March Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

March 2010 was warmer, drier and had less snowfall than normal.

The average temperatures for March across Southwest Lower Michigan were above 37F degrees with values 4F to 8F degrees above normal. The average highs were 5F to 11F degrees above normal and the average lows were 2F to 6F degrees above normal. Values for the main climate stations are found in Table 1.

The precipitation totals for March were less than 2 inches across Southwest Lower Michigan. The totals were 0.9 to 1.5 inches below normal.

The snowfall for the month mostly fell on the 20th with up to 2 inches falling. Mainly trace amounts of snowfall fell on the 1st and 21st of the month. Normal snow totals for March for the main climate stations vary from around 11 inches for Muskegon to 9 inches for Grand Rapids and 8 and a half inches for Lansing.

Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation and snowfall for March 2010 in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon.

Location		**Temperature (degrees F)**	**Precipitation (inches)**	**Snowfall (inches)**
Grand Rapids	*Reported*	41.2	1.17	2.0
	Normal	34.6	2.59	9.0
	Departure	+6.6	-1.42	-7.0
Lansing	*Reported*	39.6	0.45	1.2
	Normal	33.9	2.33	8.7
	Departure	+5.7	-1.88	-7.5
Muskegon	*Reported*	39.9	0.93	0.4
	Normal	34.0	2.36	11.1
	Departure	+5.9	-1.43	-10.7

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Temperature Summary for March:

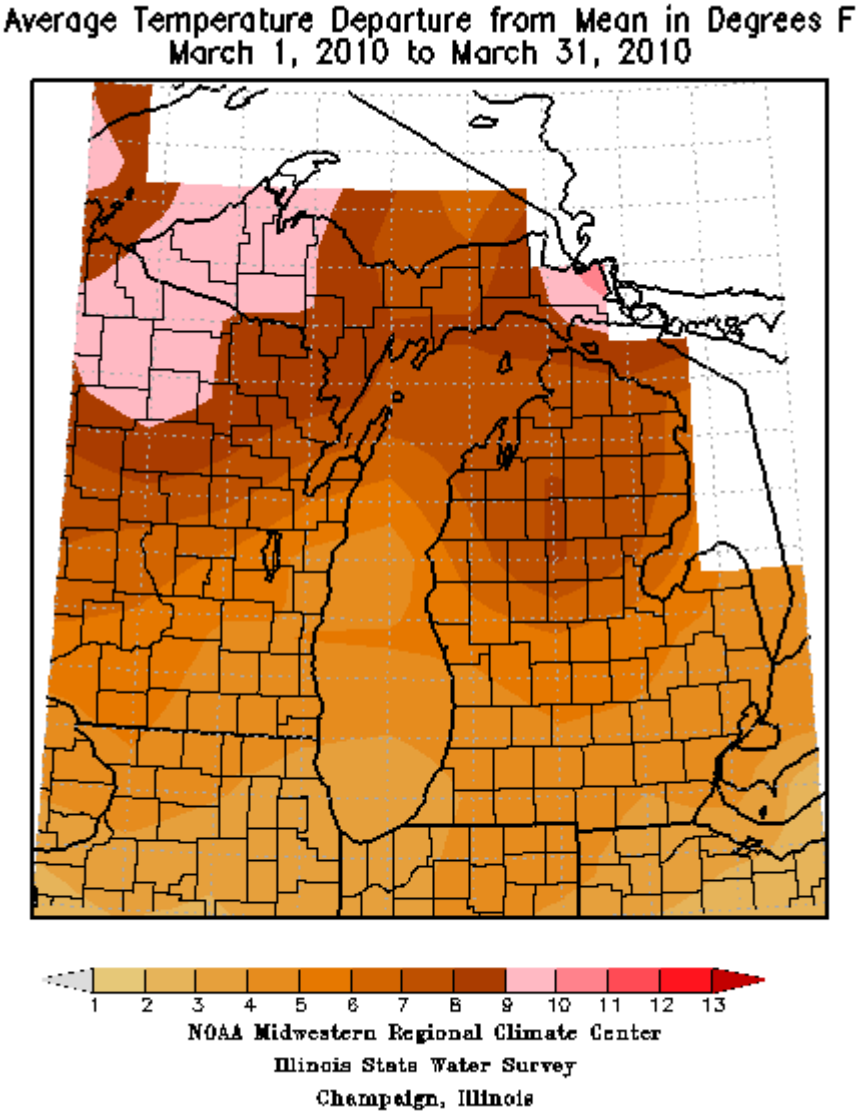

Figure 1. Average temperature departure from normal during March 2010.

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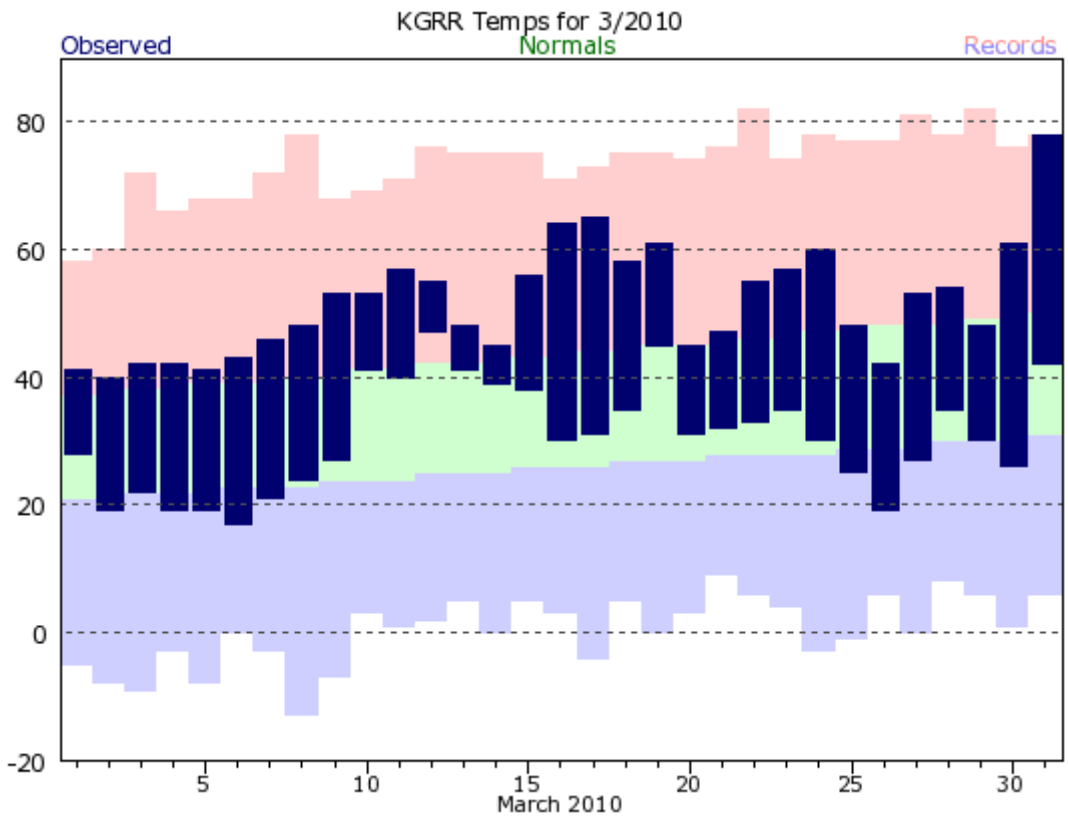

Figure 2. Observed temperatures at the G.R. Ford International Airport. Dark blue bars are the temperature range for each day. The orange strip indicates the normal range of temperatures. Record high and low temperatures are indicated at the top of the pink area and the bottom of the blue area, respectively.

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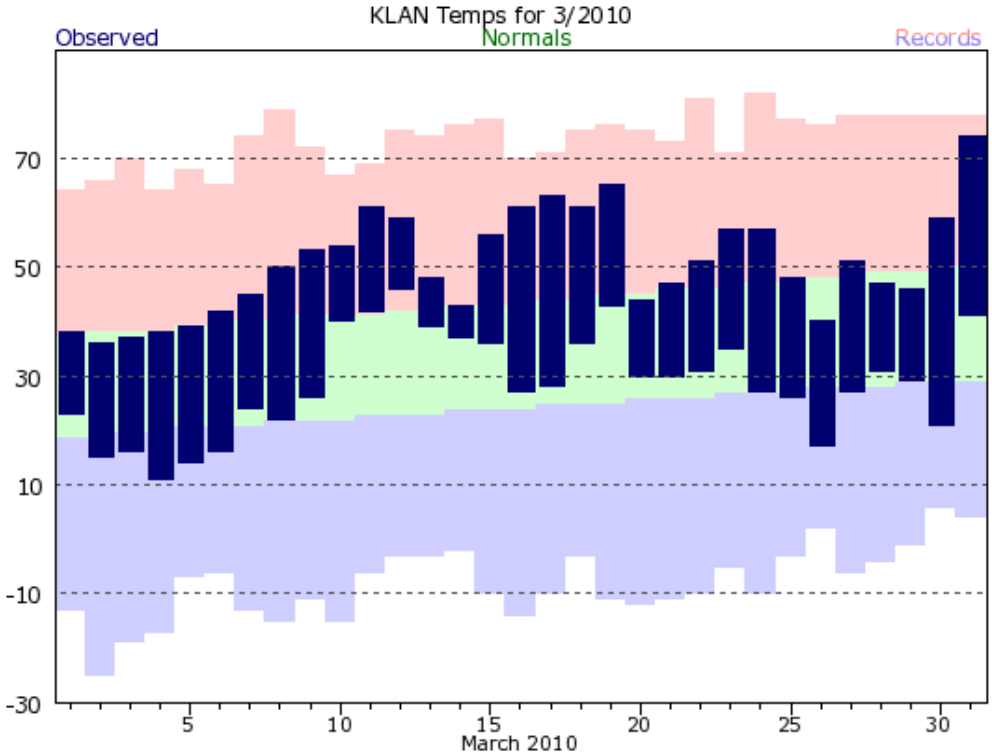

Figure 3. As in Figure 2, except for the Lansing/Capital City airport.

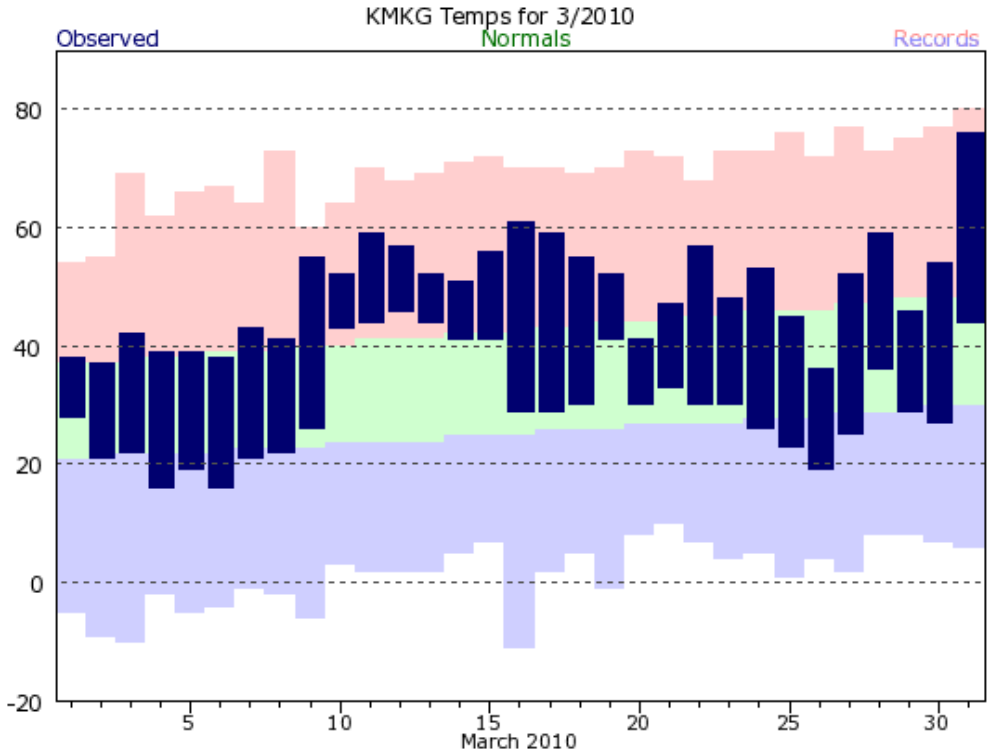

Figure 4. As in Figure 2, except for the Muskegon County airport.

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Precipitation Summary for March:

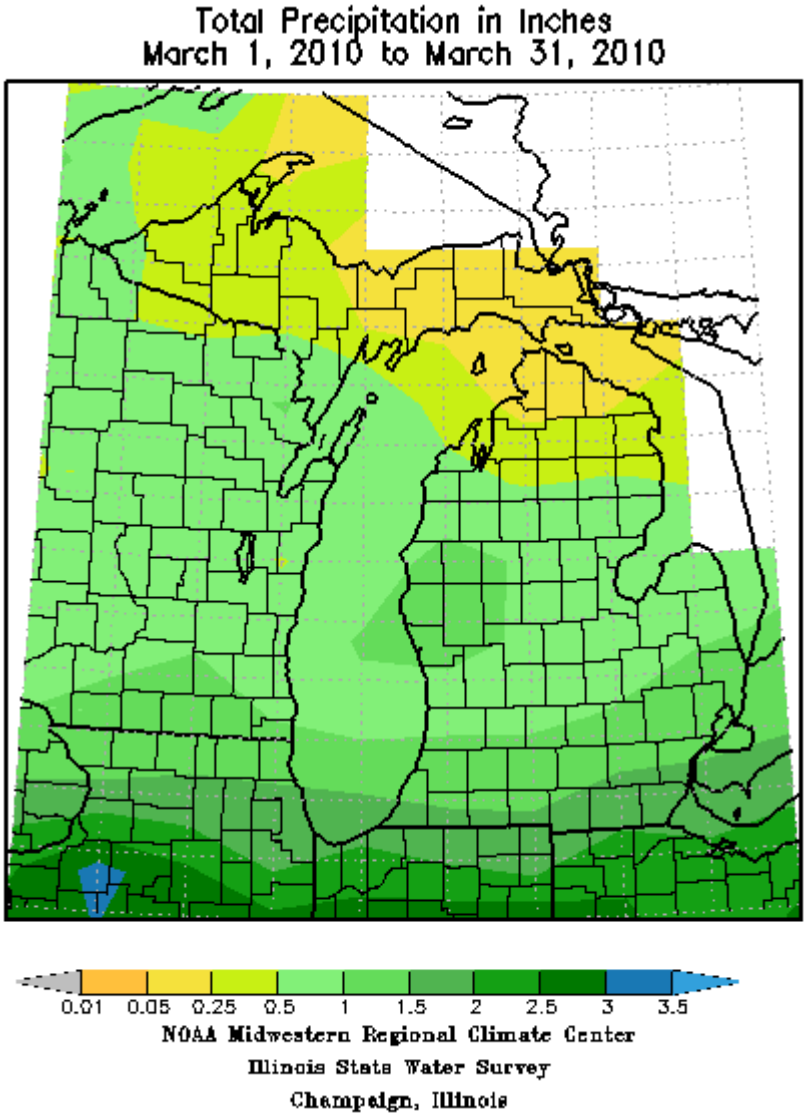

Figure 5. Total precipitation for March 2010.

Total precipitation amounts were the highest for the month near and south of I-96.

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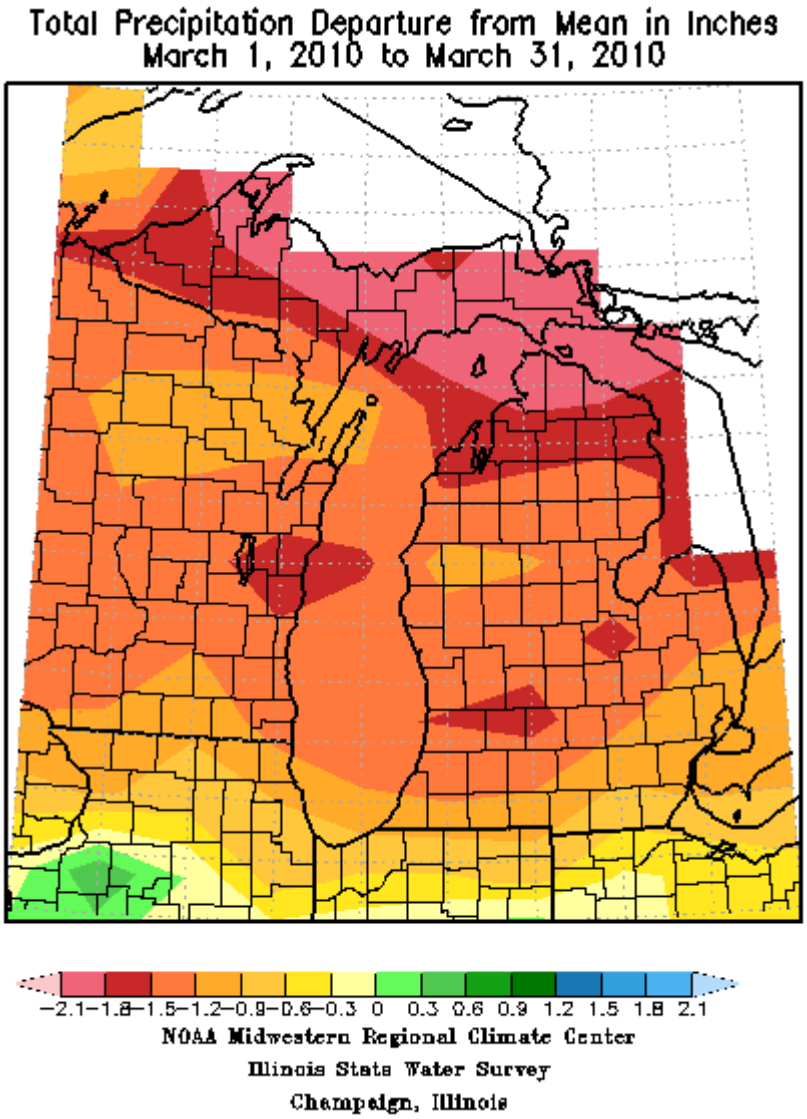

Figure 6. Precipitation departure from normal during March 2010.

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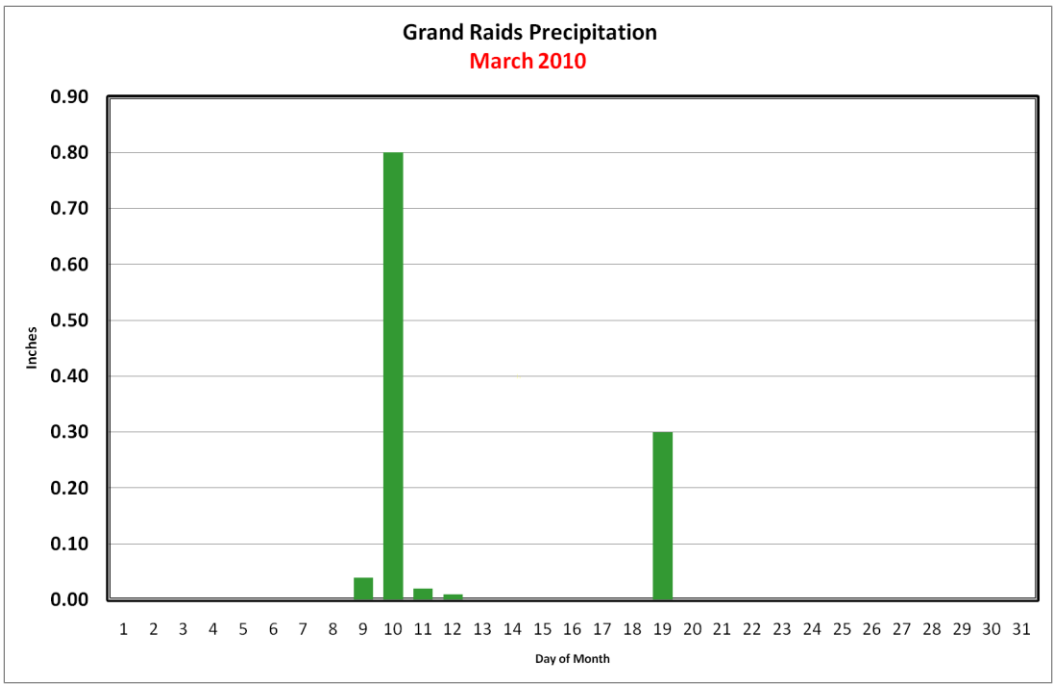

Figure 7. Daily precipitation in inches for March 2010 at the G.R. Ford International Airport.

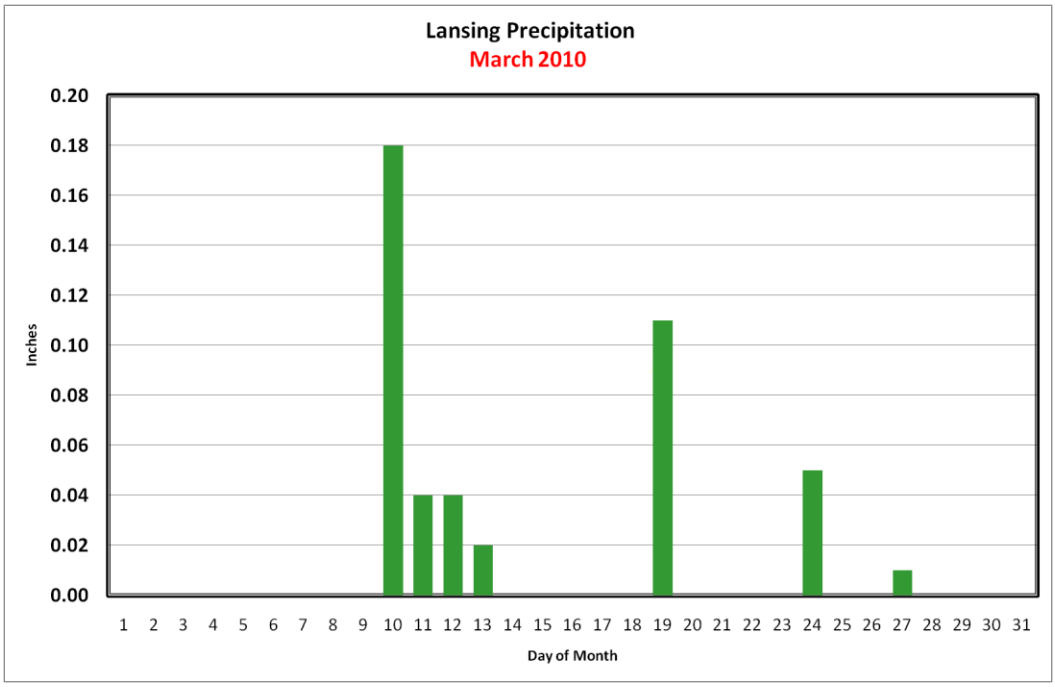

Figure 8. As in Figure 7, except for the Lansing Capital City Airport.

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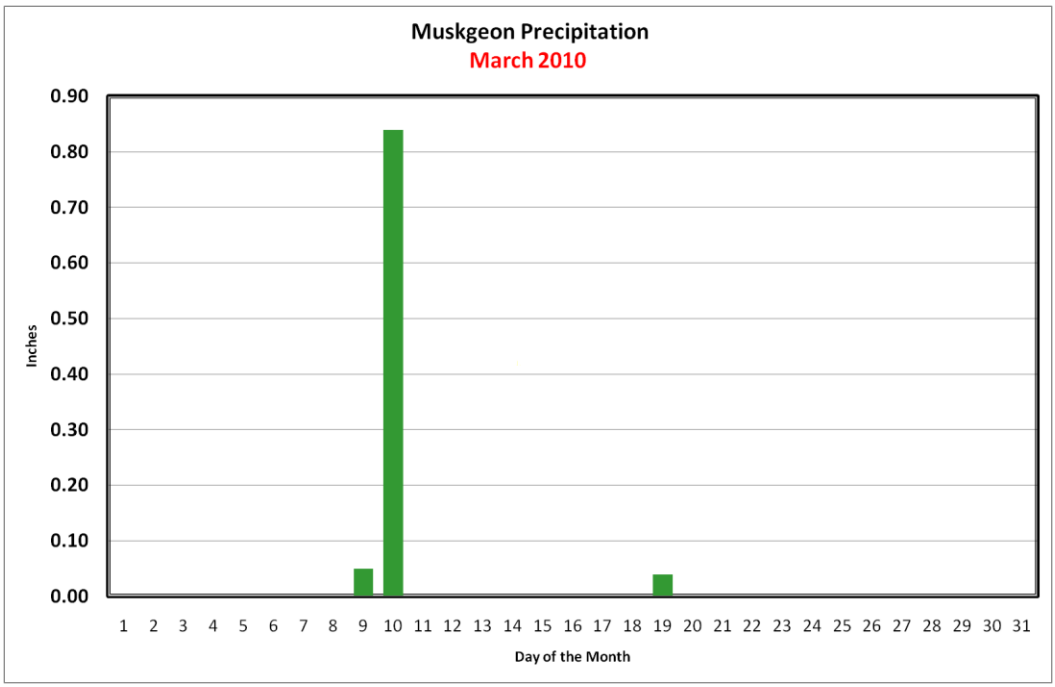

Figure 9. As in Figure 7, except for the Muskegon County Airport.

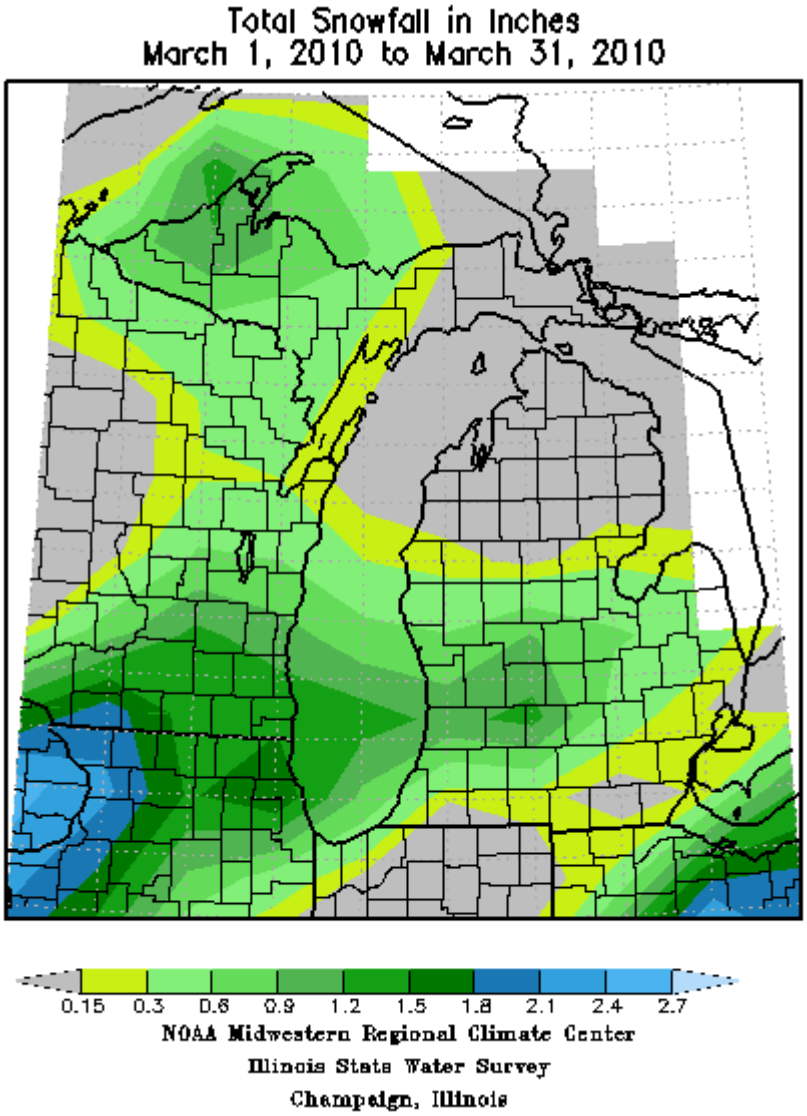

Figure 10. The total snowfall for March 2010.

Areas near and south of I-96 received the most snow for the month.

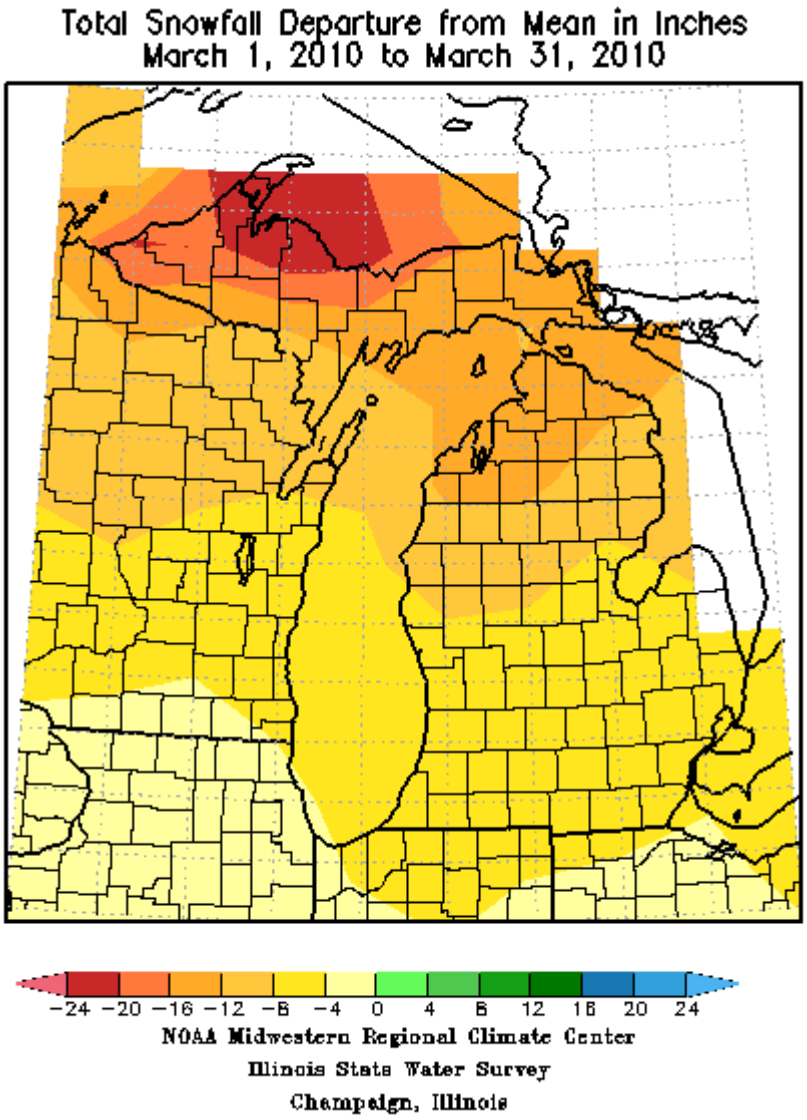

Figure 11. Snowfall departure from normal for March 2010.

March Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

No Significant Snowfall Events occurred during March 2010.

March started with light snow and temperatures around normal as a low pressure system over the northeast was moving out of the region. An area of high pressure in the northern plains kept northerly flow across the area through the 5th with mostly clear skies and steady temperatures. The weather was uneventful through the 9th with temperatures warming above normal.

A couple of southern track systems then moved through the Ohio Valley bringing the majority of the month's precipitation from the 9th to the 14th. Temperatures continued above normal through the 18th under another area of high pressure.

A strong cold front then moved south through the region on the 19th and brought up to 2 inches of snow. Temperatures fell closer to normal levels with this system but began to warm again by the 21st. Another cold front pushed through the area on the 25th with a little light rain. This was followed by another low pressure system moving through the Ohio Valley which brought light rain to south and east portions of the area. This also brought briefly cooler temperatures for the 29th. High temperatures then rose to around 70 degrees by the end of March.