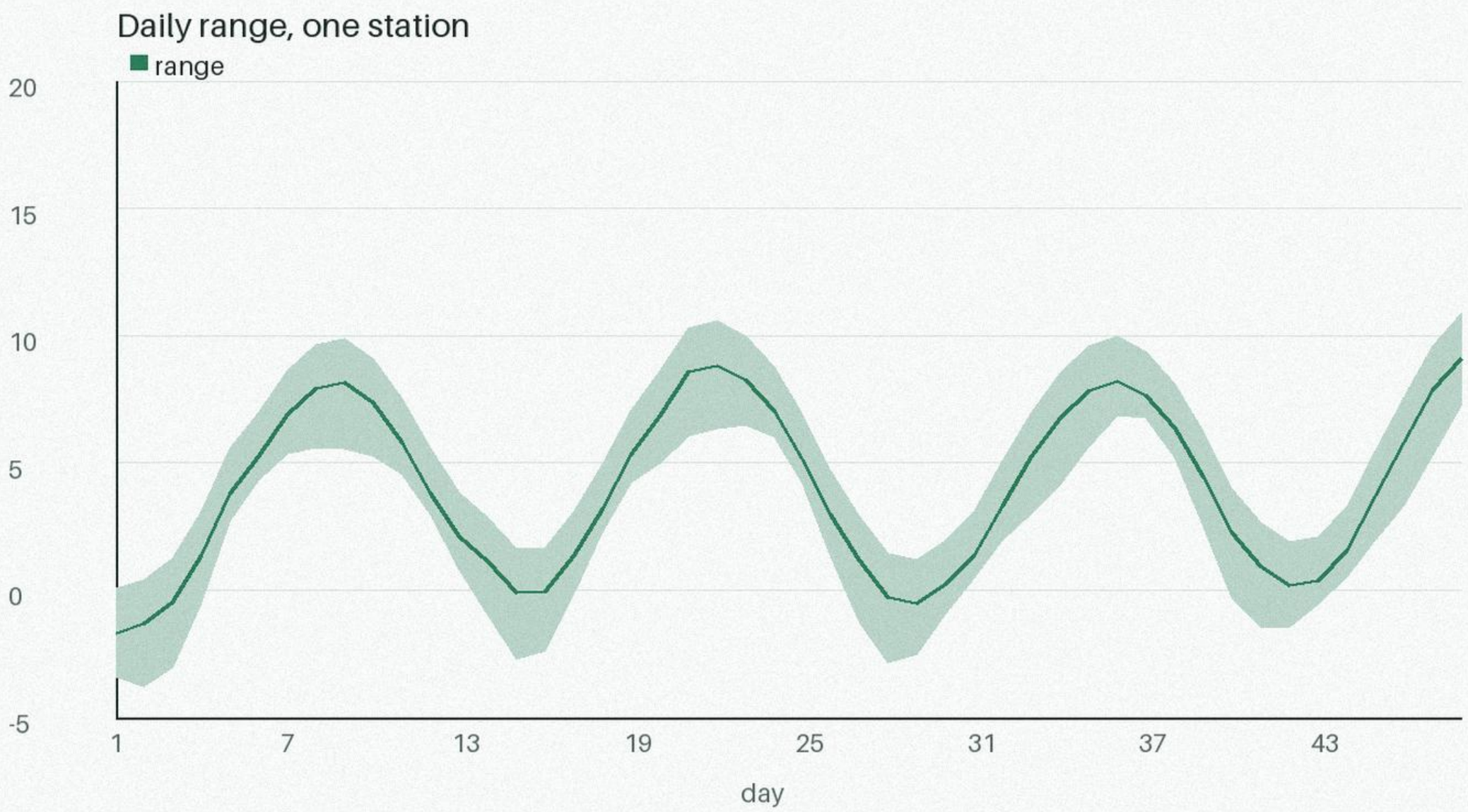
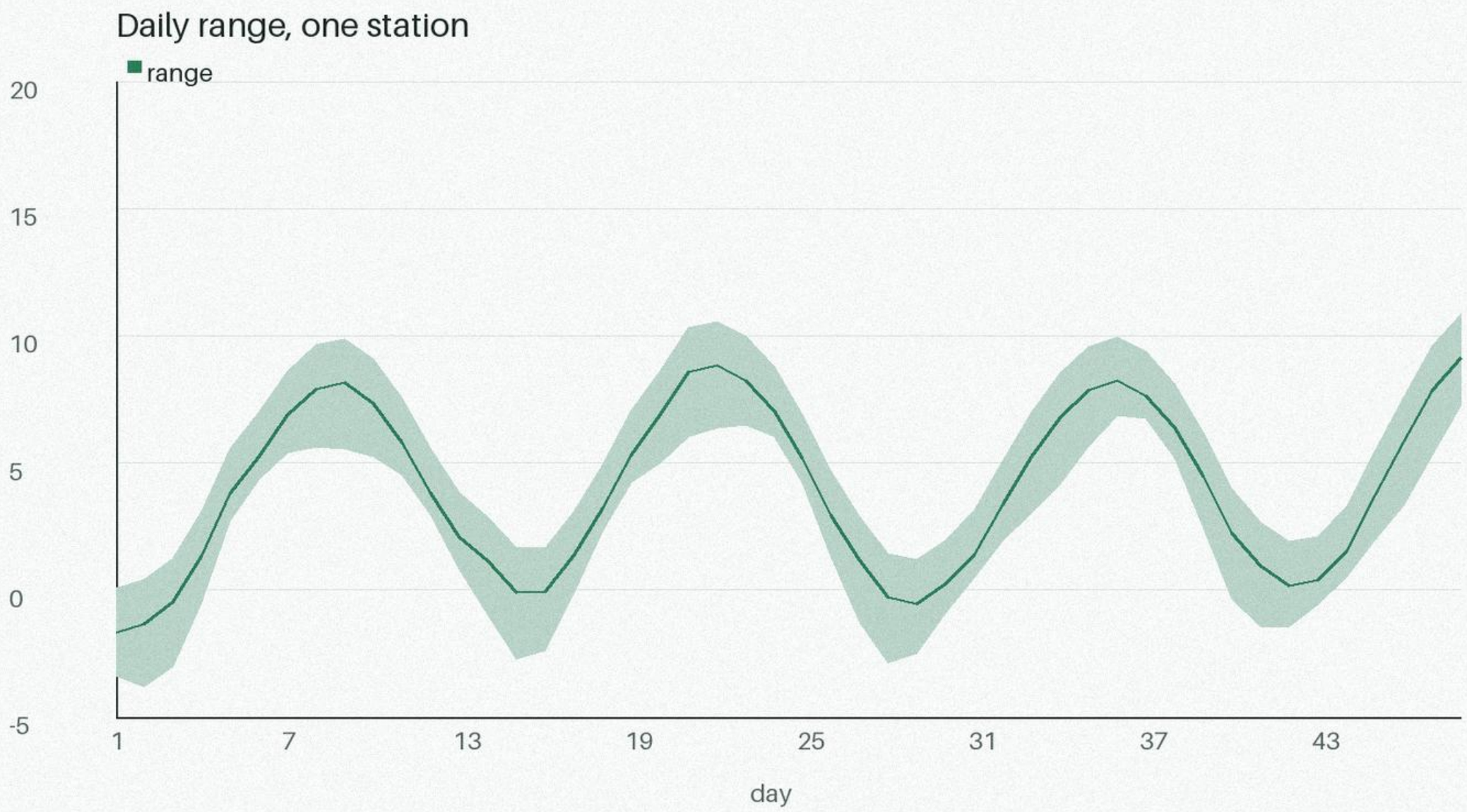
Plotting Practice



Small lessons on charts, using a synthetic weather dataset anyone can download.

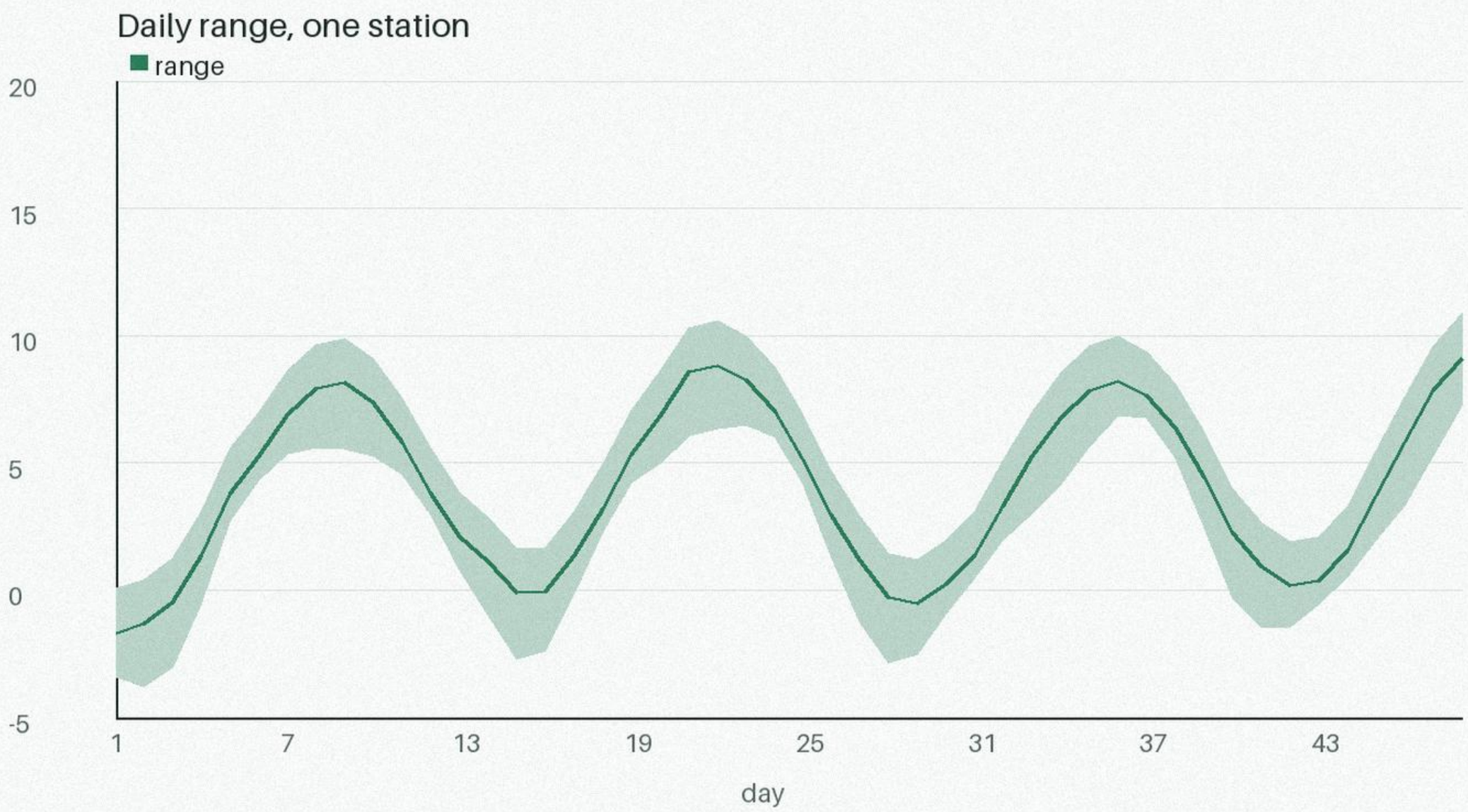
Printed from aspen.sanriodevgroup.org

Daily ranges as bands



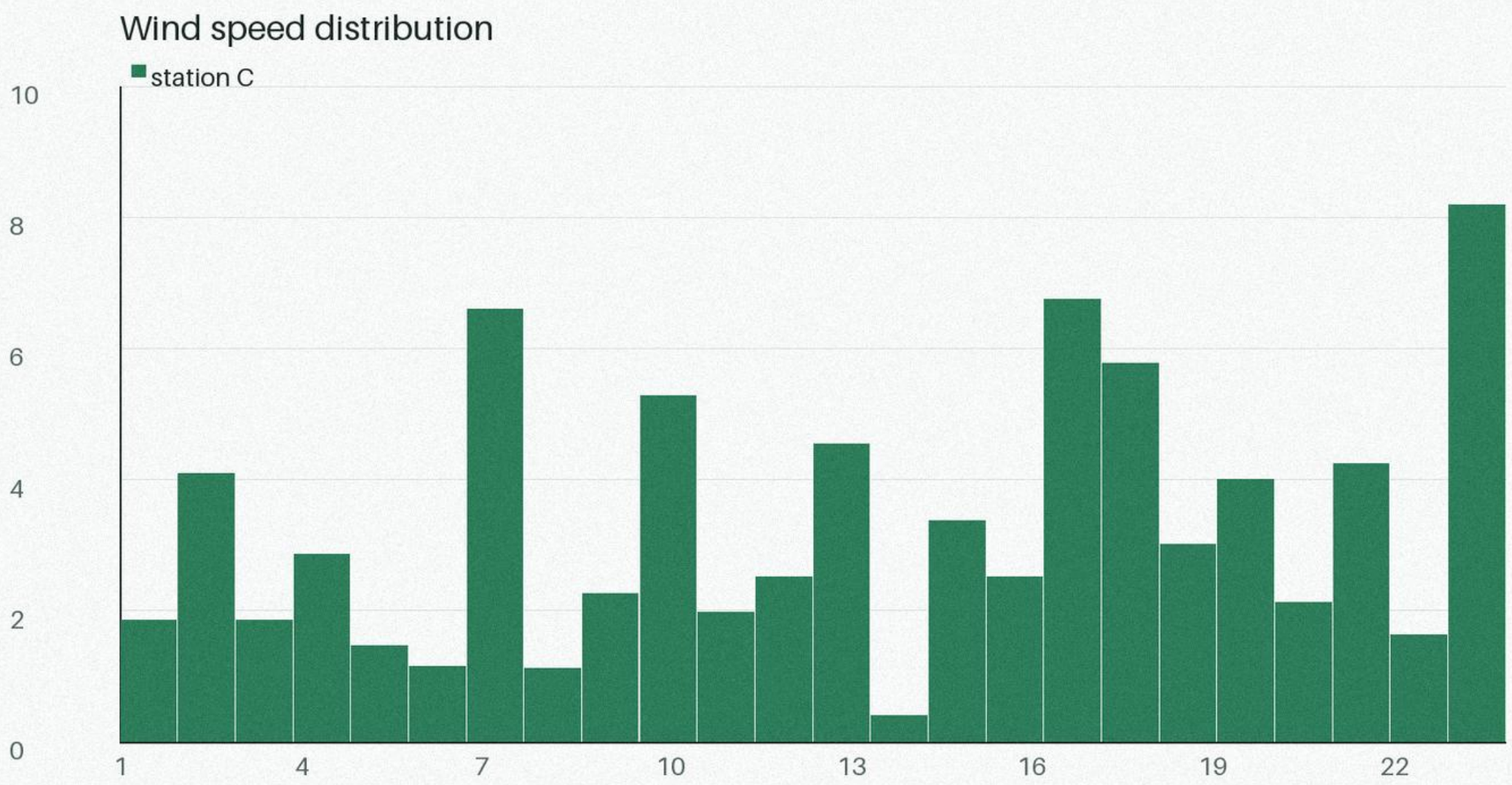
Minimum and maximum as a shaded band around the mean.

Daily ranges as bands



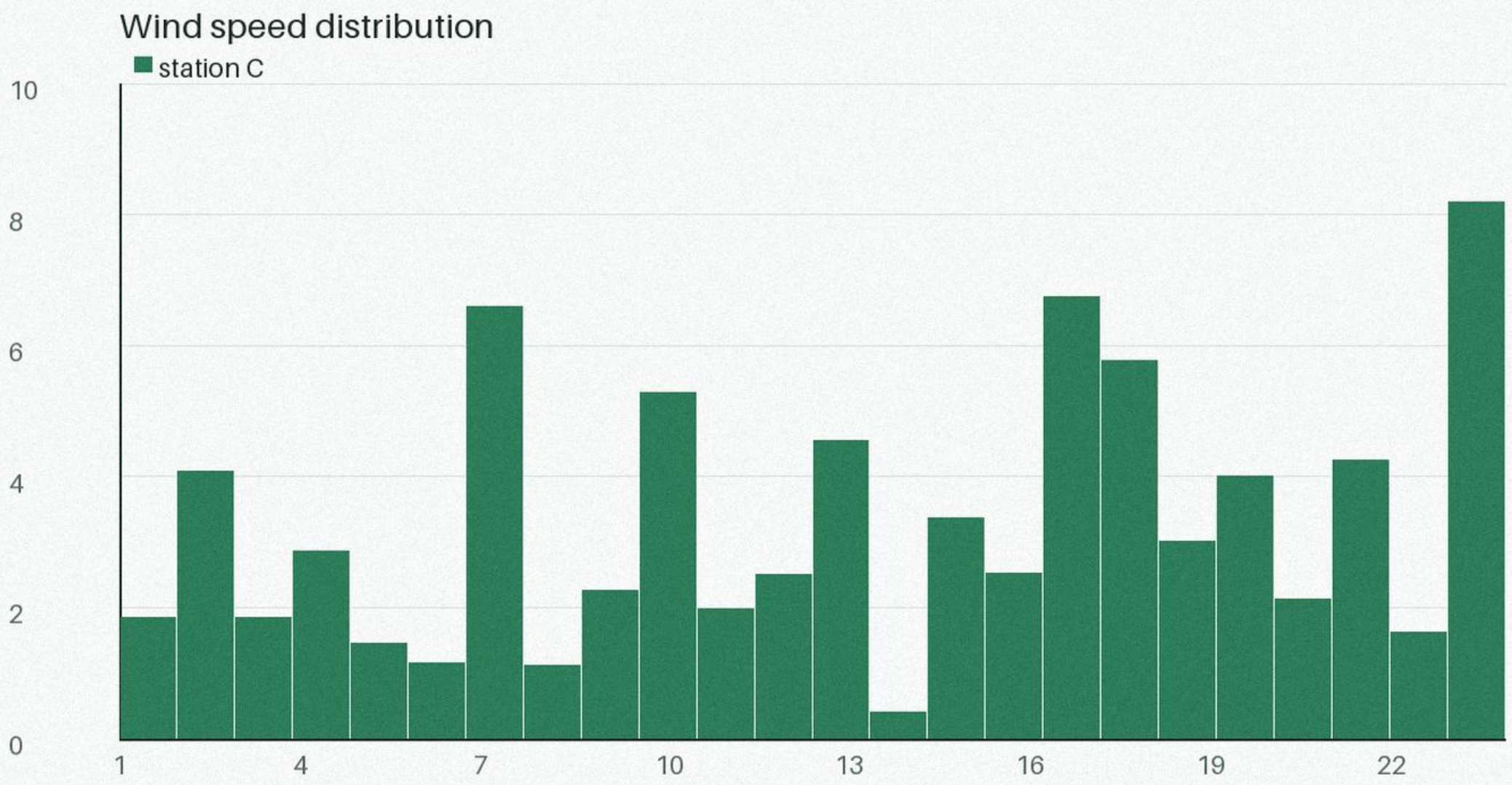
A band shows spread without a second line competing for attention. Keep the mean line darker than the band, and the band light enough that grid lines still show through.

Histograms and bin width



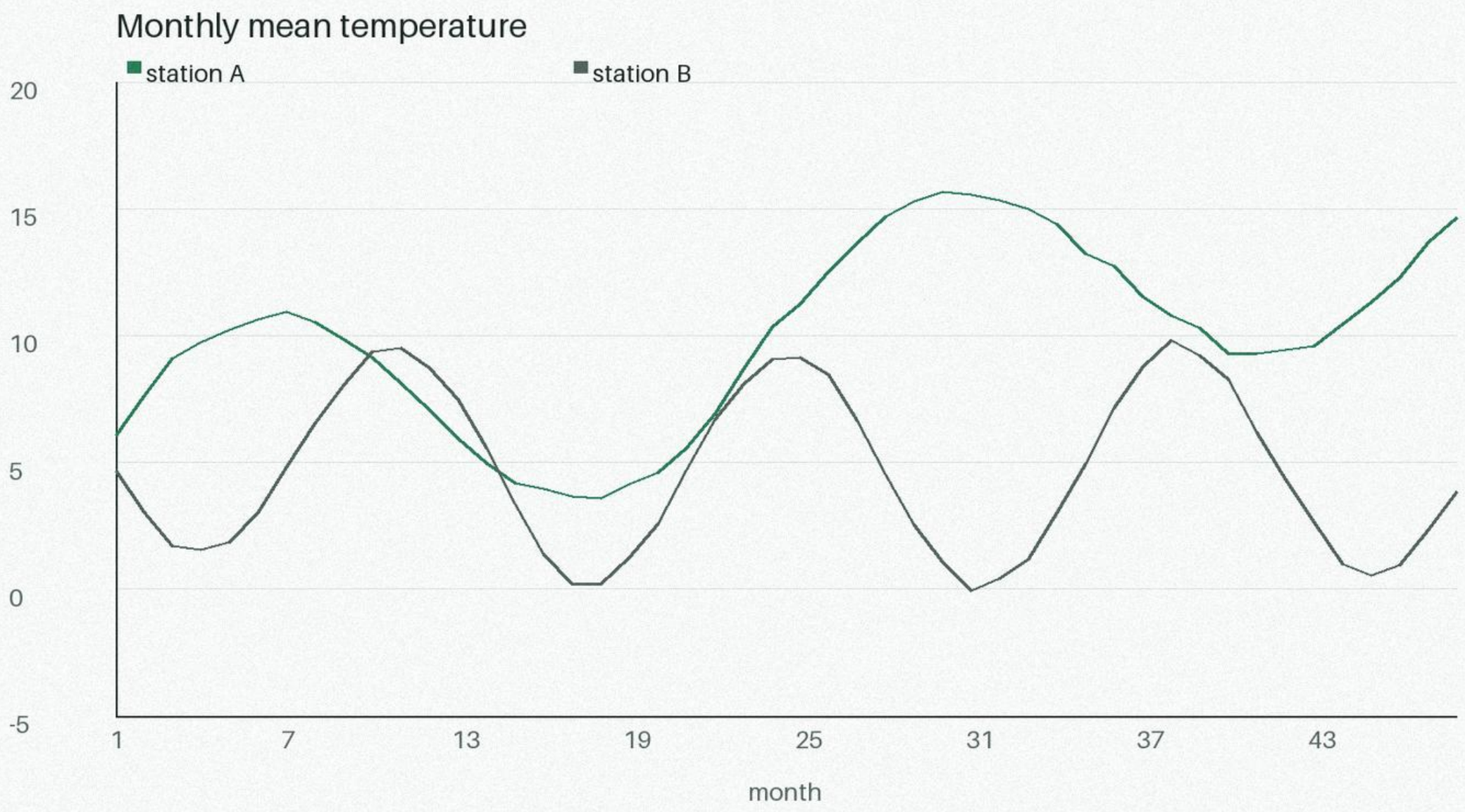
Too few bins hide shape; too many show only noise.

Histograms and bin width



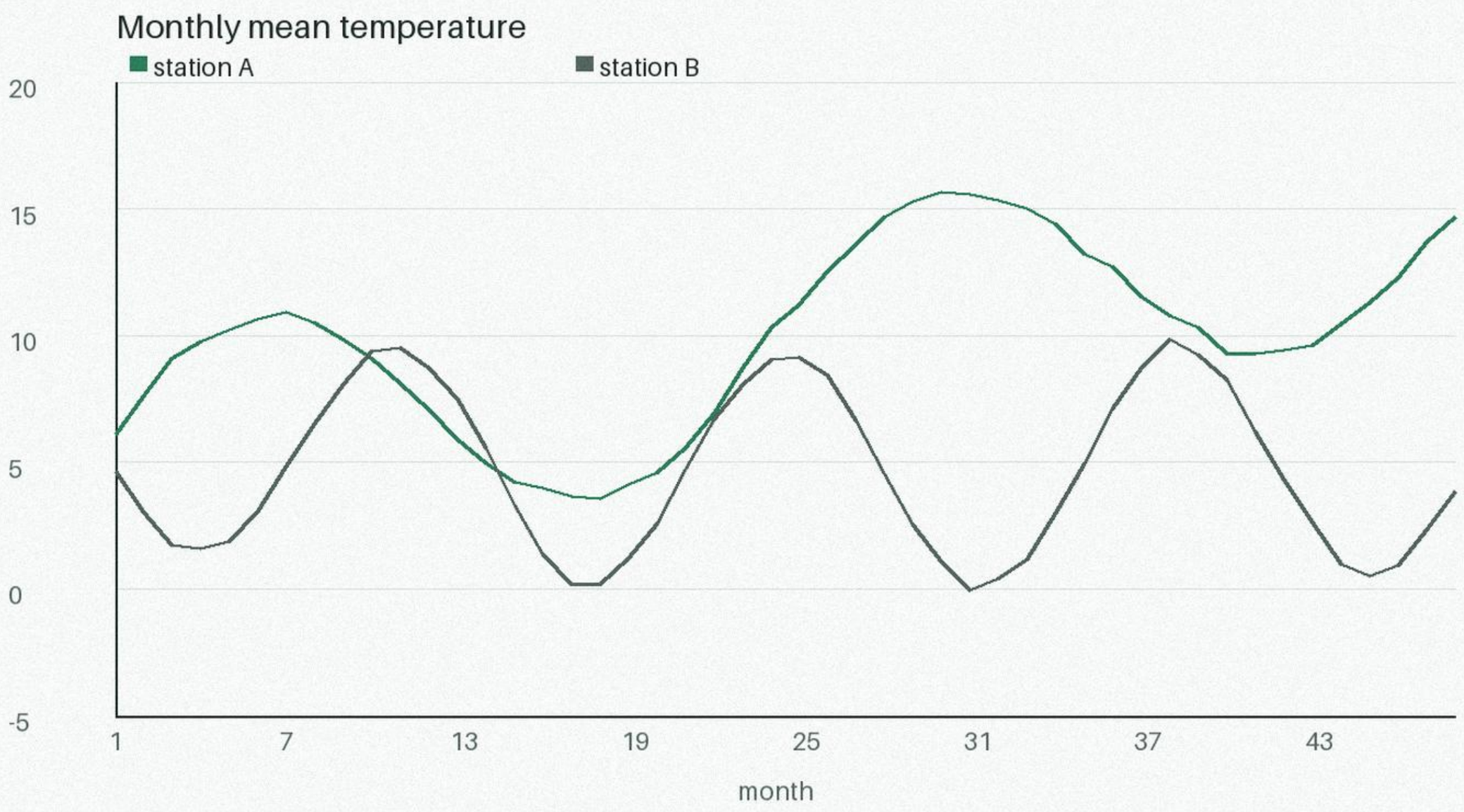
Start with a bin width that gives 20 to 40 bins over the range, then try half and double. If the story changes between them, the data does not support a strong story.

Line charts with honest axes



Start the axis where the data makes sense, and say so.

Line charts with honest axes



Temperature has no natural zero, so a temperature axis may start wherever the data starts. Counts and amounts do have a zero, and cutting it off exaggerates every change.