

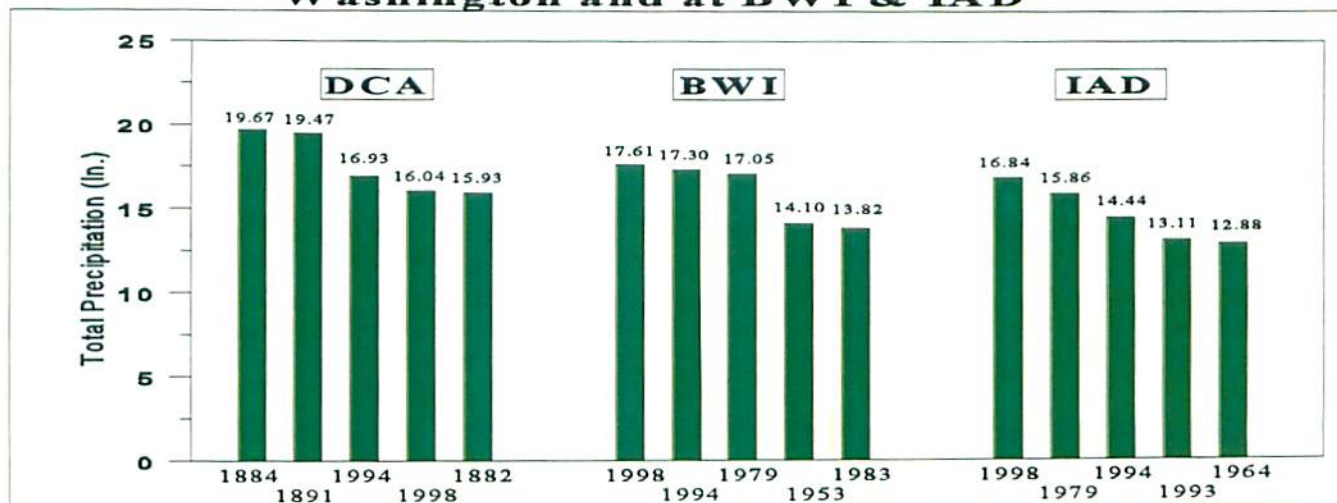


PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

MARCH 1998

THIRD CONSECUTIVE WETTER THAN NORMAL MONTH
ACCOMPANIED BY SUMMERLIKE WARMTH AT MONTH'S END

Five Wettest January-March Periods Ever Recorded in
Washington and at BWI & IAD



HIGHLIGHTS

- Near to slightly above normal temperatures and much above normal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Second wettest January-March period on record at DCA (4th overall in Washington) and the wettest such period ever observed at both BWI and IAD (see graphic above);
- More than 16 inches of precipitation at DCA (16.04"), BWI (17.61") and IAD (16.84") during the January-March period; over 41% of the annual normal precipitation at each location;
- Third consecutive month with precipitation totals over 5 inches at the three major airports, the first such occurrence since May-July 1989 at DCA, BWI and IAD;
- 10 consecutive days (22nd-31st) without measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") at DCA, the longest such period (tied w/ 2 others) since August 21-September 1, 1997;
- 20 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA;
- A blast of frigid Arctic air produced readings more typical of mid-Winter on the 11th & 12th, with highs in the thirties across most of the local area, including the lowest maximum temperatures (on the 11th) at DCA (34°F), BWI (33°F), & IAD (32°F) since January 19, 1997;
- 10 days with lows at or below freezing at DCA, more than either January or February 1998;
- Unseasonably warm conditions during the last week of the month, produced the first 80°F+ readings of the year across the Washington/Baltimore area on the 27th and the first 90°F+ highs on the 29th at DAA (93°F) and on the 30th at ADW (90°F);
- Five consecutive days (27th-31st) with 80°F+ highs at BWI, IAD, DAA and ADW;
- All-time record March highs established at BWI (89°F) and tied at IAD (89°F) on the 30th; In addition, daily record highs established on the 27th, 29th & 31st at BWI, on the 27th & 29th at IAD and on the 30th at DCA.

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