FEBRUARY 1994: The onslaught of wintry weather so prevalent in late December and January continued into February. The month was highlighted once again by a series of ice storms during the second week. The latter storm (10th–11th) was the most severe, depositing up to two inches of ice south of D.C., causing extensive damage to trees and power lines across Calvert County, MD and Virginia's Northern Neck region. The same storm produced over 4 inches of sleet in the immediate Washington/Baltimore suburbs, closing schools, the Federal government and numerous businesses. A strong storm system during the third week produced heavy rains across much of the local area with more than an inch at all five airports, pushing DCA's monthly precipitation totals over four inches for the fourth consecutive month.

While the extreme cold of January was not repeated, subnormal temperatures prevailed for the sixth consecutive month at DCA. A brief, but welcome period of balmy weather from the 18th–20th produced highs in the sixties across most of the Washington/Baltimore area; however, there were several days when the mercury remained close to freezing. A late month cold snap produced lows in the teen across much of the local area, including a 16°F reading at DCA on the 27th.

FEBRUARY 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	Dep	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	Dep	Snow
National (DCA)	44.8	27.8	36.3	37.5	–1.2	68/20	16/27	4.20	2.71	+1.49	3.1
Baltimore (BWI)	42.7	25.3	34.0	34.8	–0.8	66/20	14/27*	4.07	3.12	+0.95	5.7
Dulles (IAD)	43.5	23.1	33.3	33.6	–0.3	66/20	14/27	3.61	2.81	+0.80	3.8
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	45.1	24.6	34.9	36	–1	68/20	17/10	4.45	3.0	+1.4	3.2
Andrew AFB (ADW)	42.9	25.3	34.1	36	–2	66/20	15/10	3.66	2.8	+0.4	3.7

Other dates of occurrence: * January 28th.

WINTER (DECEMBER 1993–FEBRUARY 1994): The coldest winter since 1976–77 commenced with a relatively mild conditions during the first three weeks of December; however, a blast of Arctic air arrived on December 22nd, producing subfreezing temperatures from the early morning hours of December 26th until the afternoon of the 31st, the longest stretch of subfreezing temperatures since December 1989. The extreme cold continued nearly unabated through January. The third week was the coldest, with subzero readings recorded across the Washington/Baltimore area on the 19th, including DCA's lowest temperature since 1985 (–4°F). A high of 8°F at DCA on the 19th equalled the lowest maximum temperature ever recorded in Washington this century while highs of 5°F and 6°F at BWI and IAD, respectively, were the lowest maximum temperatures ever recorded at those locations. It was also the first time BWI ever recorded a single–digit maximum reading. The extreme cold came on the heels of an initial intrusion of Arctic air on the 15th and 16th, resulting in a severe drain on power supplies which led to the ...ever weather related "state of emergency" declaration in the District of Columbia on the 20th, forcing the closure of schools, ...esses, and governments. Below normal temperatures continued into February. However, a brief taste of spring occurred ...m the 18th–20th when maximum temperatures rose into the sixties. Abnormally cold weather returned by months end, producing negative monthly temperature departures at all 5 airports. As a result, February was the sixth consecutive month with subnormal temperatures at DCA.

It was the wettest winter season since 1978–79 at DCA, with all three winter months (December–February) recording greater than four inches of precipitation. Two to three inches of rain fell on the 4th and 5th of December (just a week after parts of the area received record 24–hour rainfall amounts). Once the cold air became entrenched across the local area, precipitation typically fell as sleet and/or freezing rain. Several significant ice storms often left most of the Washington/Baltimore area under a coating of ice. A record four severe ice storms battered the local region (Jan. 17 & 27–28 and Feb. 8–9 & 10–11). All of these storms created dangerous driving conditions as well as considerable ice accumulations on trees and power lines. A major sleet storm on February 10–11 left some of Washington's northern and western suburbs under as much four inches of ice while freezing rain coated the southern and eastern suburbs, causing extensive property damage and numerous power outages across parts of southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck region. However, seasonal snowfall was minimal, with 2–3 inches falling in the immediate Washington area on Dec. 28th and Jan. 20th, marking the seventh consecutive winter with subnormal snowfall.

WINTER 1993–1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Mth–Day		Precipitation (In)				
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	Dep	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	Dep	Snow	Dep
National (DCA)	41.9	26.9	34.4	37.2	–2.8	68/2–20	–4/1–19	12.86	8.55	+4.31	9.2	–5.1
Baltimore (BWI)	40.5	24.3	32.4	34.8	–2.1	66/2–20	–5/1–19	13.11	9.58	+3.53	13.5	–3.3
Dulles (IAD)	40.3	21.9	31.1	33.2	–2.1	66/2–20	–7/1–21	11.51	8.73	+2.78	11.5	–7.7
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	41.8	23.5	32.7	35	–2	68/2–20	–5/1–21	13.24	9.1	+4.1	15.6	–2.3
Andrew AFB (ADW)	40.1	24.1	32.1	36	–4	66/2–20	–4/1–19	10.71	9.3	+1.4	14.2	–2.3

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH: Wet Winter=Wet Spring?

After one of the twelve wettest winters ever recorded in the immediate Washington area, will the unusually wet conditions persist into the Spring? Below is a list of the twelve wettest winters in Washington and the corresponding spring season precipitation totals. [Normal DCA Spring Precipitation: 9.54"]

Winter	Precipitation	Spring	Precipitation	Winter	Precipitation	Spring	Precipitation
1881–1882	18.30"	1882	11.30"	1914–1915	14.43"	1915	4.15"
1936–1937	16.39"	1937	12.37"	1890–1891	14.37"	1891	15.50"
1978–1979	16.26"	1979	10.99"	1898–1899	13.85"	1899	9.01"
1901–1902	15.89"	1902	9.35"	1884–1885	13.79"	1885	6.09"
1883–1884	15.32"	1884	12.19"	1880–1881	13.17"	1881	10.55"
1902–1903	14.87	1903	12.77"	1993–1994	12.87"	1994	?