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North Pole was even warmer than Boston Wednesday

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

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Maybe it's a belated Christmas gift for Santa.

Temperatures in the North Pole reached about 50 degrees above normal for this time of year on Wednesday, weather experts said.

It was warmer there than in Boston.

Parts of the North Pole saw the mercury climb into the low- to mid-30s, slightly above freezing.

"That's about as warm as it's going to get at the top of the world," said Jesse Ferrell, a meteorologist at AccuWeather.com. "It's certainly unusual."

Typically, winter temperatures there would be around negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

What's causing the unusually warm weather in the Arctic Circle?

Ferrell explained that there's a large storm, or low

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pressure system, over Iceland and a large batch of more pleasant weather, a high pressure system, over Europe. The circulation between the two systems is pulling the warm air up from Europe and into parts of the North Pole.

In Boston, temperatures ranged from 25 degrees Wednesday morning to 29 degrees as of midafternoon.

Ferrell pointed out another weird comparison: that the temperatures in the North Pole were about the same and even slightly warmer than in southern California. Unusually cold temperatures in inland southern California dipped into the upper 20s Wednesday morning and the mid-30s closer to the coast.

What will the warm temperatures mean for the North Pole and the rest of the world?

Besides being rare and interesting, it won't have any impact, Ferrell said, because the above-normal temperatures will subside fairly soon.

"It's probably not going to mean a lot," he said.

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