

AUGUST 1991: While several breaks from the intense heat occurred during the month, August continued the unabated stretch of eleven consecutive warmer than normal months at DCA (equalling the all-time record from June 1973–April 1974), BWI, and IAD. The month was in sharp contrast to last August at DCA (4th wettest on record [8.37"] and only three 90°F+ days). August 1991 however, produced 14 days with temperatures at or above 90°F, bringing the total for the year to 56 days, eleven short of the all-time record of 67 in 1980. Lows continued above normal with no strong intrusions of Canadian air, resulting in a monthly extreme minimum of only 65°F. Significant precipitation was limited to only a couple of events. Heavy showers on the morning of the 9th in portions of Montgomery and Ann Arundel counties provided up to an 1.5 inches of rain, and thunderstorms the same afternoon resulted in similar amounts in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the District of Columbia. Thunderstorms dumped over an inch of rain in Rockville on the 21st and generated a tornado in eastern Montgomery County (Ashton, MD). Portions of Calvert County measured nearly two inches of rain on the 27th, and coupled with nearly three inches on the 9th and 10th, resulted in nearly six times the August total recorded at Dulles (0.99"). Overall, severe to extreme drought conditions exist over most of the Washington/Baltimore area, with 1991 being the second driest start to a year (through August) at both Washington and BWI. Even Hurricane Bob, which passed 100 miles east of Ocean City did little to alleviate dryness as less than 0.1" fell throughout the region.

AUGUST 1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	89.2	70.8	80.0	77.6	+2.4	97/30*	65/22	2.03	4.40	-2.37
Baltimore (BWI)	88.5	67.0	77.8	75.6	+2.2	99/3	59/22	2.54	4.62	-2.12
Dulles (IAD)	90.3	63.7	77.0	74.3	+2.7	99/3*	54/22	0.99	4.16	-3.17
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	89.3	65.8	77.6	75	+3	98/30*	58/22	1.60	4.4	-2.8
Andrews AFB (ADW)	86.7	65.5	76.1	75	+1	95/2@	56/22	1.67	4.4	-2.7

Other dates of occurrence: * August 31st; # August 30th; @ August 30th and 31st;

SUMMER (JUNE–AUGUST) 1991: As mentioned on the cover, the summer of 1991 was the second warmest on record at Washington, tied the warmest at BWI, and was the third warmest at IAD. The summer also produced 45 days with readings at or above 90°F at DCA, including 22 at or above 95°F and two days over 100°F. Cooler daytime conditions were often provided by back-door cold fronts (maritime air), which in turn kept minimum temperatures from dropping much below 70°F. The low only reached 65°F in July and August and 57°F during early June. Precipitation was scattered and variable across the region, with well below normal rainfall measured in most areas. The result was severe drought conditions in many areas exacerbated by the intense heat. The most notable rains during the summer were the 1–3" recorded on July 26th–27th and the 29th, making July by far the wettest of the three months for most sections.

SUMMER 1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	88.9	69.9	79.4	77.0	+2.4	101/7–21*	57/6–7	7.06	11.63	-4.57
Baltimore (BWI)	88.1	66.5	77.3	74.9	+2.4	102/7–23	51/6–7	5.38	12.27	-6.89
Dulles (IAD)	87.9	63.5	75.7	73.5	+2.2	101/7–21	47/6–14	10.22	12.14	-1.92
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	88.6	65.2	76.9	74	+3	103/7–21	49/6–8	7.77	11.9	-4.1
Andrews AFB (ADW)	85.8	64.8	75.3	75	0	100/7–21*	46/6–6	7.68	12.4	-4.7

Other dates of occurrence: * July 23rd;

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER: A Record Twelve Straight Months?

If the month of September produces warmer than normal conditions at DCA it would be a record for consecutive months with above normal temperatures. Coincidentally, an oscillating pattern in September temperatures has taken place since 1982 at DCA with ODD-NUMBERED years producing above normal temperatures and EVEN-NUMBERED years resulting in cooler than normal conditions. (September normal: 71.1°F)

Year	Average Temperature(°F)	Departure from Normal(°F)
1982	70.6	-0.5
1983	72.6	+1.5
1984	68.3	-2.8
1985	71.9	+0.8
1986	70.9	-0.2
1987	72.1	+1.0
1988	68.9	-2.2
1989	71.4	+0.3
1990	69.4	-1.4
1991	?	?