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Iowa Snow Facts

Paul Waite

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blanket of snow. Mice and vole populations are reduced for the same reasons. This, in turn, affects the wildlife dependent upon these creatures for food. It should be evident that alterations of the snow cover can affect animal and plant life, a topic to be discussed in greater detail in Snow (Part II). Until then, avoid driving snowmobiles in parks and natural areas unless trails have been approved for this purpose. Thoughtless use of these areas in the winter will spoil them for enjoyment in the summer.

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Iowa Snow Facts

Heaviest 13 Hour Snowfall: 24.0 in. — Northboro (Page County)

Heaviest Single Storm: 30.8 in. — Rock Rapids — February 17-21, 1962

Snowiest Month: 42.0 in. — Osage and Northwood — March 1951

Snowiest Month (State Average): 23.2 in. — March 1951

Snowiest Season: 90.4 in. — Northwood — 1908-09

Snowiest Season (State Average): 59.0 in. — 1961-62

Iowa's earliest snowfall was September 25, 1942 — amounts upward to 4 inches were measured at Mason City, Forest City, Allison and Millerton

Iowa's latest snowfall was May 28, 1947 — amounts up to 8 inches at Cherokee and 7.5 inches at Waukon

The word blizzard first appeared in print in the *Estherville Vindicator* to describe a storm that swept across the Dakotas and Iowa March 14, 1870

Worst Snowfall in Western Iowa: January 12, 1888

Worst Snowfall in Eastern Iowa: December 31, 1863 — January 1, 1864

From the pamphlet *Iowa's Weather* (1977) by Paul Waite, State Climatologist