

Changeable Weather

By Don Sutherland

On February 8, the fog lifted and a warm breeze swept the barren landscape. Under brilliant sunshine, it felt like April, even as the calendar read “February.” The temperature in New York City rose to a daily record of 62°. The old record was 61°, which was set in 1965. But the weather proved fickle.

A day later, a snowstorm descended on the City and surrounding region. The height of the storm produced near whiteout conditions. Parts of Long Island experienced thundersnow. By the time the last snowflakes had fallen, Central Park had received 9.4” snow. That accumulation was New York City’s largest snowfall following a 60° or warmer day. The previous record was 5.5”, which was set on January 28, 1952 and tied on March 16, 2007. This snowfall was also New York City’s second measurable snowfall of the winter that followed a 60° or warmer day, making winter 2016-17 only the third winter on record to have two such days. The other winters were 1918-19 and 1999-00.

New York City’s 1” or greater snowfalls a day after 60° or warmer temperatures (1890-2017) are as follows:

Date of the 60° or warmer Temperature	High Temperature	Snowfall a Day Later
November 8, 1892	63°	2.3”
November 28, 1896	69°	2.5”
February 1, 1916	60°	3.3”
March 13, 1919	60°	1.3”
March 17, 1919	60°	1.4”
December 13, 1923	64°	1.2”
April 11, 1940	60°	1.3”
February 9, 1949	60°	1.7”
January 27, 1952	60°	5.5”
March 14, 1967	63°	1.8”
December 22, 1967	62°	1.2”
November 28, 1995	64°	2.9”
March 2, 1997	61°	1.0”
April 8, 2000	71°	1.2”
March 7, 2005	63°	1.5”
March 15, 2007	67°	5.5”
December 15, 2008	67°	1.0”
February 8, 2017	62°	9.4”

Some scenes from the snowstorm are below:



