

Unprecedented March Heat Scars Record Books

By Don Sutherland

As March nears an end, the unprecedented heatwave that melted records and singed the pages of the record books, has finally begun to fade. Dozens of cities saw the temperature top not only March monthly records, but also reach and even exceed existing April records.

March Records that Tied/Broke April Records:

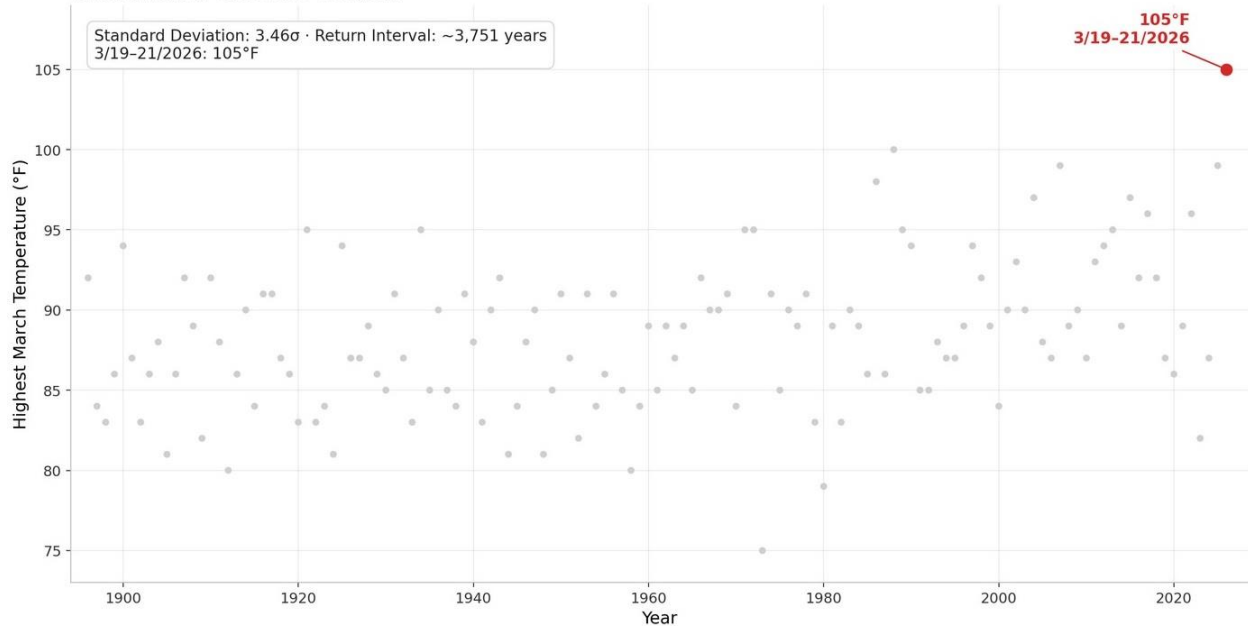
City	March High			April Record		Start of Climate Record
	°F	°C	Date(s)	°F	°C	
Albuquerque	91	32.8	3/20/2026	89	31.7	12/1891
Amarillo	99	37.2	3/26/2026	99	37.2	1/1892
Borger	102	38.9	3/26/2026	99	37.2	2/1949
Carlsbad	103	39.4	3/26/2026	101	38.3	1/1930
Chadron	92	33.3	3/20/2026	92	33.3	9/1941
Clayton	94	34.4	3/26/2026	92	33.3	2/1896
Dalhart	98	36.7	3/26/2026	96	35.6	12/1948
Deming	95	35.0	3/20/2026, 3/22/2026, 3/25/2026	94	34.4	4/1961
El Centro	107	41.7	3/20/2026	106	41.1	10/1925
Ely	83	28.3	3/20/2026	83	28.3	1/1893
Emporia	96	35.6	3/21/2026	96	35.6	10/1950
Flagstaff	84	28.9	3/19/2026	80	26.7	9/1898
Fort Collins	91	32.8	3/21/2016	89	31.7	1/1893
Grand Island	98	36.7	3/21/2016	98	36.7	10/1895
Hastings	97	36.1	3/21/2016	96	35.6	5/1907
Laramie	77	25.0	3/21/2026, 3/25/2026	77	25.0	1/1948
Lincoln	97	36.1	3/21/2026	97	36.1	1/1887
Manhattan, KS	96	35.6	3/21/2026	94	34.4	6/1960
McCook	98	36.7	3/21/2026	98	36.7	4/1896
Omaha	96	35.6	3/21/2026	96	35.6	1/1871
Oracle	97	36.1	3/20/2026	97	36.1	1/1893
Phoenix	105	40.6	3/19-21/2026	105	40.6	8/1895
Prescott	91	32.8	3/19-20/2026	89	31.7	1/1948
Ramona	98	36.7	3/20/2026	98	36.7	2/1974
South Tahoe	76	24.4	3/18/2026	76	24.4	5/1968
St. Louis	93	33.9	3/26/2026	93	33.9	1/1874
Yuma	109	42.8	3/20/2026	107	41.7	1/1878

On March 20, four locations set a new U.S. national monthly temperature record. In Arizona, Yuma (5 S) and Martinez Lake (2 WNW), and in California, Ogilby (6 SSW) and Winterhaven (15 NE) all reached 112°F (44.4°C). Prior to March 2026, the national record had been 108°F (42.2°C).

Phoenix, which has often been profiled here, as an example of a major city in a rapidly heating location, tied or exceeded its prior March monthly record on eight consecutive days. Its monthly high temperature of 105°F (40.6°C) had a statistical return time that was in the thousands of years.

Phoenix's March Maximum Temperatures

Period of Record: 1896–2026 · 131 years



The eight consecutive days of 100°F (37.8°C) temperatures exceeded the April record of six consecutive days from April 25-30, 1992.

March was so warm that its monthly mean temperature and average high temperature will likely rank second among all April monthly cases.

A flash analysis from World Weather Attribution confirmed that the extreme March heat was “virtually impossible without climate change.”