOUS: 74 IN 1903, 1918, 1969)  
ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH OF 80\* (PREVIOUS: 73 IN 1945)

\* THESE ARE THE HIGH TEMPERATURES THROUGH 200 PM.

IT IS YET ANOTHER DAY OF 80 DEGREE+ HIGH TEMPERATURES TODAY! THIS PORTION OF THE STATEMENT WILL BE UPDATED WITH THE CLIMATE ISSUANCE LATER THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE OFFICIAL HIGH FOR THE DATE. RECORDS HAVE NOW BEEN SHATTERED FOR EARLIEST FIVE-DAY CONSECUTIVE 80+ HIGHS AND EARLIEST FOUR-DAY CONSECUTIVE 80+ HIGHS FOR CHICAGO AND ROCKFORD...RESPECTIVELY.

CHICAGO CONTINUES TO INCREASE THE ALREADY SET RECORD FOR MOST NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN A MARCH...NOW UP TO 5.

ROCKFORD CONTINUES TO INCREASE THE ALREADY SET RECORD FOR MOST NUMBER OF 80 DEGREE DAYS IN A MARCH...NOW UP TO 4.

**\*\*RECORDS LIKELY TO BE BROKEN/THREATENED THROUGH WEDNESDAY MARCH 21ST\*\***

**\*MARCH 18TH\***

**CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD WARM LOW: 59 (1894)**

**ROCKFORD.....RECORD WARM LOW: 42 (1968)**

**\*MARCH 19TH\***

**CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH: 78 (1921)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 59 (1903)**

**ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH: 78 (1921)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 54 (1945)**

**\*MARCH 20TH\***

**CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH: 76 (1921)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 53 (1918)**

**ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH: 79 (1921)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 53 (1921)**

**\*MARCH 21ST\***

**CHICAGO-OHARE...RECORD HIGH: 77 (1938)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 54 (1918)**

**ROCKFORD.....RECORD HIGH: 78 (1938)**

**RECORD WARM LOW: 53 (1948)**

**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.**

**CHICAGO AND ROCKFORD HAVE NOW BOTH BROKEN HIGH TEMPERATURE RECORDS**

**5 DAYS IN A ROW. THERE IS EVEN THE POTENTIAL THEY COULD TIE OR BREAK**

**RECORD HIGHS FOR UP TO AN UNBELIEVABLE 8 DAYS IN A ROW DEPENDING ON**

**HOW WARM TEMPERATURES GET MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY. IT IS EXTRAORDINARILY RARE FOR CLIMATE LOCATIONS WITH 100+ YEAR LONG PERIODS**

**OF RECORDS TO BREAK RECORDS DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY...THOUGH IT IS VERY**

**DIFFICULT TO PRECISELY QUANTIFY JUST HOW RARE IT IS BECAUSE AS THE PERIOD**

**OF RECORD GROWS THE LIKELIHOOD OF SEEING SO MANY CONSECUTIVE RECORD**

**BREAKING DAYS DECREASES.**

**\*REGARDING 80 DEGREE TEMPERATURES IN MARCH\*  
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 5 DAYS AT OR ABOVE 80 WITH ADDITIONAL 80  
DEGREE  
HIGHS POSSIBLE THE NEXT FEW DAYS. INCLUDING THE 5 DAYS AT OR ABOVE  
80  
THIS MARCH...THERE HAVE NOW BEEN A TOTAL OF 15 MARCH DAYS AT OR  
ABOVE  
80 IN CHICAGO WHICH EQUATES TO 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.**

**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. IN ROCKFORD...ONLY ABOUT 4 TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT OF MARCH  
DAYS HAVE HIGH TEMPERATURES IN THE 80S. WITH 80 REACHED AGAIN  
TODAY...THERE HAVE BEEN 4 DAYS AT OR ABOVE 80 WITH ADDITIONAL 80  
DEGREE DAYS POSSIBLE THE NEXT FEW DAYS. INCLUDING THE 4 DAYS AT  
OR ABOVE 80 THIS MARCH...THERE HAVE NOW BEEN A TOTAL OF 16 MARCH  
DAYS AT OR ABOVE 80 IN ROCKFORD.**

**PRIOR TO THIS YEAR...THE LAST TIME ROCKFORD HAD AN 80 DEGREE DAY  
IN MARCH WAS BACK ON MARCH 26 2007 WHEN THE HIGH TEMPERATURE  
WAS 80.**

**A FINAL WORD:  
IN CHICAGO...THE WARMEST MARCH ON RECORD OCCURRED IN 1910 AND  
THEN  
IN 1945...WHICH BOTH AVERAGED 48.6 DEGREES. THROUGH MARCH  
17TH...THE  
AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE FOR MARCH 2012 FOR CHICAGO-OHARE  
WAS AN  
AMAZING 49.3...WHICH WOULD ALREADY BREAK THE RECORD!**

**IN ROCKFORD...THE WARMEST MARCH ON RECORD WAS IN 1945...WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 48.2. THROUGH MARCH 17TH...THE AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE FOR MARCH 2012 WAS 47.1 DEGREES.**

**WITH A FEW MORE DAYS OF RECORD OR NEAR RECORD TEMPERATURES THIS UPCOMING WORK WEEK...AND TEMPERATURES FORECAST TO REMAIN WELL ABOVE NORMAL THROUGH NEXT WEEKEND...THESE AVERAGE TEMPERATURES WILL ONLY CONTINUE TO INCREASE. THUS AT THE CURRENT PACE...IT IS LIKELY THAT CHICAGO AND ROCKFORD WILL NOT ONLY BREAK...BUT SHATTER THEIR CURRENT RECORD WARMEST MARCHES.**