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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
of Clark University  
discusses:

AVERAGE FEBRUARY WEATHER

Though spring is not many months away and much of winter is behind us, there remains the month of February, one of the coldest of the year. In its closing days there may be an appreciable warming up, but its average temperature does not differ greatly from that of January. Cold waves frequently sweep down from the Canadian northwest and sometimes bring extreme cold. During the memorable cold wave of February, 1899, the zero temperature line was carried southward in some places to the Gulf of Mexico. Not only is the month a cold one, but in the northern states it often has heavy snowstorms.

The lowest normals or averages are about 5 degrees above zero in the northern parts of Minnesota and North Dakota, while to the eastward over the northern lake region and the interior of New York and New England they are from 10 to 15 degrees higher. To the southward there is a progressive increase in normal to about 32 degrees in southern Kansas, the extreme southern portions of Indiana and Illinois and Central Maryland. In the Gulf districts the February averages are between 60 and 65 degrees, and in extreme southern Florida above 70. On the Pacific Coast the February average ranges from about 40 degrees in the extreme north to 55 degrees in southern California.

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