

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - May 2020

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for May 2020. Jesse Paul took 73 hogs in May, bringing the calendar year total to 343. This month 41 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 32 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st Place: 22 in a trap.
2nd Place: 2 with dogs, 6 in a trap
3rd and 4th (TIE): 3 with dogs, 4 in a trap; 7 with dogs
5th Place: 6 with dogs.
6th and 7th (TIE): 5 each with dogs.
8th and 9th (TIE): 4 each with dogs.
10th Place: 3 with dogs.
11th Place: 2 with dogs.

The remaining properties had no hogs this month.

Cowbird Trapping Report

1st property: 36 (23m, 13f)
2nd property: 24 (16m, 8f)
3rd property: 21 (9m, 12f)
4th property: 39 (25m, 14f)
5th property: 66 (31m, 35f)
6th property: 16 (12m, 4f)
7th property: 13 (9m, 4f)
8th property: 40 (29m, 11f)
9th property: 27 (14m, 13f)
10th property: 49 (30m, 19f)

Summary: 198 Male, 134 Female, for a monthly total of 331. Added to the April total of 1504, that results in a season total of 1835 cowbirds taken.

I looked back at the past 3 years to see how the 2020 cowbird trapping results compared. In 2019, 738 cowbirds were taken. In 2018, the total was 624; and in 2017, the number was 945. So, the results this year are significantly higher than any of the past 3 years, and more than the past 2 years combined. I don't know if this reflects an increase in the local population of cowbirds, or an improvement in capture efficiency. Cowbird numbers have been down across most of Texas for the past several years, and population numbers tend to be cyclical, so it could be that we are seeing an upswing in regional numbers. Regardless, we made a big dent in the Bandera County population this spring, and certainly saved several thousand songbird nests from parasitism.

John Cornelius
Orion Research and Management Services, Inc
(254) 231-6068

Jesse Paul McBeth
(830) 591-3159