

The second week was likewise warmer than normal over nearly all districts, the only important sections with negative departures being the Southwest and local small areas along the South Atlantic coast and in the middle plateau. Over the central valleys the week was unusually warm for winter, particularly in the Missouri and upper Mississippi Valleys which had been unduly warm the preceding week also.

The third week continued warm for the season in the upper Missouri Valley, but over most other portions this week was cooler than those preceding, the greatest negative departures, -3° to -9° , occurring in the southern districts.

The closing week, like that preceding, was cool over most portions, small temperature excesses occurring locally in North Dakota and Minnesota, over southern Florida, along the Pacific coast and over portions of the southern plateau. This week was distinctly cool over the upper Missouri and northern Rocky Mountains, where the three preceding weeks had been unusually warm, and it continued distinctly cool over the Central and Southern States east of the Rockies save in southern Florida.

The warmest periods were mainly about the middle of the first decade over the districts from the Great Plains eastward, save in Florida where the highest temperature occurred on the 25th. Over the more western portions a few of the Central States had the warmest days on the 1st to 4th, while in the far Northwest they were about the 9th and 10th or 20th and in the far Southwest about the 27th to 29th.

The lowest temperatures occurred mainly during the last half, about the 14th to 17th over the Southwest; the 18th to 20th over the Southeastern States; and from the 22d to 26th over most other sections.

The highest temperature reported during the month was 94° in Florida on the 25th, but in portions of the Lake region and other northern districts the maximum readings did not reach 60° . The lowest temperature reported was 51° below zero in Wisconsin, at the time of maximum temperature in Florida. This severe cold was confined mainly to a small area in the Lake Superior region, and at points in northern Wisconsin and the adjacent portions of Michigan and Minnesota the temperatures were the lowest ever recorded in February.

The month as a whole was warmer than normal, as was the case during the preceding month, in practically all central and northern districts, and like that month also it was colder than normal in most southern districts except Florida. Over the Missouri and upper Mississippi Valleys and thence northward into Canada the average

temperatures ranged from 6° to 15° or more above normal, the excesses increasing to the northward.

PRECIPITATION

As in January there was a widespread deficiency in precipitation as compared with the normal, though the area of deficient fall was less and the departures from the normal were less pronounced, except on the Pacific coast where they were about the same in both months.

Near the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts there were general to moderate excesses, and a considerable area from the southern Rocky Mountains northeast to the upper Mississippi Valley and near-by areas had moderate excesses and there were local excesses in the Middle Atlantic States and southern New England.

SNOWFALL

Snow fell over most areas where it is liable to occur in February, but as in January the amounts were mainly less than the normal for the month. This was particularly the case in the central valleys, over much of New England, and generally in the far western mountains.

The individual snows were mainly light, though rather heavy falls occurred in the Lake region and thence eastward on the 10th and 11th. The distribution of the snowfall is graphically shown on Chart VII.

The total stored snow in the important mountain sections of the West was in many cases less than usually prevails at the end of winter, and the outlook for water for irrigation and power purposes was somewhat discouraging.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND SUNSHINE

The percentages of relative humidity were mainly less than normal, with locally large deficiencies in southern California, the upper Missouri Valley, and portions of the middle Gulf States.

Small excesses existed near the Atlantic coast and over most northern districts from the Dakotas eastward, also locally in the southern Plains, the Ohio Valley, and the far Northwest.

Much cloudiness prevailed over the coast districts of Texas and to a less extent over other portions of the Gulf and South Atlantic States, also in the Lake region and far Northwest. Over the Great Plains and mountain regions of the West there was very generally abundant sunshine.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, FEBRUARY, 1928

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Iowa (northwest)	4-8					Glaze	Fruit and shade trees injured or destroyed; telephone, telegraph, and electric wires damaged.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Neal, Kans. (near)	6	1 p. m.				Probably small tornado.	Damage confined to outbuildings and crops.	Do.
Orange, Tex.	7	5 a. m.	2,640		\$53,000	Wind and hail	Damage chiefly to oil derricks by wind; roofs and windows damaged by hail.	Do.
Pipestone, Minn.	7-8					Sleet	Extensive damage to trees and overhead wires	Do.