



Southern



New England

February 2016

No shadow was seen, so an early spring has been prognosticated. Groundhog Day marks the midpoint of the heating season. New England farmers would say “Half your wood and half your hay at Groundhog Day.”

The shortest month of the year should come with the shortest newsletter of the year. Instead, maybe a collection of shorter articles. Then, we dared to compare our stations against the tipping gauges at the area airports. Concluding with a closer look on the snow storm that brought blizzard conditions to some and absolutely nothing to others in our area.

Welcome to new observers who joined during January from the counties of Hartford CT, Washington RI, Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex of MA. Some of you have jumped in and started reporting. We look forward to seeing others report soon.

Winter Precipitation

As a follow up to last month’s newsletter where rain, sleet, freezing rain and rain were mentioned, there are more types of winter precipitation than that, such as graupel and grains.

To help explain deeper and farther, a [link](#) is provided to the CoCoRaHS Blog entry from last January.

Points about Decimal Points

From a look at one of our Water Year Summaries, there are more than 200 days a year, we report zero. That's easy. There are more than 100 days a year that we report precipitation. Most of the times, that's less than 1". And then it snows.

When it snows, we have more values to enter in a Daily Report. And with each value, there are more ways to make mistakes with the decimal point. Instead of entering 0.35", an entry of 3.5" or 35.0" is made. Or, entering a snow fall amount of 2.5" where liquid equivalent of approximately 0.23" should be entered.

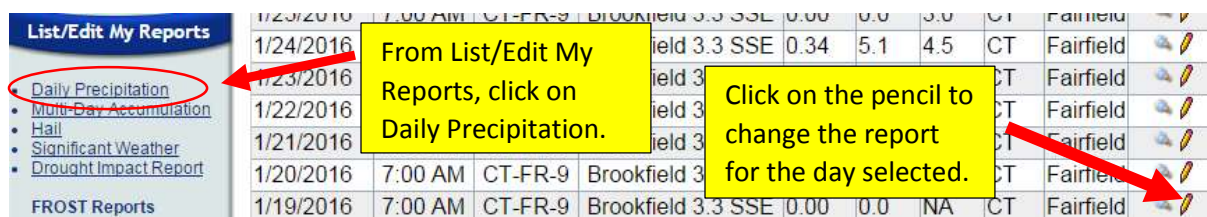
Whether you use the website or the mobile app to make a report, make the effort to backspace a default value of 0.00", start with an empty value and enter the values from there. Please take a few additional seconds to look over your precip and snow values that you are reporting *before* pressing submit.

After you press submit, take another few seconds to look over your report. The "History" feature on the mobile app is helpful to verify only the Daily Precipitation value. The website is helpful to verify all of your reported values.

If you make a mistake, there is no app for that and correcting that mistake requires you to go back to the website.

Editing Reports

From the website, login to make a change to one of your reports.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "List/Edit My Reports". On the left, there is a sidebar menu with several options: "Daily Precipitation" (circled in red), "Multi-Day Accumulation", "Hail", "Significant Weather", "Drought Impact Report", and "FROST Reports". The main area displays a table of reports. A yellow callout box with a red arrow pointing to the "Daily Precipitation" link in the sidebar contains the text: "From List/Edit My Reports, click on Daily Precipitation." Another yellow callout box with a red arrow pointing to a pencil icon in the table contains the text: "Click on the pencil to change the report for the day selected." The table has columns for date, time, location, and various precipitation/snow values.

Date	Time	Location	3.3 SSE	0.00	0.0	3.0	CT	Fairfield	Icons
1/23/2016	7:00 AM	CT-FR-9 Brookfield 3.3 SSE	0.34	5.1	4.5	CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/24/2016		field 3.3 SSE				CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/23/2016		field 3.3 SSE				CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/22/2016		field 3.3 SSE				CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/21/2016		field 3.3 SSE				CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/20/2016	7:00 AM	CT-FR-9 Brookfield 3.3 SSE	0.00	0.0	NA	CT	Fairfield	Icons	
1/19/2016	7:00 AM	CT-FR-9 Brookfield 3.3 SSE	0.00	0.0	NA	CT	Fairfield	Icons	

Your selected report appears next. Make the change. Click submit to save the change.

March Madness

No, this is not a section about a college basketball tournament. As the weather gets warmer and winter loses its grip across the nation, CoCoRaHS uses the month of March to recruit more volunteers for its precipitation network.

For only the month of March, a “CoCoRaHS Cup” is awarded to the state with the most new signups during March. Another “CoCoRaHS Cup” is awarded to the state with most new signups during March as a percentage of its state’s population. This [link](#) summarizes what happened last year and in year’s past.

In our area, we are making plans to reach out in the media to get the word out. If we cannot win for total number of new observers, our small states can have a good chance of winning a high percentage of its state’s population.

As we look at the Map of the Month for Barnstable County, the more observers we have, the more unique items we learn from.

Everyone can help recruit during March Madness. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining us, March would be a good time to get that someone to join.

More CoCoRaHS Videos

Three [videos](#) prepared by Tony Merriman of the NWS Forecast Office in Bismarck ND, should you be looking for another perspective from CoCoRaHS’ animated videos.

Detail and Summary for January 2016

After a normal amount of precipitation in December, January went back to being below normal for most of the area, a widespread 2"-3" for the month. Less in areas north and east. More in southeast Massachusetts, again.

Looking at the totals below, we are a month's worth of precipitation below normal over 6 months.

From the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate sites for Jan 2016.

Location	Station ID	Jan 2016 Precip	Jan departure from normal	Nov-Dec-Jan Precip	3 month departure from normal	Aug-Jan Precip	6 month departure from normal	Jan 2016 Snowfall	Jan snowfall departure from normal
Pittsfield MA	PSF	1.09"	-1.83"	7.64"	-2.21"	17.45"	-5.06"		
Bridgeport CT	BDR	2.26"	-0.84"	8.43"	-1.39"	15.61"	-5.29"	10.6"	2.6"
Hartford CT	BDL	1.96"	-1.27"	8.41"	-2.15"	17.84"	-4.90"	1.9"	-10.4"
Worcester MA	ORH	2.12"	-1.37"	8.53"	-3.06"	18.95"	-4.96"	9.7"	-7.4"
Providence RI	PVD	3.03"	-0.83"	10.45"	-2.14"	19.22"	-4.82"	7.3"	-1.7"
Boston MA	BOS	3.27"	-0.09"	9.62"	-1.51"	17.48"	-4.38"	9.5"	-3.4"

January showed its two faces. Sunday the 10th had a morning soaking rain. Rain started overnight on the 15th and continued into the 16th. Light snow occurred overnight into the morning of the 18th

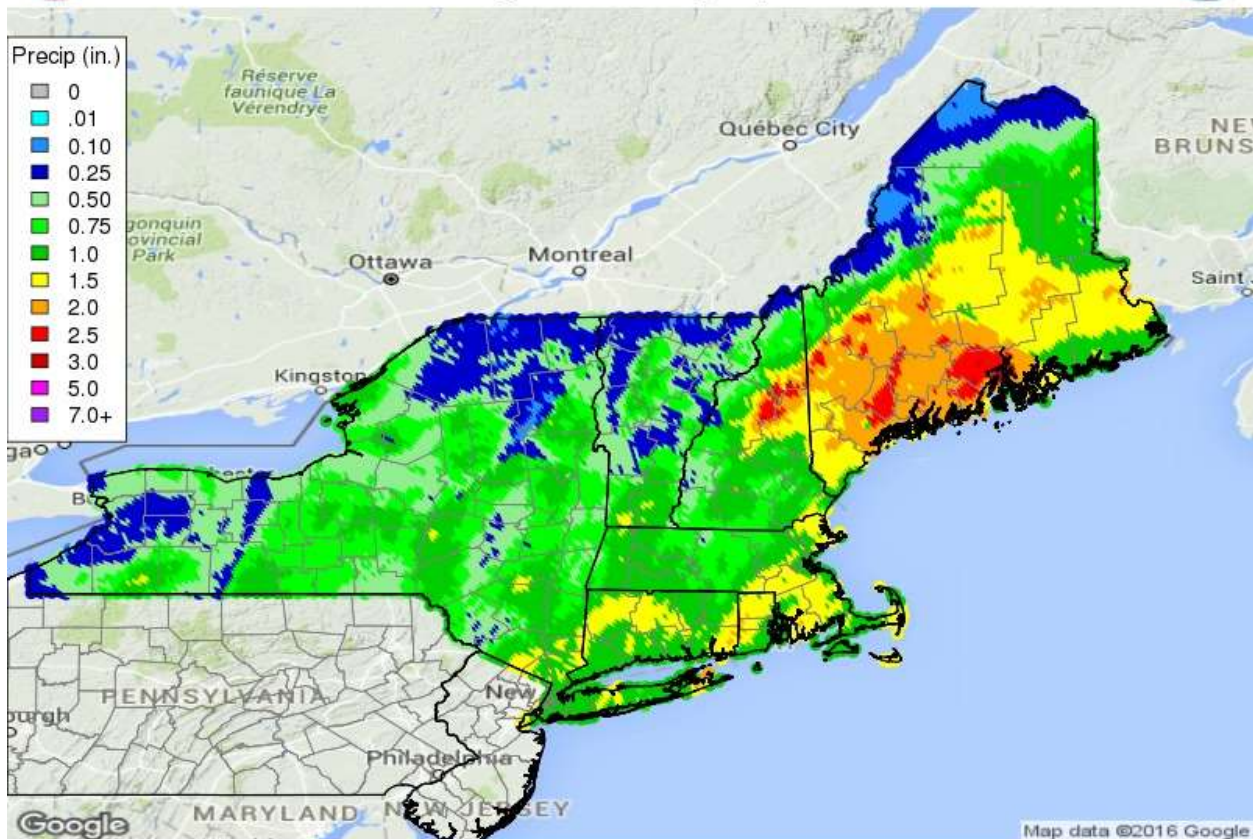
The winter storm on Saturday the 23rd brought blizzard conditions to areas south and east and no snow to areas north and west of our region. A very unique event where our region saw the line between snow and no snow slice through our region. All of your reports helped map the variability of that event.

From your reports for January 2016

Observers reporting	161
Reported all 31 days	65
Completed by Multi-Day Reports	13
Missing 1 or 2 reports	22 ← Keep making this number smaller! Thank you!
Daily Reports	3785
Zero Reports	2536
Non-Zero Reports	1249
Comments	710
Multi-Day Reports	70
Highest Daily Snowfall Report	15.0" from West Tisbury MA (MA-DK-5) reported on 1/24
Highest Daily Report	2.36" from Greenville RI (RI-PR-33) reported on 1/11



3 Day Precipitation ending 7am January 11, 2016



Source: NOAA / NWS / Northeast River Forecast Center

All 78 stations with complete station data for January appear here. Keep up the great work and this list can grow to another page in length.

Station	Location	Precip	Snowfall	County & State
MA-BE-3	Stockbridge .2 NNE	1.29"	3.4"	Berkshire MA
MA-BE-10	Pittsfield 2.0 NNW	1.65"	3.2"	Berkshire MA
MA-BE-4	Becket 5.6 SSW	1.83"	6.0"	Berkshire MA
CT-LT-5	Winsted 2.6 NNW	1.49"	3.0"	Litchfield CT
CT-LT-9	New Hartford Center 3.2 SW	1.71"	3.6"	Litchfield CT
CT-FR-9	Brookfield 3.3 SSE	2.23"	5.5"	Fairfield CT
CT-FR-23	Shelton 1.3 W	2.63"	12.7"	Fairfield CT
CT-NH-16	Milford 1.8 E	2.57"	12.7"	New Haven CT
CT-NH-14	Prospect 1.9 ENE	1.28"	8.9"	New Haven CT
MA-FR-10	Conway 0.9 SW	2.23"	0.9"	Franklin MA
MA-FR-12	Sunderland 1.3 SE	1.87"	1.3"	Franklin MA
MA-HS-14	Plainfield 2.4 ESE	1.93"	1.9"	Hampshire MA
MA-HS-2	Westhampton 1.8 SW	2.02"	3.0"	Hampshire MA
MA-HS-10	Northampton 1.6 NE	1.86"	1.7"	Hampshire MA
MA-HD-13	Springfield 4.1 W	1.75"	1.2"	Hampden MA
CT-HR-24	Collinsville 0.9 NW	1.97"	3.1"	Hartford CT
CT-HR-15	Southington 3.0 E	2.56"	9.5"	Hartford CT
CT-HR-18	Berlin 2.4 SSE	2.93"	6.8"	Hartford CT
CT-HR-11	West Hartford 2.7 SSE	2.59"	5.6"	Hartford CT
CT-HR-6	Wethersfield 1.2 WSW	2.35"	5.5"	Hartford CT
CT-TL-2	Staffordville 0.4 NNW	2.42"	7.4"	Tolland CT
CT-MD-2	Portland 0.9 S	2.85"	10.5"	Middlesex CT
CT-MD-5	Westbrook Center 1.1 N	2.05"	6.0"	Middlesex CT
MA-WR-35	Holden 2.3 ESE	2.20"	6.5"	Worcester MA
MA-WR-32	Auburn 1.9 ESE	2.26"	7.7"	Worcester MA
MA-WR-13	Leominster 1.5 S	1.74"	4.0"	Worcester MA
MA-WR-28	Berlin 1.3 WSW	2.32"	6.0"	Worcester MA
MA-WR-18	Northborough 0.6 SSE	2.46"	4.6"	Worcester MA
MA-WR-1	Milford 2.3 NNW	3.01"	10.3"	Worcester MA
CT-WN-6	Dayville 2.0 ENE	3.06"	10.5"	Windham CT
CT-WN-8	Moosup 1.7 NE	2.33"	10.8"	Windham CT
CT-WN-4	East Killingly 1.3 SW	3.20"	9.2"	Windham CT
RI-PR-33	Greenville 0.7 NNW	4.24"	11.7"	Providence RI
RI-WS-25	Rockville 0.4 E	4.22"	13.5"	Washington RI
RI-KN-2	East Greenwich 2.3 ESE	2.78"	10.5"	Kent RI
RI-NW-4	Middletown 1.1 SW	3.14"	7.5"	Newport RI
RI-NW-11	Tiverton 0.8 SSW	4.05"	11.2"	Newport RI

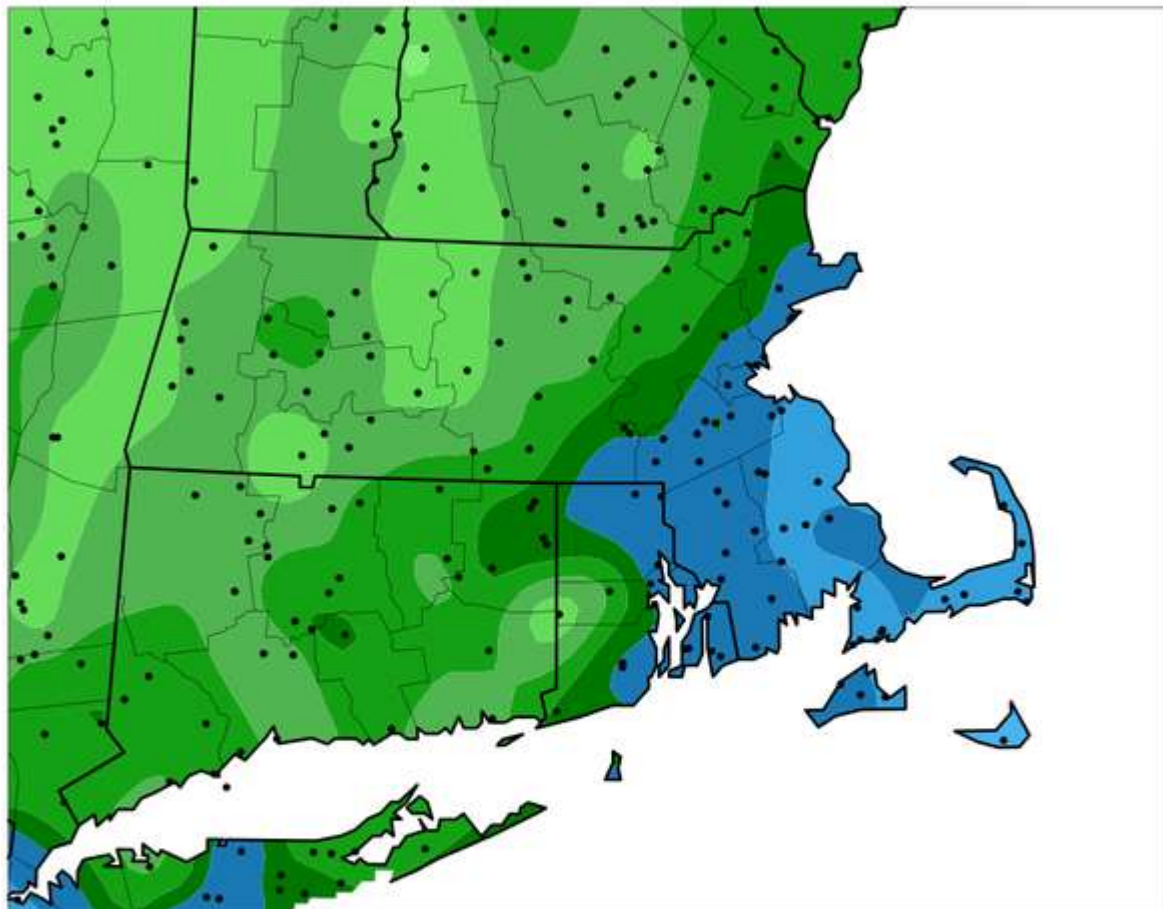
RI-NW-5	Little Compton 1.7 NW	3.22"	10.1"	Newport RI
RI-NW-7	Little Compton 0.6 E	3.82"	9.2"	Newport RI
MA-BR-17	North Attleboro 0.8 E	3.03"	7.9"	Bristol MA
MA-BR-23	Attleboro 0.9 ENE	2.75"	4.3"	Bristol MA
MA-BR-3	Norton 1.8 NNE	3.35"	10.6"	Bristol MA
MA-BR-8	Dighton 1.1 WSW	3.37"	10.8"	Bristol MA
MA-BR-14	Dartmouth 2.5 SSW	3.23"	9.1"	Bristol MA
MA-MD-47	West Townsend 0.5 W	1.77"	4.9"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-12	Acton 1.3 SW	2.50"	7.0"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-55	Holliston 0.7 W	3.46"	5.9"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-51	Maynard 0.7 ESE	2.59"	7.5"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-42	Holliston 0.8 S	3.28"	10.6"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-52	Lexington 0.6 SW	2.68"	8.1"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-45	Wilmington 1.5 NE	2.36"	4.7"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-7	Winchester 0.7 SE	3.02"	9.3"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-44	Medford 1.2 W	3.20"	8.4"	Middlesex MA
MA-MD-43	Somerville 0.8 SSE	2.97"	9.6"	Middlesex MA
MA-ES-3	Haverhill 3.6 WNW	2.10"	5.6"	Essex MA
MA-ES-20	Haverhill 0.7 N	2.39"	4.2"	Essex MA
MA-ES-4	Groveland 0.5 WSW	2.45"	5.4"	Essex MA
MA-ES-12	Boxford 2.4 S	2.58"	5.2"	Essex MA
MA-ES-2	Beverly 2.8 NW	3.00"	6.5"	Essex MA
MA-ES-8	Marblehead 0.8 SW	2.80"	9.5"	Essex MA
MA-SF-10	Chelsea 0.8 N	3.28"	9.4"	Suffolk MA
MA-SF-2	Winthrop 0.2 N	3.37"	9.5"	Suffolk MA
MA-NF-16	Bellingham 4.7 S	3.70"	0.0"	Norfolk MA
MA-NF-1	Norwood 1.3 NW	3.58"	10.5"	Norfolk MA
MA-NF-5	Weymouth 0.5 NW	4.38"	10.0"	Norfolk MA
MA-PL-12	East Bridgewater 1.7 WNW	3.67"	13.8"	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-15	Abington 1.2 NNE	2.97"	11.0"	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-18	Pembroke 1.7 ENE	3.43"	9.6"	Plymouth MA
MA-PL-5	Kingston 3.3 WNW	4.78"	17.9"	Plymouth MA
MA-BA-14	North Falmouth 0.5 ENE	4.99"	15.2"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-13	Falmouth 0.6 NNW	5.05"	16.2"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-11	East Falmouth 1.4 ESE	3.43"	11.9"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-18	Waquoit 0.6 SSW	3.94"	19.0"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-45	Sandwich 0.9 NNE	4.23"	3.5"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-33	Brewster 1.5 ESE	4.78"	13.0"	Barnstable MA
MA-BA-12	Orleans 1.1 E	5.74"	5.6"	Barnstable MA
MA-DK-5	West Tisbury 2.9 N	4.46"	20.8"	Dukes MA
MA-DK-2	Vineyard Haven 0.8 WSW	5.80"	18.3"	Dukes MA

From the Climate Center. But something different this month. Instead of using the map from the High Plains Regional Climate Center at the University of Nebraska, your CoCoRaHS station data finds its way to the Midwest Regional Climate Center at the University of Illinois.

Reading the fine print below: COOP = NWS Co-Operative Observers, using 8" diameter rain gauges. FAA = Federal Aviation Administration, likely the ASOS tipping gauges at the airports.

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

January 01, 2016 to January 31, 2016



0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4 5 6 8

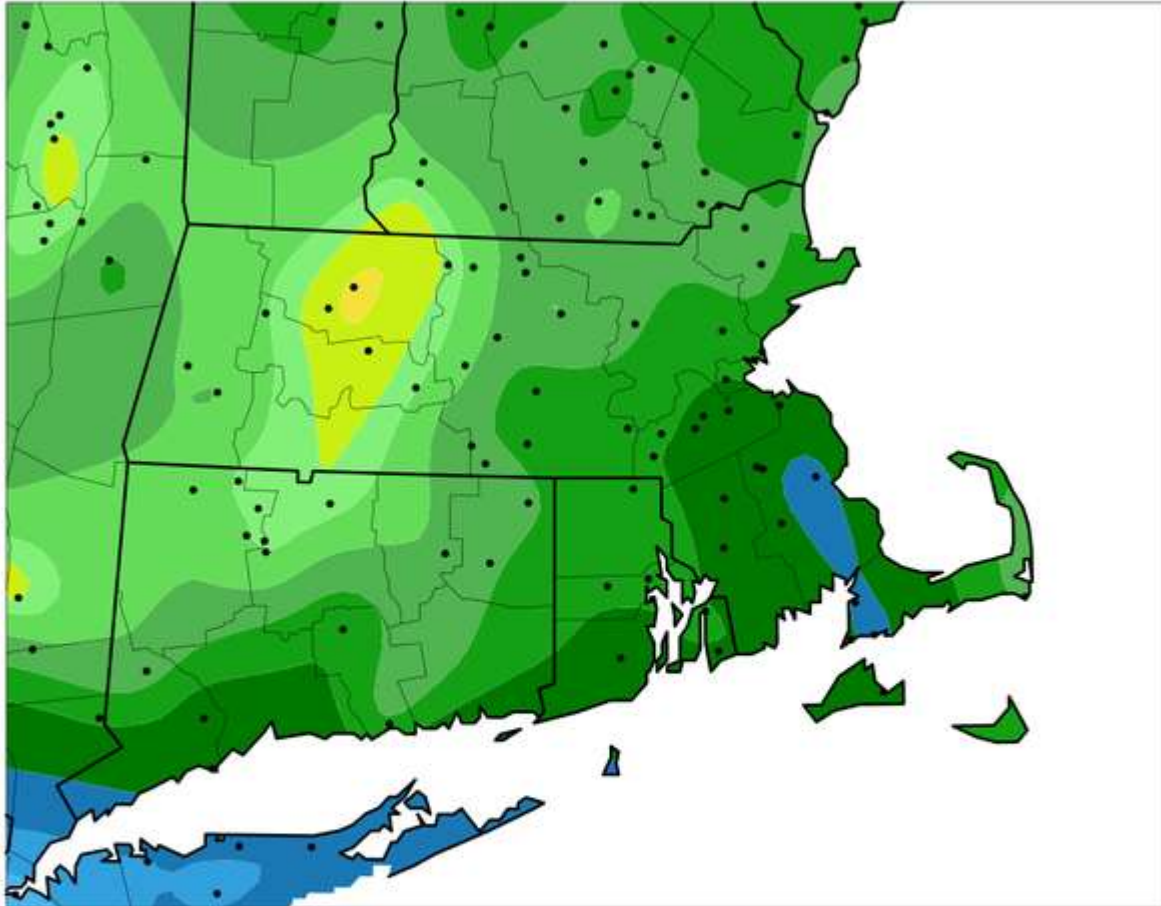
Stations from the following networks used: COOP, FAA, CoCoRaHS,

Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/3/2016 7:54:05 PM CST

If you can report New Snow every day, have no missing days and have no "NA"s, your station can be here with all of the others.

Accumulated Snowfall (in)

January 01, 2016 to January 31, 2016



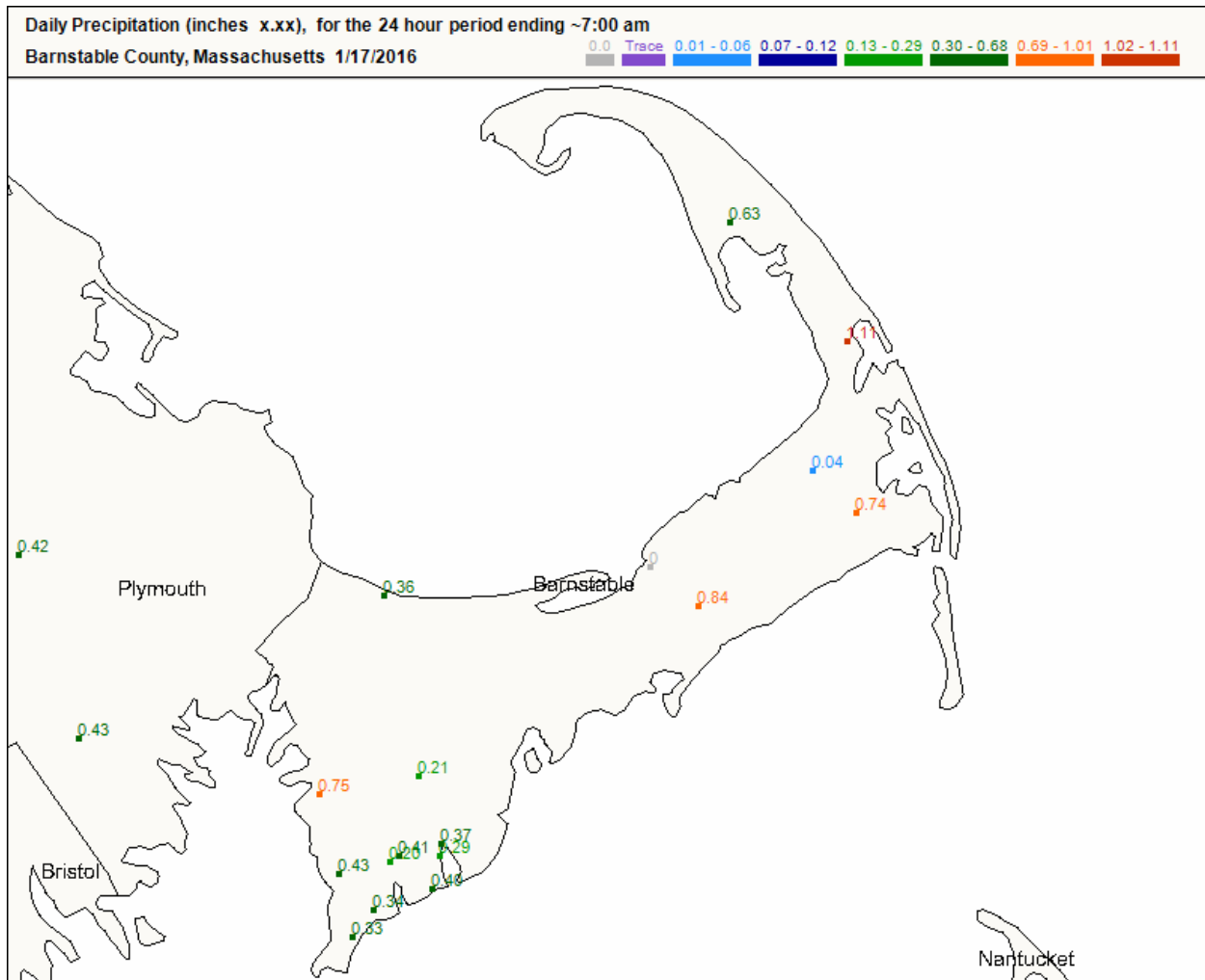
0.01 0.5 1 2 3 5 7.5 10 15 20 25 30 40

Stations from the following networks used: COOP, FAA, CoCoRaHS,

Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/3/2016 7:55:12 PM CST

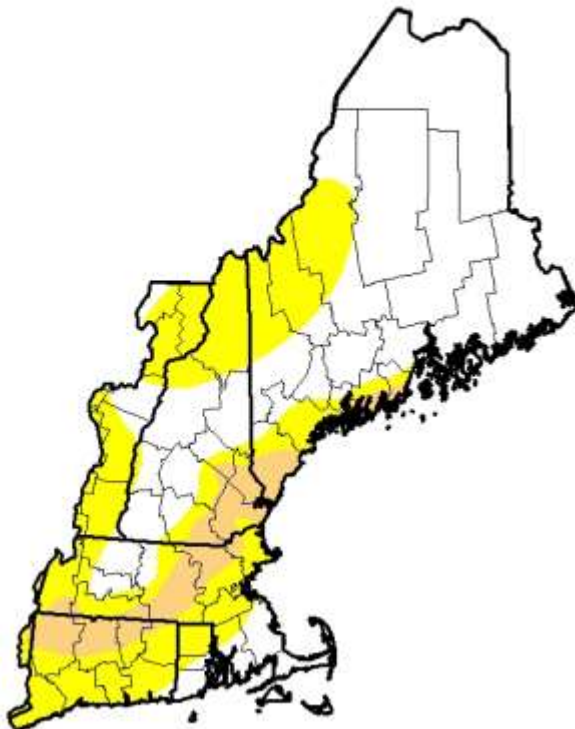
Map of the Month – Barnstable MA

The more observers we have, the more we can learn. 17 observations can tell so much in a county of 400 square miles, bordering bays and ocean. Month after month, we mention that we can never have enough observers in this county or in the other one. This one map from this one event shows why we feel that way. Well done to all of the observers here!



From the Drought Monitor. Last month, we mentioned the situation in Southern CT. This month, Southern CT looks slightly different. Also looking drought free are the areas in Plymouth, Bristol and Washington Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor New England Watershed



February 2, 2016
(Released Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	57.25	42.75	9.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 1/24/2016	57.90	42.10	9.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10/2/2015	71.61	28.39	15.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/2/2016	55.73	44.27	15.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/26/2015	49.31	50.69	20.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2/2/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

For a viewing explanation on the Drought Monitor, the CoCoRaHS animated video is on [YouTube](#).

We Dare to Compare!

Last month, we quickly put together a map of 6 month precipitation values within Southern CT. Looking for more irregularities with other ASOS outside of Southern CT, more were found. CoCoRaHS stations near ASOS were added and monthly totals were obtained from our inquiry tools. Thanks to those stations listed below for having nearly complete to perfectly complete data. It made this analysis quicker and easier.

While tipping gauges at ASOS give a short term look at current weather conditions, our network with our gauges have value in determining weeks, months, and years of climate. We dare to define the climate. With more reports and more stations, we can greatly define what we measure and report. Compare our 4" diameter gauges to the tipping gauges at ASOS.

Location	Station ID	Network	County	Jan 2016 Precip	Nov-Dec-Jan Precip	Aug-Jan Precip
North Adams	AQW	ASOS	Berkshire MA	1.30"	6.06"	18.19"
Pittsfield	PSF	ASOS	Berkshire MA	1.09"	7.64"	17.45"
Pittsfield 2.0 NNW	MABE10	CoCoRaHS	Berkshire MA	1.65"	9.17"	21.86"
Danbury	DXR	ASOS	Fairfield CT	2.36"	7.96"	15.26"
Brookfield 3.3 SSE	CTFR09	CoCoRaHS	Fairfield CT	2.23"	8.49"	17.73"
South Salem 2.1 NW	NYWC06	CoCoRaHS	Westchester NY	2.80"	9.55"	21.02"
Westchester County Apt	HPN	ASOS	Westchester NY	1.99"	9.67"	20.98"
White Plains 3.1 NNW	NYWC03	CoCoRaHS	Westchester NY	2.88"	9.90"	20.38"
Bridgeport/Sikorsky	BDR	ASOS	Fairfield CT	2.26"	8.43"	15.61"
Shelton 1.3 W	CTFR23	CoCoRaHS	Fairfield CT	2.63"	10.68"	21.24"
Westport 2.5 ENE	CTFR20	CoCoRaHS	Fairfield CT	1.84"	8.19"	18.42"
New Haven	HVN	ASOS	New Haven CT	1.71"	6.55"	12.33"
Milford 1.8 E	CTNH16	CoCoRaHS	New Haven CT	2.57"	9.65"	18.30"
Meriden	MMK	ASOS	New Haven CT	1.37"	5.35"	10.97"
Prospect 1.9 ENE	CTNH14	CoCoRaHS	New Haven CT	1.28"	8.88"	19.30"
Berlin 2.4 SSE	CTHR18	CoCoRaHS	Hartford CT	2.93"	9.57"	18.47"
Orange Muni	ORE	ASOS	Franklin MA	1.07"	7.72"	18.93"
Conway 0.9 SW	MAFR10	CoCoRaHS	Franklin MA	2.23"	9.65"	27.86"
Westfield	BAF	ASOS	Hampden MA	1.60"	7.51"	17.83"
Chicopee Falls/Westover	CEF	ASOS	Hampden MA	1.41"	7.34"	15.74"
Springfield 4.1 W	MAHD13	CoCoRaHS	Hampden MA	1.75"	7.52"	17.10"
Hartford/Bradley	BDL	ASOS	Hartford CT	1.96"	8.41"	17.84"
Enfield 1.5 SE	CTHR05	CoCoRaHS	Hartford CT	2.14"	8.48"	18.72"

North Granby 1.3 ENE	CTHR08	CoCoRaHS	Hartford CT	1.77"	8.64"	20.24"
Hartford/Brainard	HFD	ASOS	Hartford CT	1.95"	7.47"	14.14"
Wethersfield 1.2 WSW	CTHR06	CoCoRaHS	Hartford CT	2.35"	8.25"	16.86"
East Hartford 1.3 E	CTHR22	CoCoRaHS	Hartford CT	2.49"	8.41"	17.02"
Worcester	ORH	ASOS	Worcester MA	2.12"	8.53"	18.95"
Auburn 1.9 ESE	MAWR32	CoCoRaHS	Worcester MA	2.26"	9.05"	
Fitchburg	FIT	ASOS	Worcester MA	1.47"	8.72"	17.36"
Leominster 1.5 S	MAWR13	CoCoRaHS	Worcester MA	1.74"	10.82"	17.75"
Williamantic	IJD	ASOS	Windham CT	1.70"	6.71"	16.22"
East Killingly 1.3 SW	CTWN04	CoCoRaHS	Windham CT	3.20"	9.43"	17.82"
Moosup 1.7 NE	CTWN08	CoCoRaHS	Windham CT	2.33"	8.72"	17.89"
Groton/New London	GON	ASOS	New London CT	1.40"	6.02"	14.43"
Oakdale 2.6 WNW	CTNL05	CoCoRaHS	New London CT	3.05"	11.89"	22.78"
Westerly	WST	ASOS	Washington RI	2.57"	10.19"	21.43"
Hope Valley 3.7 S	RIWS01	CoCoRaHS	Washington RI	3.85"	13.30"	22.38"
Providence/T F Green	PVD	ASOS	Kent RI	3.03"	10.45"	19.22"
East Greenwich 2.3 ESE	RIKN02	CoCoRaHS	Kent RI	2.78"	11.65"	19.46"
Newport	UUU	ASOS	Newport RI	2.67"	11.18"	23.09"
Middletown 1.1 SW	RINW04	CoCoRaHS	Newport RI	3.14"	10.31"	20.10"
Little Compton 1.7 NW	RINW05	CoCoRaHS	Newport RI	3.22"	14.30"	25.09"
New Bedford Muni	EWB	ASOS	Bristol MA	3.00"	11.54"	26.50"
Dartmouth 2.5 SSW	MABR14	CoCoRaHS	Bristol MA	3.23"	14.38"	25.27"
Taunton Muni	TAN	ASOS	Bristol MA	3.27"	10.82"	21.84"
Norton 1.8 NNE	MABR03	CoCoRaHS	Bristol MA	3.35"	10.85"	18.19"
Bedford/Hanscom Fld	BED	ASOS	Middlesex MA	2.13"	8.11"	16.42"
Winchester 0.7 SE	MAMD07	CoCoRaHS	Middlesex MA	3.02"	11.80"	18.37"
Lawrence Muni	LWM	ASOS	Essex MA	2.03"	5.54"	11.72"
Beverly 2.8 NW	MAES02	CoCoRaHS	Essex MA	3.00"	12.06"	19.03"
Boston Logan Intl	BOS	ASOS	Suffolk MA	3.27"	9.62"	17.48"
Winthrop 0.2 N	MASF02	CoCoRaHS	Suffolk MA	3.37"	8.58"	18.92"
Norwood	OWD	ASOS	Norfolk MA	2.80"	7.75"	15.27"
Norwood 1.3 NW	MANF01	CoCoRaHS	Norfolk MA	3.58"	11.69"	20.31"
Plymouth Muni	PYM	ASOS	Plymouth MA	3.23"	12.13"	22.97"
Middleborough 5.5 E	MAPL06	CoCoRaHS	Plymouth MA	4.45"	16.41"	25.29"
Hyannis	HYA	ASOS	Barnstable MA	3.81"	14.03"	25.89"
Yarmouth 2.3 SSE	MABA01	CoCoRaHS	Barnstable MA	4.74"	17.31"	27.96"
Chatham Muni	CQX	ASOS	Barnstable MA	4.61"	12.20"	26.33"
Brewster 1.5 ESE	MABA33	CoCoRaHS	Barnstable MA	4.78"	15.71"	26.31"
Nantucket	ACK	ASOS	Nantucket MA	5.31"	13.75"	20.67"
Vineyard Haven	MVY	ASOS	Dukes MA	3.02"	10.74"	24.53"
Vineyard Haven 0.8 WSW	MADK02	CoCoRaHS	Dukes MA	5.80"	20.01"	32.57"

Sources: ASOS values from Station Tool at HPRCC. CoCoRaHS values from its website.

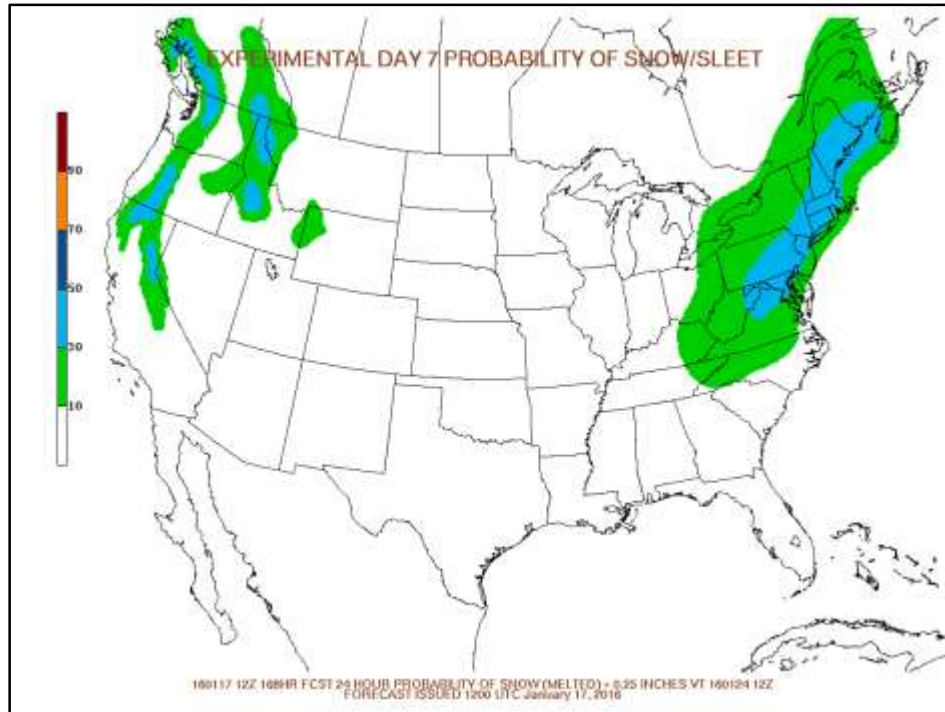
The January 2016 Blizzard

By Joe DelliCarpini – Science & Operations Officer, NWS Taunton MA

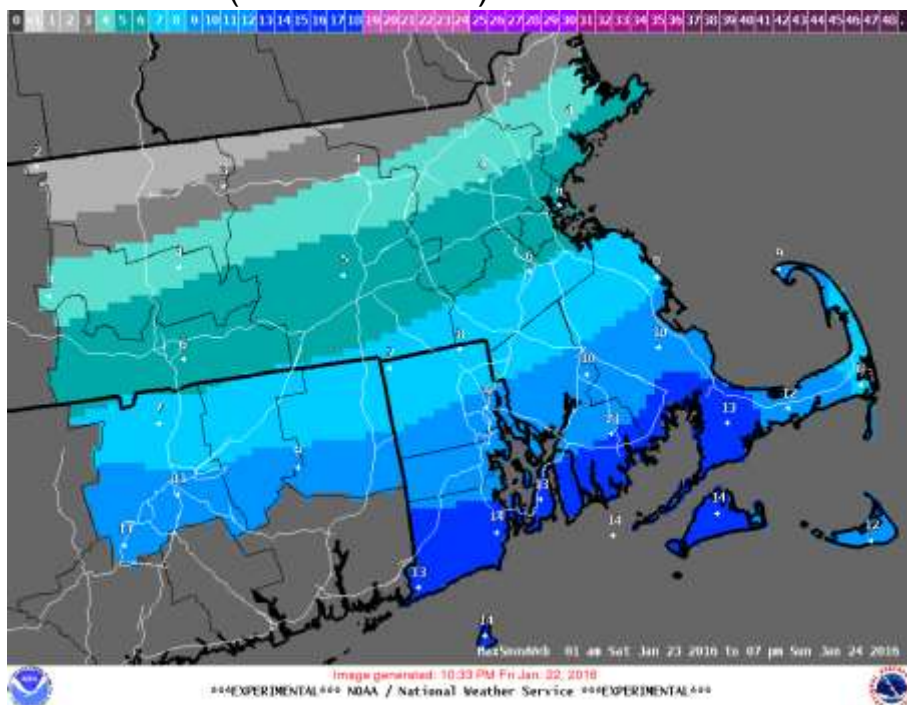
A major winter storm brought blizzard conditions from the Mid-Atlantic States to southern New England from January 22 through 24. Snowfall totals as high as 2 to 3 feet were observed in the mountains of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania as seen in the map below. Here in southern New England, the highest totals were confined to coastal Connecticut, Rhode Island, and southeast Massachusetts where as much as 12 to 18 inches of snow fell. Wind gusts from the storm were impressive, gusting as high as 76 mph on Block Island (which is hurricane force) and between 60 to 70 mph across southeast New England.



The storm was exceptionally well forecasted and there were indications that the Mid Atlantic States would be significantly impacted a week before the storm hit. Check out the 7-day forecast from the Weather Prediction Center below, which showed a high probability of more than 0.25" of precipitation (in the form of snow and sleet) from the Washington, DC area into New England.



In our neck of the woods, however, there was tremendous uncertainty as to how far north the heavy snow would get, even right up to the time the snow began to fall. Briefings from our NWS offices in Albany, New York City, and Taunton highlighted this uncertainty and the experimental “Reasonable Maximum Snowfall” maps allowed people to prepare for more snow than was forecast (as seen below).



As expected, our observers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island rose to the occasion to provide accurate measurements during what was a challenging storm! Strong winds and blowing snow resulted in a less than ideal catch in your rain gauges, which was noted by many of you in the Daily Comments. The wet nature of the snow in coastal locations also resulted in some gauges being blocked by snow! MA-DK-5 noted **“Heavy wet snow and high wind made this a challenge”**, RI-PR-32 added **“Blowing and drifting made for cumbersome measurements”**, CT-WN-8 added **“Whiteout conditions at times, first 3 inches were dry snow next 3 wet last 1.5 very powdery.”**

Farther north, we could tell some of you were a bit disappointed by the lack of snow. **“Major snow event to the South. Not a single flake noted here!”** as noted by MA-MD-47 and **“Not one flake from the major coastal storm”** from MA-HS-2.

Whether or not you saw a lot of snow or none at all, I hope you realize the importance of your reports. Remember that map of observed snowfall at the beginning of this article? The reason why you’re seeing so much detail in it is because of YOUR observations! Without them, the map would certainly have looked a lot more “smoothed” at the edges.

Keep up the great work!

Wrap Up

The shortest month of the year also is the driest month for our area as well. Keep with it during this second half of winter.

A reminder to participate in “SWE Mondays” during February and into March. As we found out with the snowstorm on Jan 23rd, zeros define where there is no snow. It may be obvious to you that there is no snow, but it is not obvious to everyone else. If you can, make a snow depth report every day. If you have a snow cover, a SWE report on Monday. If you have no snow cover, report a zero for snow depth and a zero for SWE every day. After last winter, this is easy and just as important.

The first harvest of the new year starts soon. Not from the ground, but from the trees, specifically from the sugar maple trees. To the natives, it

was a sign of spring and a sign of survival when thawing days and freezing nights occur. Taste or smell the harvest of sugar within maple sap occurring in our area. This northeast part of North America is a unique part of our planet where this harvest occurs. Every drop counts with that catch, also.

Thank you for all that you do for CoCoRaHS, whether in the past, present and in the days to come.