Central Indiana
February 2022
Climate Summary

70th Coldest on record at Indianapolis

Tied 17th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

29th Snowiest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

February started out warm with temperatures approaching 60° on the **1st** followed by 50s for most on the **2nd**. Conditions though changed quickly as a complex and significant winter storm shifted temperatures to much colder levels for the **3rd** and through the following 3-4 days as much of central Indiana was blanketed by a deep snowpack. The coldest night of the month for much of the area came on the morning of the **5th** under clear skies and light winds combined with the snow on the ground. Several locations over northern portions of central Indiana fell below zero with the rest of the region dropping into the single digits.

Recovery began on the **8th** with a steady decline in the snowpack persisting over the next several days as highs oscillated between the 30s and 40s with mainly dry conditions and plenty of sunshine during the day. A brief cool down arrived from the **12th** through the **14th** with highs largely holding in the 20s. Beginning on the **15th** though, temperatures turned much warmer as southerly flow developed across the Ohio Valley. Many locations reached 60° on the **16th** and **17th** before falling back into the 30s as colder air returned in the wake of a strong storm system.

For the rest of the month, temperatures fluctuated between periods of colder then warmer aided by storm systems frequently tracking through the Ohio Valley. The warmest days for February came on the **21st** and **22nd** with highs rising into the low and mid 60s before returning yet again to the 30s for several days before rising right at the end of the month.

Despite the up and down nature of the temperatures throughout February, the month ended up cooler than normal with most locations up to 2° degrees below normal for the monthly average. In Indianapolis, 25 of the 28 days during the month experienced lows below freezing with 13 days seeing lows below 20°. Ten of the days saw highs at or below freezing with nearly half of the days in February experiencing highs above 40°.

February 2022's below normal temperatures continued the trend from both January 2022 and February 2021.

Site	February 2022 Average Temp	February 2022 Dep from Nml	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis Int'l Airport	30.8	**-1.7**	63 on 21st	2 on 5th
Lafayette	27.9	**-1.8**	60 on 21st	**-3 on 5th**
Muncie	31.5	-0.4	62 on 22nd	5 on 8th
Terre Haute	31.0	**-1.9**	63 on 21st	3 on 5th
Bloomington	32.3	**-1.5**	**65 on 21st**	5 on 5th
Shelbyville	33.1	**-0.5**	64 on 22nd	4 on 5th
Indianapolis Eagle Creek	31.3	**-1.2**	63 on 21st	3 on 5th

At Indianapolis, February 2022's daily average temperatures were above normal on 11 days, below normal on 16 days, and at normal on 1 day. It was the **70th coldest** February for the Indianapolis Area since weather records began in 1872.

Precipitation

February 2022's liquid precipitation was above normal, and exceedingly so for far southern counties, as the Shoals (Martin Co.) COOP site's **7.00"** made for its 2nd-wettest February on record (since 1909). The month featured an active upper-level pattern, with several troughs plunging through the central United States. This encouraged slowly-passing frontal boundaries and surface weather systems over the Mid-West and/or Ohio Valley, which focused moisture from the Gulf of Mexico into central Indiana. The most notable events were the **2nd-3rd**, **17th**, and **22nd**.

The month began with a multi-day rain to snow event, centered on the **2nd-3rd**, which came in two phases, and featured a prolonged period of mixed precipitation south of the Interstate 70 corridor. Thankfully the lull in organized precipitation between the system's earlier and later phases helped to limit ice accumulation across much of the region. Storm total precipitation ranged from around 1.50" over north counties to around 2.50" for southern zones. This included appreciable snow and/or ice accumulation: snowfall totals were as high as **15.5"** in

both Camden (Carroll Co.) and West Lafayette, with 12”+ also reported in Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Montgomery, Warren and Tipton counties. Indianapolis officially recorded 7.6”, with 7.3” falling on the **3rd** – a daily record. Indy’s storm total was a fair representation of those found along the I-70 corridor, and a rough median of the strong snowfall gradient from north to south across the region. Southern counties saw noticeably less frozen precipitation as the changeover to all snow was delayed until later on the **3rd**. Greatest ice accumulation, 0.10-0.25”, was found along and south of the US-50 corridor, which contributed to the tight gradient in total snow/sleet here, as Elnora (northern Daviess Co.) reported 5.7”, while Shoals 8 S (southern Martin Co.) observed only 2.5”.

The **17th**’s system dropped 1.25-2.00” on most locations, with greatest storm totals found in west-central counties: **2.52”** in Ladoga (Montgomery Co.), and **2.40”** near Terre Haute. The **22nd** found additional heavy rains, focused on southern counties where several locations approached 1.50”; **1.52”** was recorded near Mitchell (Lawrence Co.). Soon after, the **24th**’s system brought yet another 1.00-1.40” to several southern-tier sites, with **1.85”** reported east of Columbus (Bartholomew Co.). Despite observing less-impressive (yet ample) liquid precipitation, northwestern counties received additional light snow: on the **17th** generally 1-3” fell in the Lafayette Area, with a widespread light coating across the rest of the region; the **24th** had several reports of 1.0-2.5” from Hamilton County and north and west. Indianapolis, following 0.3” on the **12th**-**13th**, and another 0.3” between the **17th** and **24th**, finished the month with 8.3” of snowfall. While only 2.3” above normal, it was still the 2nd snowiest February of the last seven years (behind last February’s 11.8” total).

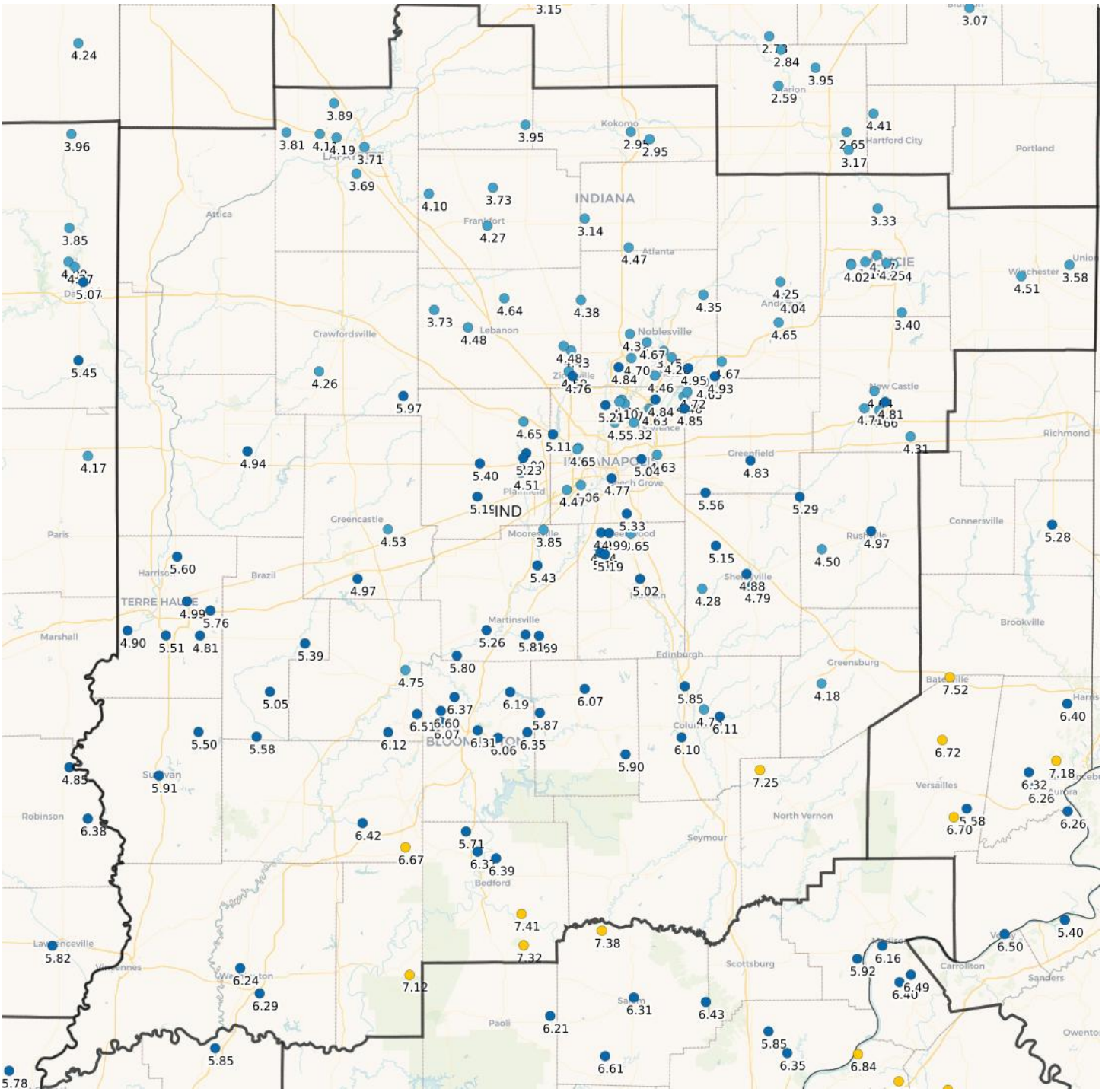
February 2022’s above normal precipitation was in contrast to both January 2022’s and February 2021’s below normal totals.

Site	February 2022 Precipitation	February 2022 Diff. from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis Intl AP	4.58	**+2.15**	1.64 on 17th	3: 6-8, 14-16, 19-21, 26-28
Lafayette	3.46	**+1.68**	1.22 on 17th	6 days: 5-10
Muncie	1.83INC	M	1.02 on 17th	5 days: 6-10
Terre Haute	4.75	**+2.73**	**2.20** on 17th	4 days: 5-8
Bloomington	5.22	**+2.55**	1.62 on 17th	3 days: 6-8, 14-16 & 26-28
Shelbyville	4.44	**+2.10**	1.39 on 17th	3 days: 6-8, 19-21 & 26-28
Indy - Eagle Creek	3.37 (*)	**+1.30**	1.71 on 17th	3 days: 19-21

* Precipitation data is missing for **Indianapolis – Eagle Creek** on 2/11, 2/22–2/23

February 2022 tied for the **17th wettest** for the Indianapolis Area
since weather records began in 1872, placing it in the 89th percentile.

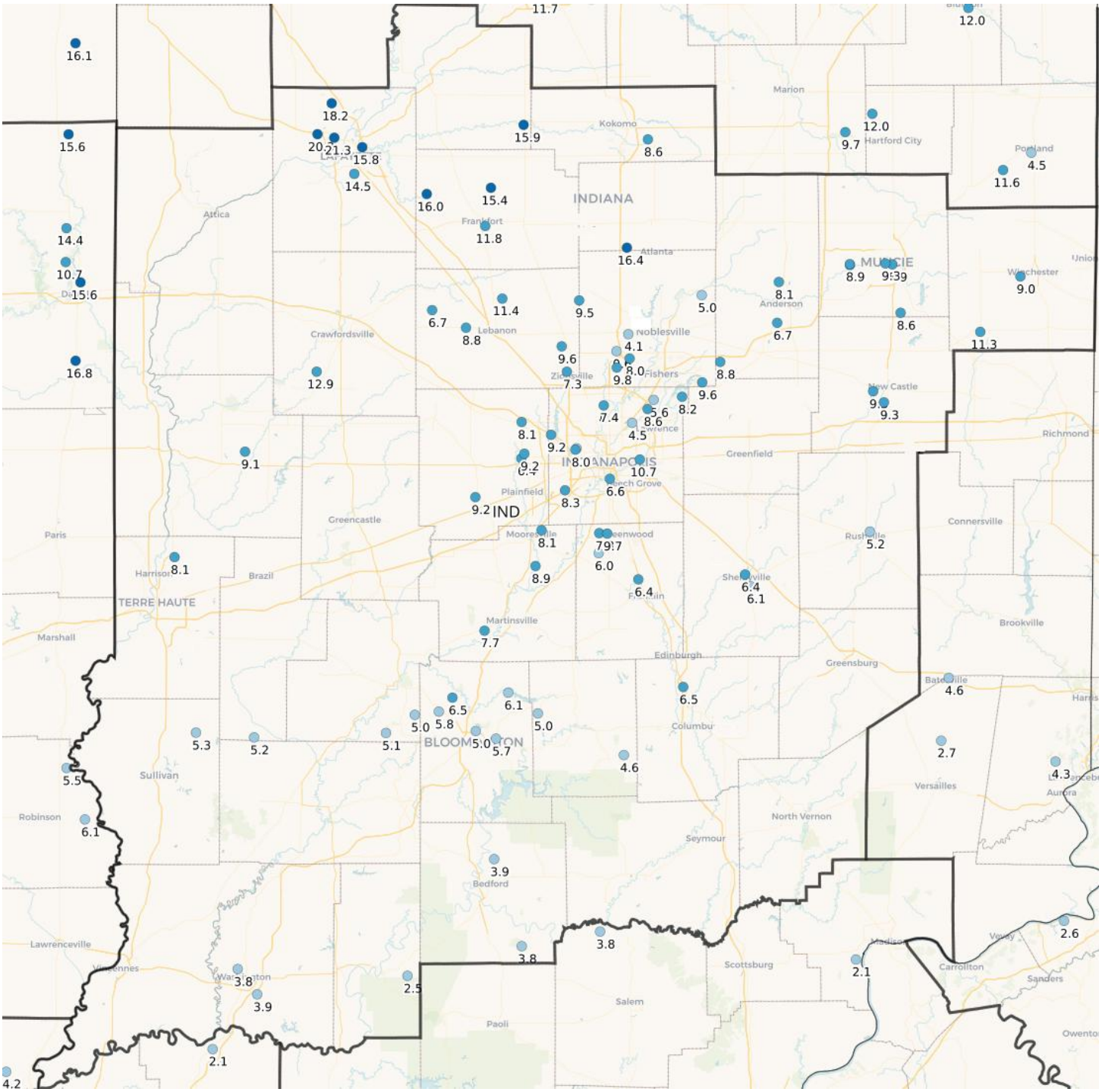
February 2022 Total Liquid Precipitation, Through the Morning of 3/1/2022
As Reported By Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers



For the period 700 AM EST 2/1/2021 -to- 700 AM EST 3/1/2022. Data is unofficial.

Precipitation totals were greatest (6.00-750”) across most southern counties. Minimum values (~3.00”) were confined to far north-central zones. All locations were above normal.

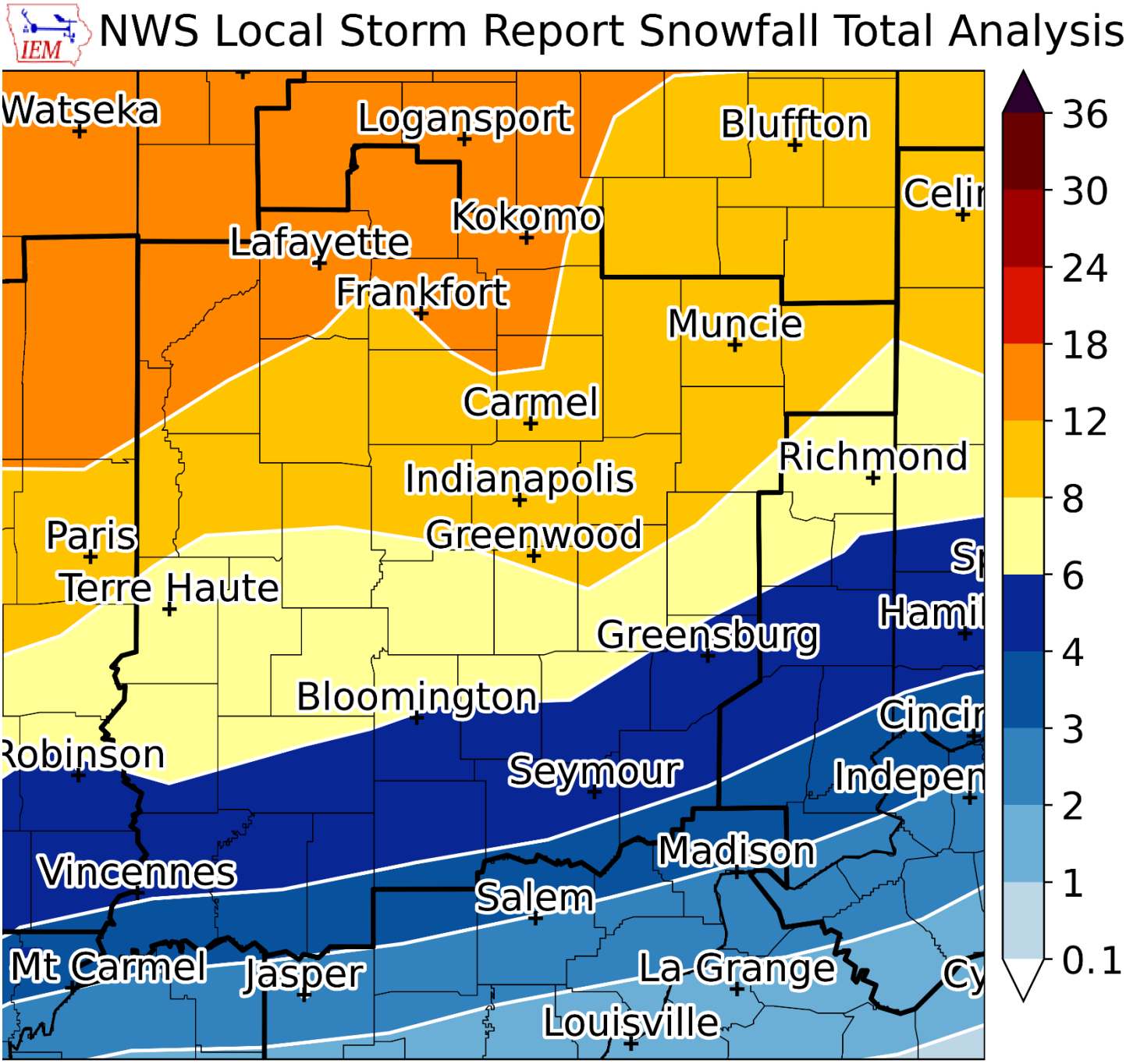
February 2022 Total Snowfall, Through the Morning of 3/1/2022
As Reported By Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers



For the period 700 AM EST 2/1/2021 -to- 700 AM EST 3/1/2022. Data is unofficial.

Snowfall was greatest (18-22”) in Tippecanoe County. Lowest values (< 4.0”) occurred along US-50. Above normal snow fell along/north of I-70, with below normal totals over far southern counties.

February 2-4, 2022 Storm Total Snowfall
As Reported from COOP, CoCoRaHS, Emergency Management, Media, & Public Sources



The winter's most significant event: frozen precipitation totals ranged from **over 12"** of snowfall across far northwestern and north-central counties to **as little as 3-4"** of snowfall and sleet south of US-50.

Severe Weather

No severe weather occurred across central Indiana in February.
Scattered thunderstorms early on the morning of the 22nd did produce small hail in spots.

For info on severe weather in other areas during February, visit the Storm Prediction Center "Severe Weather Event Summaries" website at spc.noaa.gov/climo/online

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at the Indianapolis International Airport was 46 mph from the south on the 16th and 17th and from the west-northwest on the 19th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 12 days during the month. Freezing rain or drizzle was reported on 4 days during the month with ice pellets occurring on the 2nd and 17th. Thunder was reported on the early morning of the 22nd. Blowing snow occurred in the wake of the early February snowstorm on the 3rd and 4th.

March 2022 Outlook

The official outlook for March 2022 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a much greater chance for above normal temperatures and precipitation across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is **42.4** degrees. The average precipitation for March at Indianapolis is **3.69"**, with **3.2"** of snowfall.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Weather Forecast Office's State Climate Team
Questions should be referred to nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov