

Central Indiana

June 2021

Climate Summary

33rd Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 13th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

June 2021's daily temperatures were considerably less anomalous than May 2021's, with the month featuring longer periods of very warm to hot conditions and a few short cooler periods under Canadian high pressure. If a heat wave is considered to be a prolonged period of high temperatures hitting 90F or higher, then the only borderline occurrence was during the second week of the month, in isolated locations; the warmer periods were driven more by warm, humid mornings than afternoon maximums.

The cool late May blast that brought several morning lows into the 40s lingered into June, with essentially all sites at least slightly below normal through the 2nd, as readings diurnally ranged from the 50s to the 70s. A slow moderation led to a prolonged humid, and at least briefly hot period during **June 7th-13th**, as a disorganized upper ridge built over the central US. Nearly all 1st-order airports peaked in the 90s on the 11th and 12th, with 90F+ heat continuing at Terre Haute and Shelbyville through the 14th. The 12th was the hottest day of this warm spell at all sites, with both Lafayette and the Purdue farm northwest of West Lafayette hitting 98F, while 95F was reached at both the Purdue farm northeast of Vincennes (Knox Co.) and Shoals 8S (Martin Co.). Perhaps more pronounced was the humidity which held Indianapolis' low temperatures from 68F to 71F during the 7th-13th, with similar trends seen at other sites.

Northerly winds brought a respite of milder Canadian high pressure into Indiana for **June 15th-17th** as temperatures dropped to the mid to upper 50s all three mornings at essentially all sites. This drier air's temperature was quick to rebound, however, as robust southwesterly flow returned. **June 18th-20th** was quite warm to briefly hot, as many sites recorded their highest temperature of the month on the 18th (hours before the severe weather outbreak, see below). The Vincennes and Shoals sites both hit 95F again.

A broad and deep, yet quick-moving upper trough provided another quick blast of much cooler air to the region on **June 22nd-23rd**. The 22nd was the cooler day, with morning lows into at least the 50s and daytime highs only rebounding into the low to mid 70s despite the strongest sun angle of the year. Crawfordsville 6SE plummeted to 46F, while Tipton 5SW dropped to 47F.

Heat and humidity then returned for June 2021's last several days. **June 25th-30th** saw morning lows remain at 70F or above at Indianapolis. Daytime highs were less impressive as the humid air and frequent showers/thunderstorms prevented any prolonged heat, although the low 90s were reached at several sites on both the 28th and 29th.

Overall, June 2021's generally 1.5F to 2.5F above normal temperatures reversed the rather cool trend of May 2021 ... while continuing the rather warm trend of June 2020.

Site	June 2021 Average Temp	June 2021 Dep from Nml	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis Int'l AP	74.1	+1.6	93 on 12 th , 18 th	53 on 22 nd
Lafayette	77.3	+6.6	100 on 18 th	53 on 16 th , 22 nd
Muncie	75.8	+2.5	95 on 12 th	52 on 22 nd
Terre Haute	74.9	+2.2	96 on 18 th	54 on 17 th , 22 nd
Bloomington	74.2	+2.2	94 on 12 th , 18 th	53 on 23 rd
Shelbyville	75.7	+2.5	96 on 18 th	54 on 22 nd
Indianapolis Eagle Creek (*)	74.6	M	94 on 12 th	53 on 22 nd

(*) – Temperature data missing for Indianapolis Eagle Creek on June 21 and June 20's max temp.

At Indianapolis, June 2021's daily average temperatures were above normal on 18 days and below normal on 9 days. It was the 33rd warmest June for the Indianapolis Area since weather records began in 1871.

Precipitation

June 2021 was wetter than normal for most of central Indiana, in both rainfall frequency and amounts. The couple 4-5 day blasts of cool, dry Canadian air through the middle of the month acted as intermissions between distinct periods of daily showers. The month started wet on the **1st-3rd**, especially across southern counties where 3-day totals were as high as 3.66" at Shoals 8S (Martin Co) ... with significant rains falling on the 2nd at Indianapolis (1.19"), Bloomington (1.56") and Shelbyville (1.21"). The next round of summer showers fell from the **8th-12th**, again with the most common daily totals of 0.50-1.00" generally falling along and/or south of the I-70 corridor ... with the greater 5-day rainfall totals around 2.00" for several counties, and as high as 3.70" near Flat Rock (southern Shelby Co) ... and the greatest 1-day sum of 2.25" on the 12th near Warren Park (Marion Co).

Several rounds of intense storms on the **18th-19th** led to extreme rainfall totals of ~3-8" along a broad Terre Haute – Bloomington – Columbus zone, including 7.42" at Ellettsville 0.6 SSE (Monroe Co) and 7.41" at Spencer (Owen Co), the latter being the **greatest 1-day total in the station's 76-year record** ... while less-extreme heavy rains of 1-3" fell on several counties to the north and south of the bulls eye. Over 30 of central Indiana's river and stream gages rose to

flood stage following this event, including moderate flooding on the North Fork Salt Creek at Nashville, Haw Creek at both Hope and Clifford, and Salt Creek at Harrodsburg. Moderate flooding on the East Fork of the White River at Seymour crested just shy of major flood stage.

The month ended on a humid and showery note, as showers and thunderstorms were common for June’s last seven days, especially along the Wabash River Valley from Kokomo to Terre Haute. The **24th-26th** rains totaled around 2.00” to well over 3.00” for northwestern zones, including 3.73” in Covington (Fountain Co). On the **27th**, many locations saw around 1.00”, with 2.60” at West Lafayette 3.3 WNW, and several reports of 1.15-1.55” over the portions of Owen and Monroe Counties that saw the 18-19th bulls eye. The **29th**’s storms brought about 2.00” to much of northern Marion County, including 2.35” in Williams Creek ... before the month ended on a rainy note: the **30th**’s early morning and evening storms totaled 0.50-1.00” on many sites, including 1.43” at the Indianapolis Int’l Airport.

Normal June rainfall totals range from 4.50 to almost 6.00” across central Indiana. June 2021’s totals encompassed near normal to anomalously high values, with the region split between 3-6” over most north-central/northeastern zones, and generally 6-10” along the southern half and far northwestern counties ... while most of Marion County saw 6-9”, which was greater than most adjacent counties. There were several exceptions to this pattern, however, including: several sites totaled over 10” in northwestern Monroe County, as well as neighboring portions of Owen and Morgan Counties ... as well as only 5-6” over far southwestern counties. The region’s June total precipitation ranged from around 2.50” in Tipton County to nearly 13” in southeastern Owen County.

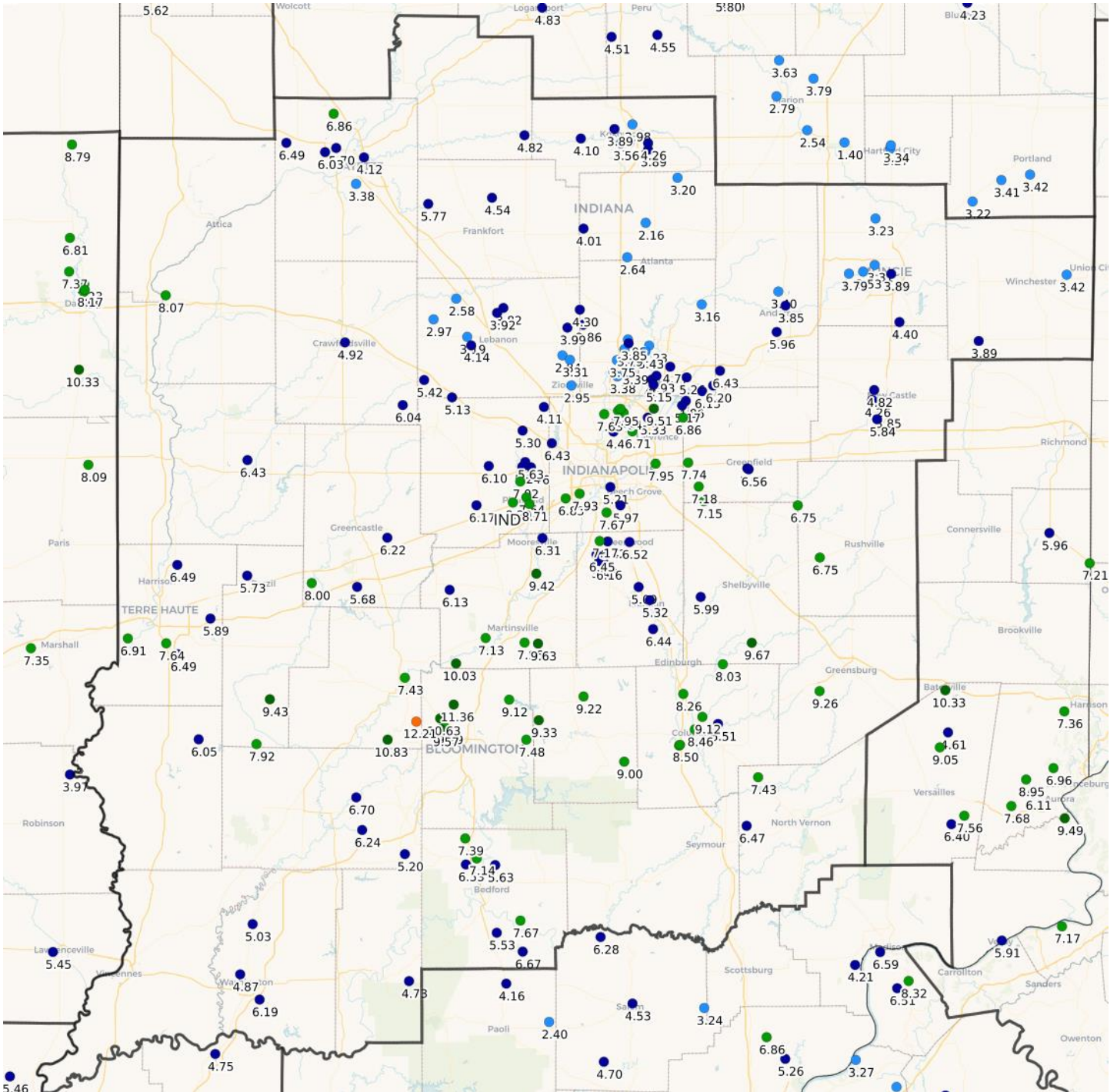
The month’s generally wet pattern across central and southern counties was also exhibited at Indianapolis, Bloomington and Shelbyville, which each saw 10 days record 0.10”+ (normal for all sites is 8), while Indianapolis recorded measureable rain of 17 days (normal is 12), and Shelbyville’s 8 days of 0.50”+ was double their normal tally. Following the modest rains of this April and May, Indianapolis’ year-to-date total was 2.86” below normal. However, June’s anomalously high rainfall essentially erased this deficit. Looking back at June 2020, Indianapolis’ total precipitation was an adequate, yet near-normal 4.44”; June 2021’s sum was 152% of normal.

Site	June 2021 Precipitation	June 2021 Diff. from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis Intl AP	7.51	+2.56	2.16 on 19 th	5 days, 13-17 th
Lafayette	4.35	-0.21	1.26 on 27 th	5 days, 13-17 th
Muncie	4.18	-0.63	0.79 on 12 th	5 days, 13-17 th
Terre Haute	6.59	+1.95	3.54 on 19 th	5 days, 13-17 th
Bloomington (*)	8.46 INC	M	M	6 days, 12-17 th
Shelbyville (*)	8.31 INC	M	M	5 days, 13-17 th
Indy – Eagle Creek (*)	6.64 INC	M	2.41 on 10 th	5 days, 13-17 th

(*) – Precipitation data missing for both Bloomington and Shelbyville for portions of both June 18th and June 19th; and for Indy – Eagle Creek on June 20-21st.

June 2021 tied for the **13th wettest** for the Indianapolis Area since weather records began in 1871.

June 2021 Total Precipitation, Through the Morning of 6/30 As Reported By Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers



For the period 700 AM EDT 6/1/2021 -to- 700 AM EDT 6/30/2021. Data is unofficial.

Rainfall totals were greatest south of I-70, along the Wabash Valley, and within Marion County.

Severe Weather

June 2021's severe weather featured an outbreak of large hail, damaging winds and flooding rains (on the 18th-19th) ... central Indiana's first tornadoes since April 2020 (25th) ... and an otherwise active second half of the month, if much more in frequency than coverage. Excepting a lone event on April 21, 2021, the region's first severe weather report since late March occurred on the evening of **June 12th** when a broken line of thunderstorms downed trees and power poles from Indianapolis to the northeastern counties, with isolated **60 mph** wind gusts and quarter (**1.00"**) **hail** also impacting east-central Marion County.

A hot, humid **June 18th** led to a complex and prolonged series of severe thunderstorms ... starting with late afternoon storms across the far northeastern zones ... next, several rounds of widely scattered evening storms across generally the central and southern counties ... which then near-seamlessly morphed into a widespread mesoscale convective system shortly after midnight, which finally ended after dawn on the 19th. The first (late afternoon) storms brought a few reports of hail as large as **1.00"** just north of Muncie and farther east. Next, a potent supercell started the second (evening) round, dropping hen egg (**2.00"**) **hail** from northeastern Marion County to Markleville (Madison Co), before several reports of baseball (**2.75"**) **or larger hail** from Hancock County, including a **3.40" stone** in New Palestine. (This was only the second time in the last 10 years that hail larger than 3.00" was reported anywhere in the region, the other occasion being 4.00" hail near Montmorencie (Tippecanoe Co.) in May 2019.) The supercell maintained its strength into northern Shelby County, dropping a funnel cloud and what was likely a **macroburst**, with estimated winds of **70-90 mph** over a rural 10 square mile patch between Fairland and Fountaintown. The reported 5-10 minute duration of this intense wind was the likely cause of numerous uprooted/snapped trees and power lines, as well as the top of an older concrete grain silo being blown off. The evening storms brought several other impressive hail reports, including several of **2.50-3.00" hail** across far southeastern Putnam County, and **2.75" hail** in Cadiz (Henry Co). Very efficient rainfall production during the event's third phase through the early morning of the 19th ... lead to a broad zone of flash flooding across Owen and Monroe Counties, including downtown Bloomington, due to extreme event rainfall totals of 3-8". More isolated flash flooding was also reported along and to the north of this maximum, from Fountain County to Johnson County.

On the **25th**, **two tornadoes** touched down on the far northwestern corner of the region just before sunset (central Indiana's first confirmed tornadoes since 4/8/2020). A supercell slowly moving to the east dropped an **EF1** that tracked 2.2 miles between Dayton (Tippecanoe Co.) and Rossville (Carroll Co.) with estimated peak winds of 95 mph ... snapping trees, damaging several barns and a small wind mill, and launching tree branches through a farmhouse's windows. Soon after, the same storm dropped an **EFO** north of Burlington (Carroll Co.) that tracked for 2.4 miles while dissipating and quickly starting again several times along its path, with estimated peak winds of 74 mph that uprooted trees and caused some superficial damage to buildings.

The remainder of the month saw more modest thunderstorms bring several, noticeably smaller severe events. The **20th** had a lone report of 1.00" hail near Zionsville (southwestern Hamilton

Co.) ... on the 26th there were two reports of downed trees across Tippecanoe County ... the 27th had marginally severe winds hit the