



PRESTO

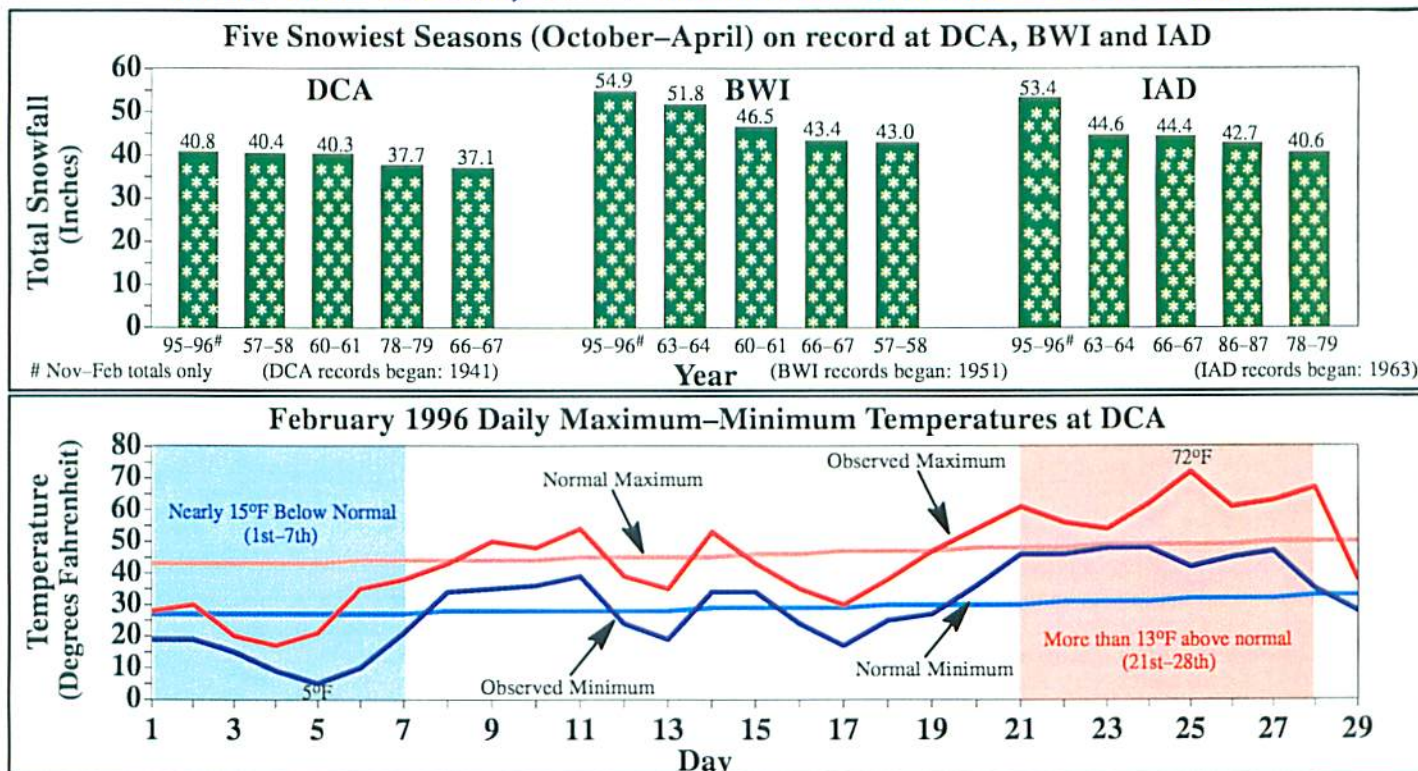


PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

FEBRUARY 1996 & WINTER REVIEW

FEBRUARY: COLD AND SNOWY START WITH WARM FINISH

WINTER: COLD, WET WITH RECORD SNOWFALL



HIGHLIGHTS

- Near normal temperatures, subnormal precipitation, but above normal snowfall at DCA, BWI & IAD;
 - Snowiest season ever recorded at the 3 major airports (Nov. 1995–Feb. 1996 Snowfall: DCA: 40.8", BWI: 54.9" and IAD: 53.4") [see graph];
 - Snowiest February since 1983 at DCA (15.2"), BWI (19.0") and IAD (16.4");
 - Cold start to February with monthly extreme low of 5°F at DCA (–1°F at BWI and –10°F at IAD) on the 5th and a warm finish with a monthly extreme high of 72°F at DCA (72°F at BWI and 71°F at IAD) on the 25th [see graph];
 - Fourth consecutive month with subnormal temperatures at DCA;
 - Two snowstorms (2nd–3rd & 16th): each dumped 6–10 inches of snow across the Washington/Baltimore area;
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- Near to slightly below normal seasonal temperatures and above normal precipitation & snowfall reported at all five airports;
 - 58 Winter days (64%) with at or below normal temperatures at DCA;
 - 63 Winter days (69%) with at or below freezing lows at DCA;
 - Only the second Winter of the last 18 with subnormal temperatures all three winter months at DCA;
 - The "Blizzard of 1996" (Jan. 6th–8th) produced the largest single–storm snowfall total on record at IAD (24.5"), second at BWI (22.5"), and the fourth largest snowfall in Washington with 17.1" at DCA;
 - Snowiest month (January 1996) ever recorded at IAD (30.9"), second at BWI (32.6") and fifth at DCA (23.8").
 - A brief warm spell coupled with soaking rains on January 18th and 19th generated severe flooding from the Shenandoah Valley to the local area. It was the worst flooding since June 1972 (Hurricane Agnes) along portions of the Potomac with large sections of the berms and towpath along the C&O Canal washed away by floodwaters.

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(for more details turn over)