

Decorah Weather - March 2009 Summary

by Richard Bernatz

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

1. MARCH 2009 TEMPERATURES

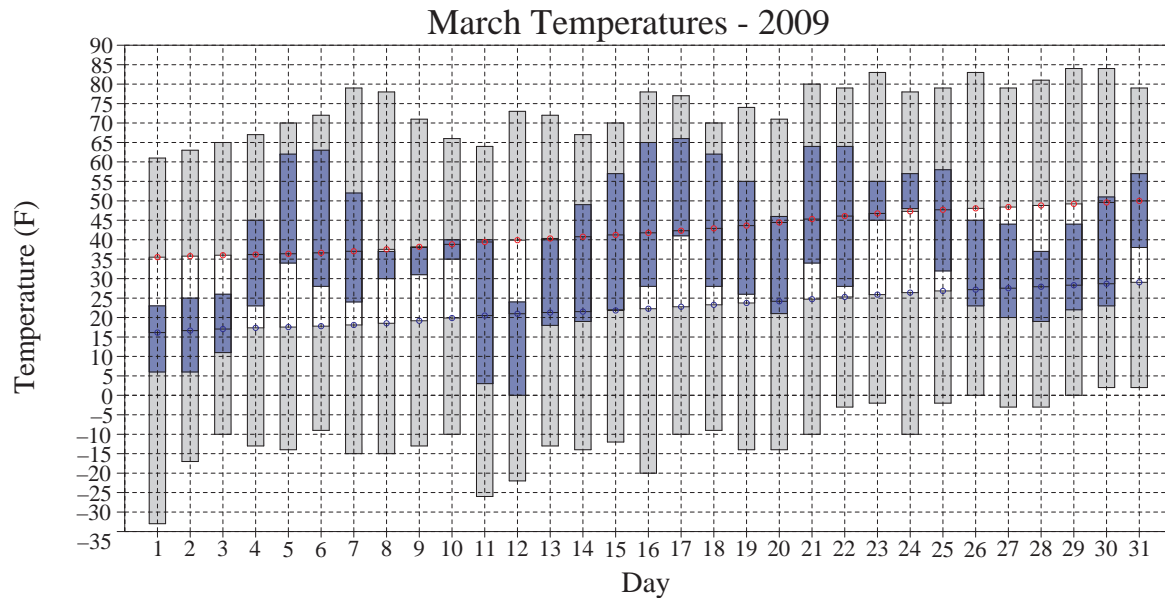


Figure 1: **Blue Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2009, **Grey Bar:** Record temperature range, **White Bar:** Average temperature range, red circle for average high, blue circle for average low.

Temperature (° F)	March 2009	Historical	Deviation
Average High	48.1	42.2	+5.9
Average Low	24.7	22.5	+2.2
Daily Average	36.4	32.3	+4.1

Table 1: March 2009 average temperatures compared to March averages.

- MARCH 2009
 - No record temperatures
 - Average temperature : 36.4° F (4.1° F warmer than average)
 - Warmest temperature : 66° F on the 17th
 - Coldest temperature : 0° F on the 12th
 - Twenty days with above-average maximum temperature
 - Heating degree-days (65° F basis) : 886.5 (historical average: 1014)
- ALL MARCHES SINCE 1893 (114 years - 1901, 1908, 1910 missing)
 - Compared with March 2009, 27 Marches were warmer, 86 Marches were cooler
 - Warmest average : 45.3° F in 1910
 - 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 2009 PRECIPITATION

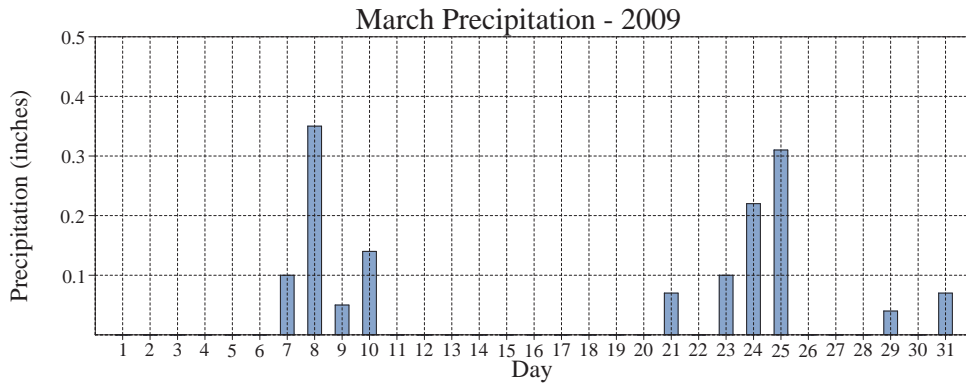


Figure 2: March precipitation for Decorah.

- MARCH 2009
 - Total precipitation for March 2009 : 1.45 inches, 0.44 inches less than the average amount of 1.89 inches
 - Ten days with measurable precipitation
 - Greatest 24-hour total of 0.35 inches on the 8th
 - One day with measurable snowfall totaling 1.0 inch, 6.4 inches less than the average amount of 7.4 inches
- ALL MARCHES SINCE 1893 (116 years - 1985 missing)
 - Compared with March 2009, 74 Marches were wetter, and 41 Marches were drier
 - Wettest March : 4.74 inches in 1913
 - Driest March : 0.05 inches in 1910
 - Snowiest March : 29 inches in 1959 (snowfall records begin in 1951)

3. LONGER-TERM SUMMARY

Month	Year	Ave Temp (°F)	Deviation (°F)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)
April	2008	46.8	-0.4	8.74	+5.71
May	2008	56.2	-2.5	3.20	-0.95
June	2008	67.3	-0.6	14.10	+9.54
July	2008	72.2	-0.3	3.22	-0.85
August	2008	69.1	-1.2	2.37	-1.60
September	2008	63.3	+1.3	1.81	-1.84
October	2008	50.2	-0.1	1.91	-0.32
November	2008	36.7	+1.8	1.98	+0.16
December	2008	15.0	-6.4	1.63	+0.50
January	2009	8.8	-7.3	0.59	-0.45
February	2009	23.6	+3.4	0.95	+0.01
March	2009	36.4	+4.1	1.45	-0.44

Table 2: A summary of the most recent twelve months.

- Second month in a row with an average temperature above the historical average
- Eight of the last twelve months have been cooler than average
- Seven of the past twelve months have been drier than average
- Decorah has a precipitation surplus of 9.47, which is approximately equal to the June 2008 precipitation surplus.
- Total snowfall for the season is 51 inches, 15 inches more than the average of 36 inches
- 120 days between the first and last snowfalls of the season, the average number is 102 days