



Spotter Newsletter

Spring 2024



Byron, August 11, 2023
Credit: Zachary Henn

Greetings from the National Weather Service Detroit / Pontiac office! The strong El Niño made its presence known giving us one of the top 5 warmest and top 10 least snowy Decembers for all three of our climate sites. The warm weather led to near record levels of ice coverage across the Great Lakes to start January. The pattern did change with a blast of arctic air that hung around for about 10 days. We also saw a couple winter storms that brought heavy snowfall along with mixed precipitation. The El Niño pattern looks to return as we move into early February with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation forecast. We dive a little deeper into spring edition of the spotter newsletter.

As always, be sure to check out our website for the latest information and forecasts. Supplementary forecast information can also be found at:



Latest News...

- Skywarn trainings will be held both in person and virtual this year!
- Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 17-23; Statewide Tornado Drill March 20th at 1 PM.
- Safe Place Selfie Day – April 3, 2024

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- Great Lakes Ice Cover
- Self Place Selfie Campaign
- Total Solar Eclipse
- Submitting Reports

2024 SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

SCHEDULE

MARCH

- 3/5** DUNDEE | 6:00-7:30 PM
DUNDEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 3/7** MIDLAND | 7:00-8:30 PM
MIDLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT
- 3/9** ANN ARBOR | 10:00-11:30 AM
ANN ARBOR PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL
- 3/12** NOVI | 7:00-8:30 PM
NOVI CIVIC CENTER
- 3/13** LIVONIA | 7:00-8:30 PM
LIVONIA LIBRARY
- 3/14** PINCKNEY | 7:00-8:30 pm
HAMBURG TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 3/16** FLINT | 10:00-11:30 AM
GENESEE COUNTY BUILDING
THIRD FLOOR AUDITORIUM
- 3/20** PORT HURON | 7:00-8:30 PM
ST CLAIR COUNTY EOC
- 3/21** SAGINAW | 7:00-8:30 PM
THOMAS TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 3/23** CLINTON TOWNSHIP | 10:00-11:30 AM
MACOMB ISD
- 3/30** DETROIT | 1-3:00 PM
DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY (MAIN BRANCH)

APRIL

- 4/9** LAPEER | 7:00-8:30 PM
PIX THEATER
- 4/16** WATERFORD | 7:00-8:30 PM
WATERFORD OAKS ACTIVITY CENTER
- 4/30** REESE | 7:00-8:30 PM
REESE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 4/** CANTON | 7-8:30 PM
VILLAGE THEATER AT CHERRY HILL
- 4/** DETROIT | 1-2:30 PM
DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY

- 5/14** ADRIAN | 7:00-8:30 PM
DOMINICAN HALL
- 5/** WATERFORD | 7-8:30 PM
WATERFORD OAKS ACTIVITY CENTER

JUNE

- 6/** SKYWARN WEBINAR | 7-9 PM
VIRTUAL

For more information & to sign up for
Virtual Skywarn Webinars visit:

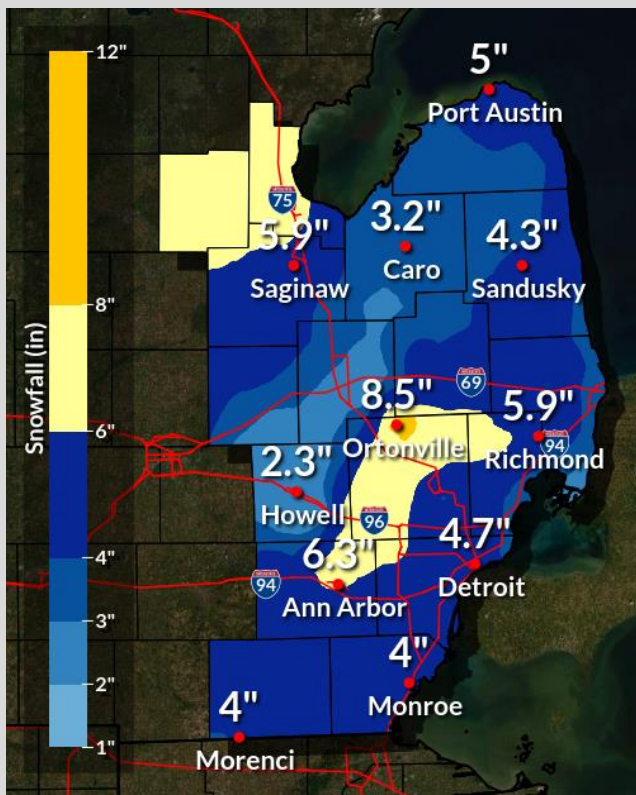
www.weather.gov/dtx/spotter2

[Click for Registration Link to
Webinars](#)



January 12-13, 2024

A major winter storm impacted the Great Lakes region on Friday Jan 12 2024 into Saturday Jan 13 2024. Precipitation quickly overspread southeast Michigan during the mid afternoon hours of Friday as the main low (~981 MB) reached Chicago in the early evening hours. Just enough mild air near Lake Erie/Detroit River caused some melting snow/rain. Otherwise, despite temperatures mainly 32-34 degrees, heavy wet snow was the predominant precipitation type during the late afternoon into the early evening hours. This was due to very strong forcing, which led to visibility down around a quarter of a mile in the heavy snow, with even thundersnow reported in and around the Detroit Metro Area. Storm totals reached 4-8 inches across the Detroit Metro Area, as well as the Tri-Cities region, with 1-5 inches elsewhere. Precipitation did taper off in the mid to late evening, and fell in the form of rain south of I-69 where the total liquid equivalent ranged from 0.5-1.25".



Due to the heavy wet nature of the snow, widespread tree limbs came down in several counties (Oakland/Lapeer to name a few), which caused power outages to well over 100,000 customers at the peak of the storm. Easterly winds also reached 30-40 mph ahead of the low, with southwest wind gusts topping out 40-55 mph south of M-59 Saturday morning as the low exited northeast.

Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac MI
532 PM EST Sat Jan 13 2024

...Here are the highest wind reports received over the past 24 hours...

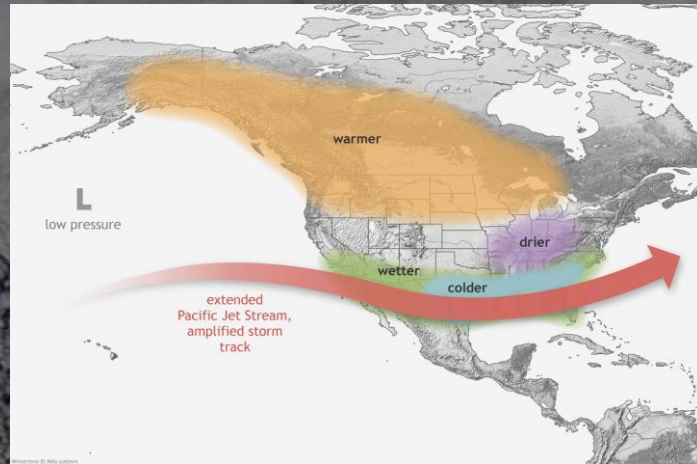
Location	Speed	Time/Date	Lat/Lon
Detroit Willow	53 MPH	0601 AM 01/13	42.23N/83.53W
Detroit Wayne	52 MPH	0936 AM 01/13	42.23N/83.33W
Ann Arbor	47 MPH	0650 AM 01/13	42.22N/83.73W
Pontiac	46 MPH	0222 PM 01/13	42.67N/83.42W
Detroit City Air	44 MPH	0507 AM 01/13	42.40N/83.02W
Gregory	44 MPH	0445 PM 01/13	42.38N/84.01W
Oxford	41 MPH	0650 AM 01/13	42.83N/83.28W
Detroit Grosse I	40 MPH	0635 AM 01/13	42.10N/83.15W
Grosse Ile Middle School	40 MPH	0850 AM 01/13	42.14N/83.14W
Fort Gratiot, MI	39 MPH	1248 PM 01/13	43.01N/82.42W
Saginaw Browne	39 MPH	0259 PM 01/13	43.43N/83.87W
Saginaw	38 MPH	0130 PM 01/13	43.53N/84.08W
Clawson	38 MPH	0640 AM 01/13	42.54N/83.16W
Troy Oakland	38 MPH	0335 PM 01/13	42.55N/83.18W
Port Huron	36 MPH	0900 PM 01/12	43.01N/82.42W
Owosso	36 MPH	0235 PM 01/13	43.00N/84.13W
Canton	35 MPH	0645 AM 01/13	42.31N/83.46W
Peck	35 MPH	0255 PM 01/13	43.30N/82.79W
Minden City	35 MPH	0317 PM 01/13	43.69N/82.77W

Observations are collected from a variety of sources with varying equipment and exposures. We thank all volunteer weather observers for their dedication. Not all data listed are considered official.

[Link to Storm Summary](#)



The ongoing strong El Niño is forecast to hold through the rest of winter and many of the impacts thus far are consistent with the typical El Niño wintertime pattern across much of the globe. This was especially true for December in southeast Michigan as we experienced much drier and warmer conditions compared to normal.



Detroit experienced 0.1" of snowfall in December. This ranked 2nd as the least snowy on record. While Flint ranked 5th and Saginaw 7th on the least snowy on record.

December was one of the warmest on record at all three of our climate sites (Detroit, Flint, Saginaw), all of which experienced their the top 5 warmest December.

Top 20 Snowiest/Snowless Decembers in Southeast Lower Michigan (in.)

Rank	Detroit Area*				Flint Bishop**				Saginaw Area***			
	Snowiest		Snowless		Snowiest		Snowless		Snowiest		Snowless	
	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year
1	34.9	1974	0.0	1889	35.3	2000	0.1	1943	40.2	2000	0.0	1943
2	27.4	1929	0.1	2023	29.1	2008	0.6	2014	39.1	2008	0.9	2014
3	25.1	2000	0.1	2014	27.7	1929	1.1	1939	26.7	1929	1.0	1993
4	24.0	1951	0.4	1894	24.9	1951	1.4	1921	24.0	1951	1.0	1939
5	22.5	2017	0.5	2018	23.3	2017	1.8	2023	22.6	2007	1.5	1941
6	22.5	1895	0.9	1943	22.2	2005	2.2	1955	21.9	1972	1.8	2018
7	21.4	2008	1.2	1998	21.3	1974	2.2	1936	20.1	1989	2.1	2023
8	20.8	1886	1.3	2015	21.1	1975	2.4	1967	19.9	1947	2.4	1912
9	20.1	1910	1.3	1931	20.2	2016	2.5	2015	19.7	1968	2.7	1923
10	19.9	1983	1.4	1982	20.0	1983	2.5	1979	19.5	1978	2.8	2006
11	19.8	2005	1.4	1888	19.9	1970	2.6	1928	19.3	1954	2.8	1948
12	19.8	1975	1.6	1965	18.3	1973	3.2	1931	18.9	2013	2.8	1928
13	17.3	1981	1.6	1936	18.3	1972	3.4	1998	18.5	2005	2.9	1958
14	16.8	2016	1.9	1993	17.6	1976	3.5	1993	18.1	1980	3.0	1960
15	16.6	1977	2.0	1939	17.1	2007	3.6	1982	18.0	1937	3.4	1979
16	16.6	1893	2.0	1918	16.9	2013	3.7	1948	17.7	1996	3.4	1961
17	16.4	1973	2.0	1900	16.7	1991	3.8	2018	16.7	2004	3.4	1922
18	16.1	1884	2.3	1979	13.8	1980	4.0	1941	16.6	2016	3.6	1969
19	16.0	1898	2.4	2006	13.7	2004	4.3	2006	16.3	1962	3.6	1950
20	15.5	2013	2.6	1971	13.2	1985	4.4	2011	14.2	1995	4.1	2020

* Detroit Area snowfall records date back to January 1880.
 ** Flint Bishop snowfall records date back to January 1921.
 *** Saginaw Area snowfall records date back to January 1912.

Note: this table does not account for trace (T) events

Top 20 Coldest/Warmest Decembers in Southeast Lower Michigan (°F)

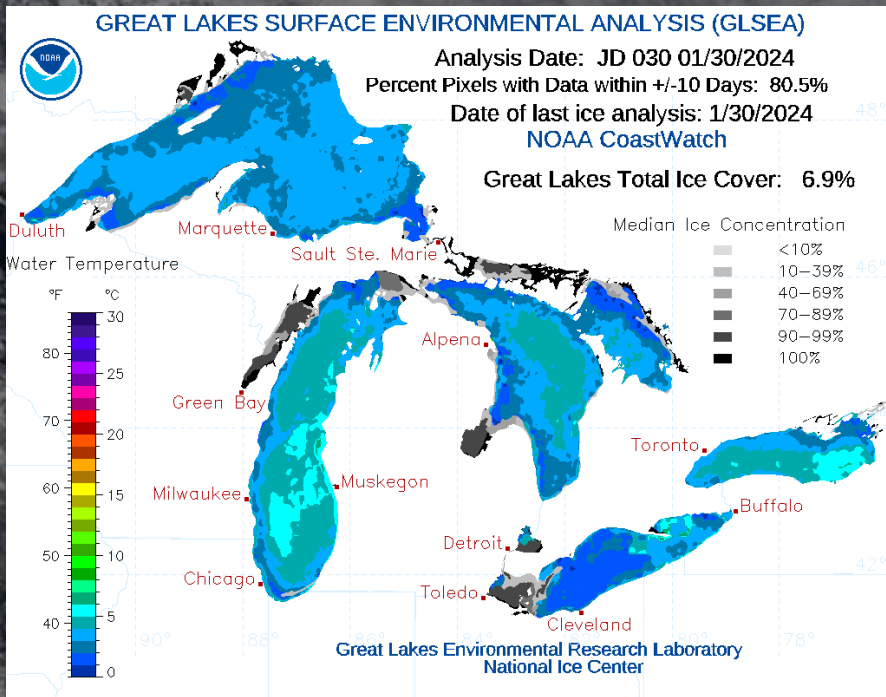
Rank	Detroit Area*				Flint Bishop**				Saginaw Area***			
	Coldest		Warmest		Coldest		Warmest		Coldest		Warmest	
	Temp	Year	Temp	Year	Temp	Year	Temp	Year	Temp	Year	Temp	Year
1	17.8	1876	41.1	2015	16.1	1989	41.0	2015	16.2	1989	39.1	2015
2	18.0	1989	40.6	1881	16.6	2000	39.2	2023	17.2	2000	38.0	2023
3	19.2	2000	40.1	2023	17.4	1976	37.2	1982	18.8	1983	35.3	1923
4	20.8	1983	39.3	1889	17.8	1958	36.8	1923	18.9	1976	34.5	1982
5	21.5	1976	38.1	1877	20.1	1983	35.4	2006	19.0	1958	34.4	2006
6	21.8	1917	37.7	1923	20.5	1944	35.4	1965	19.1	1917	34.2	1931
7	21.9	1880	37.4	2006	20.8	1963	34.7	1931	19.5	1919	34.1	2012
8	22.2	1985	37.3	1982	21.3	1985	34.4	2021	20.1	1963	33.5	2001
9	22.4	1958	37.2	2021	21.7	1960	34.2	2019	21.0	1924	33.4	2021
10	22.5	1903	37.2	1931	22.2	1945	34.1	2001	21.3	1944	33.4	1941
11	22.8	1878	36.3	1918	22.4	1950	33.6	1941	21.5	1960	33.0	2011
12	23.0	1909	35.9	2012	22.6	2017	33.5	2012	21.6	1985	33.0	1965
13	23.1	1919	35.9	1965	22.9	1962	33.4	1984	22.0	1980	32.8	1936
14	23.2	1924	35.8	2001	23.0	1995	33.3	2011	22.0	1914	32.5	2019
15	23.3	1910	35.8	1891	23.1	1942	33.1	2020	22.2	1962	32.3	1994
16	23.8	1963	35.5	2011	23.2	1924	32.8	2014	22.4	1926	32.2	1913
17	23.8	1914	35.5	1941	23.9	1937	32.8	1939	22.5	1950	32.1	2014
18	23.9	1886	35.4	1994	24.0	1926	32.4	1971	22.5	1945	32.0	1998
19	24.7	1945	35.3	1998	24.3	2010	32.3	1998	22.5	1942	32.0	1918
20	24.8	1944	35.1	2019	24.3	2005	32.2	1987	22.8	2013	31.7	2020

* Detroit Area temperature records date back to January 1874.
 ** Flint Bishop temperature records date back to January 1921.
 *** Saginaw Area temperature records date back to January 1912.

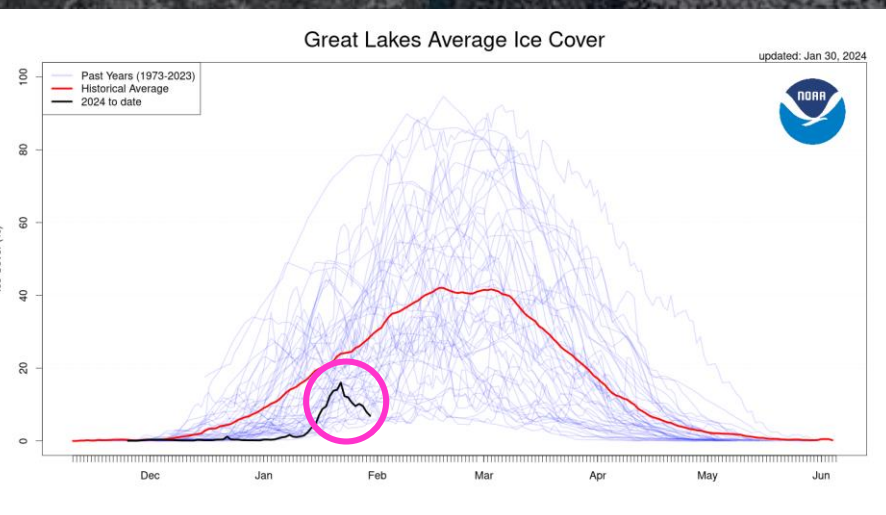
Temperature records date back to January 1874 for Detroit area, January 1921 for Flint Bishop, and January 1912 for Saginaw area



Low Ice Cover



Total Ice coverage sits at 6.9% across all of the Great Lakes at the end of January with mainly the shallow waters iced over, such as west Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Saginaw Bay.



As of January 30, average ice cover across the entire Great Lakes is well below the historical average. There was a brief increase in coverage with the January arctic airmass, but has fallen as warmer temperatures returned toward the end of the month.

Historical peak ice coverage is around mid February to mid March time frame. The strong El Nino will favor the warmer temperatures, which thus favors ice coverage remaining below historical averages.



Safe Place Selfie!

Hazard

Safe Place

Extreme Cold	Indoors with the heat on (or safely operated generators, not candles)
Extreme Heat	Indoors with the AC on // If outdoors, find shade and drink plenty of water
Flash floods	Indoors (not basement/lowest level), higher ground // Avoid flooded roadways
Lightning	An enclosed building away from plumbing & plugged in electronics A hard-topped vehicle with the windows up
Wind	In a sturdy building, away from trees // Interior room away from windows
Tornadoes	Tornado Storm Shelter or FEMA Safe Room Basement or sturdy interior room, away from windows
Tsunamis	Official evacuation zones // Farther inland // Higher floors in well-constructed buildings

#SafePlaceSelfie
NOAA

April 3, 2023

weather.gov/SafePlaceSelfie



One of the most essential preparedness actions anyone can do is to identify their safe locations from various extreme weather threats. Knowing where to go ahead of time can minimize hesitation and ensure your decisions are good ones even under great duress.

We encourage everyone to take some time and identify their safe places and post a “selfie” photo using the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie on April 3. Challenge others to do the same by tagging them in your post - other family members, friends, colleagues at school or work, or others in your social network. Imagine a “Weather-Ready Nation” where everyone knows where to go or where not to go to ensure their safety when extreme weather is forecast.



Solar Eclipse



The Monday, April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The total solar eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America that will experience totality is Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT. The path of the eclipse continues from Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT.



A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. People viewing the eclipse from locations where the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun – known as the path of totality – will experience a total solar eclipse. The sky will darken, as if it were dawn or dusk. Weather permitting, people along the path of totality will see the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, which is usually obscured by the bright face of the Sun.

[Learn More About the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Here](#)



The "TEL" Method

Time

When did this happen? Is it happening right now?

Event

What are you reporting? Hail? Wind Damage? What happened?

Location

Where did this happen? Give us a nearby landmark or road intersection.

Late reports are okay!

Photos and videos can be sent later, too.

Also try to include other important info – damage, injuries, etc.

There Are Multiple Ways To Report



1-800-808-0006

Reports ONLY – answered 24/7



[US National Weather Service Detroit / Pontiac Michigan](#)



[NWSDetroit](#) or use the hashtag #miwx



nws.detroit@noaa.gov



Online Form – Submit a Storm Report
inws.ncep.noaa.gov/report/



Amateur Radio

K8DTX@winlink.org

Contact local net control for info

Phone or Amateur Radio are best for most reports, especially urgent ones like tornadoes.

Social Media is next best for reports, especially for photos and videos.

Email is good for less urgent reports and pictures.



On behalf of the forecasters at NWS Detroit/Pontiac,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORTS.
Keep up the great reporting in 2024!



NWS web sites useful for obtaining forecasts:

Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook (GHWO)

<https://www.weather.gov/erh/ghwo?wfo=dtx>

Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO)

<http://www.weather.gov/crh/outlooks?sid=dtx>

Storm Prediction Center (SPC)

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

NWS Detroit Webpage

<http://weather.gov/dtx>



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