

Texas Cowbird Report for 2006

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Private Lands and Habitat Program

Prepared By Holly Fortenberry



Report Summary

Enclosed are data presented for cowbirds trapped and dispatched during the 2006 trapping season. A total of 161 trappers, using 197 traps, trapped and dispatched a total of 24,293 cowbirds (10,889 females and 13,404 males) in Texas for the following 42 counties during the 14-week official trapping season from March 1st – May 31st.

Austin	Caldwell	Erath	Kendall	Real
Bandera	Colorado	Fayette	Kerr	San Saba
Bastrop	Comal	Galveston	Kimble	Schleicher
Bell	Coryell	Gillespie	Lampasas	Somervell
Bexar	DeWitt	Goliad	Lavaca	Terrell
Blanco	Dimmit	Gonzales	Lee	Travis
Bosque	Eastland	Guadalupe	Llano	Victoria
Burnet	Edwards	Hamilton	Mason	Washington
		Hays	Milam	Williamson

There were a total of 18,124 official trapping days (defined as a day in which a specific trap was in operation at a specific site and for which data were collected between March 1st and May 31st). This value is calculated by multiplying the total number of traps in operation during the season by the number of days in the trapping season.

There were no cowbirds trapped with a band.

Trappers per county

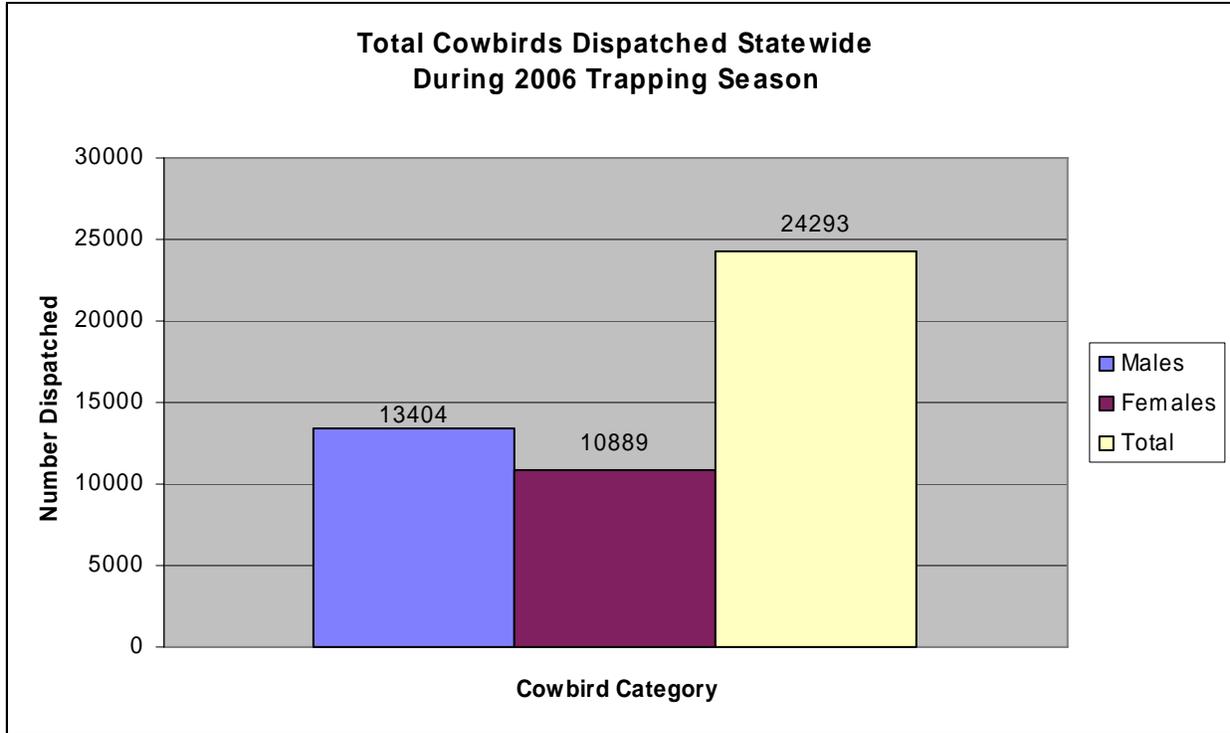
Most, but not all of the trappers reside in the same county in which they trap cowbirds. Also, some trappers have more than one trap, and some have traps in counties outside their county of residence. Since not all trappers live in the same county where they trap, the number of traps per county (not the number of trappers per county) is recorded in this report.

Traps per county

Of a total of 197 traps used in Texas in 2006, each county had the following number of active traps:

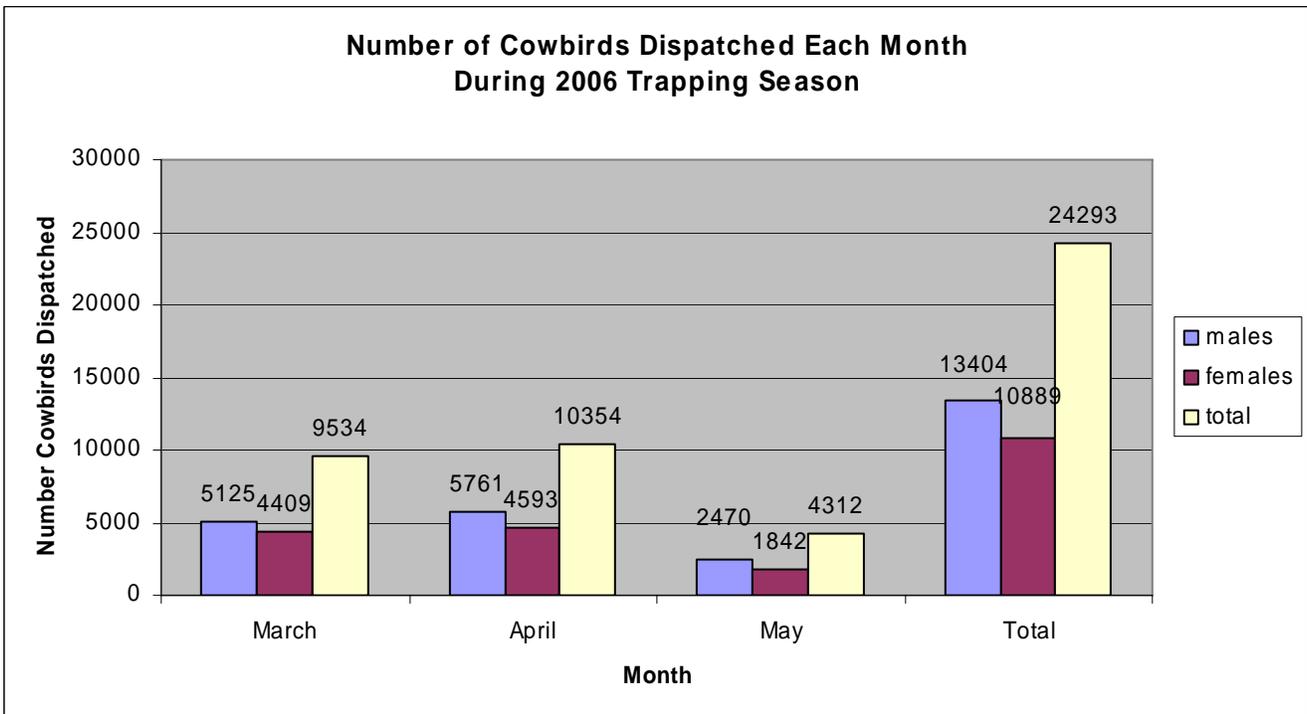
Austin – 3	Caldwell – 1	Fayette – 4	Kerr – 13	San Saba – 6
Bandera – 8	Colorado – 6	Galveston – 1	Kimble – 8	Schleicher – 1
Bastrop – 3	Comal - 1	Gillespie – 25	Lampasas – 5	Somervell – 2
Bell – 2	Coryell – 1	Goliad – 1	Lavaca – 2	Terrell – 4
Bexar – 1	DeWitt – 2	Gonzales – 1	Lee – 2	Travis – 10
Blanco – 15	Dimmit – 2	Guadalupe – 1	Llano – 8	Victoria – 1
Bosque – 1	Eastland - 1	Hamilton - 2	Mason - 4	Washington – 4
Burnet – 15	Edwards - 2	Hays – 2	Milam - 1	Williamson - 5
	Erath – 1	Kendall – 14	Real - 1	Unknown - 4

Total dispatched cowbirds statewide



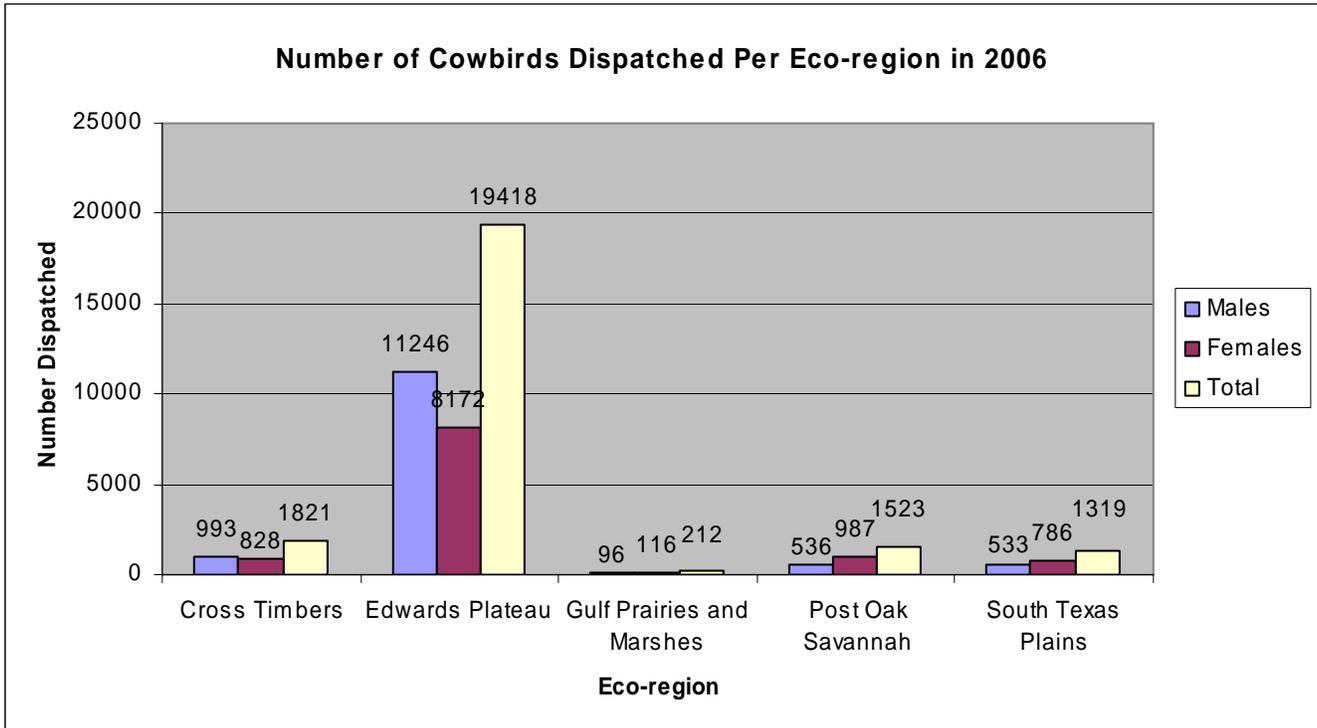
Total dispatched cowbirds per month

Of the total 24,293 cowbirds trapped in Texas in 2006, March and April had similar numbers and the greatest number of cowbirds dispatched while May had fewer birds dispatched with males being slightly more common. This is similar to the trend seen in the data for 2005:

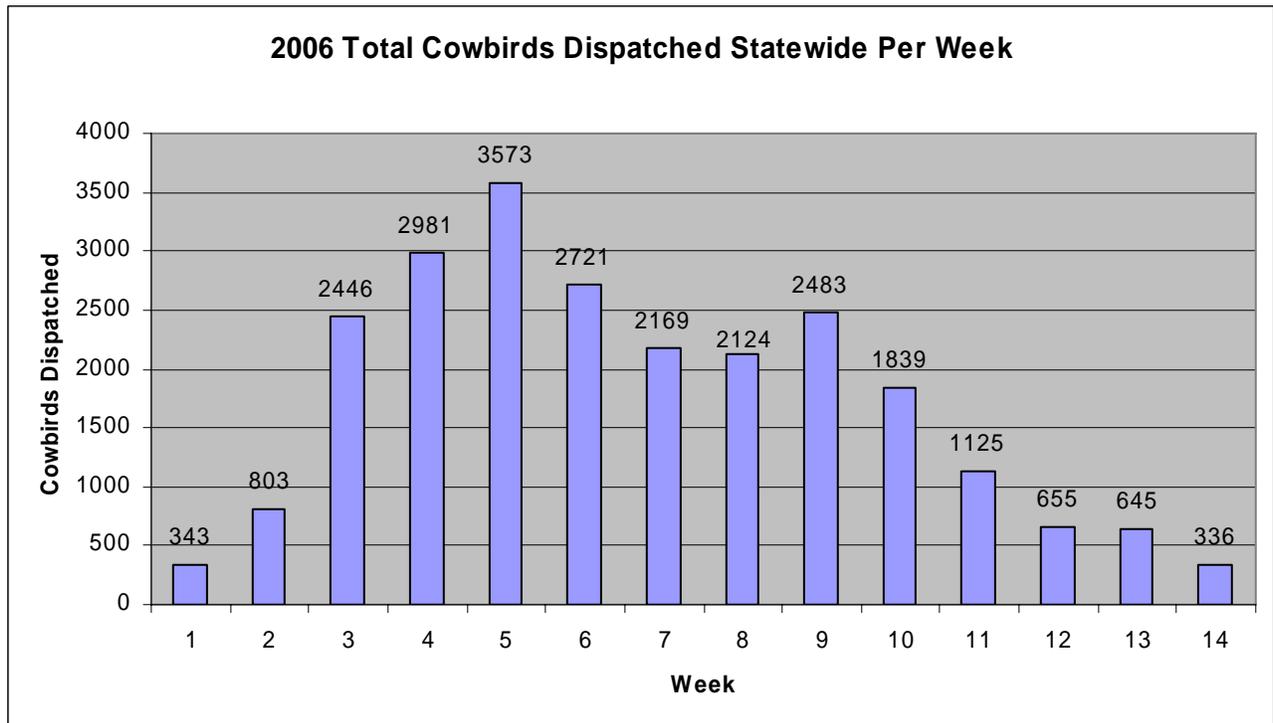


Total cowbirds dispatched per eco-region

Of the 5 eco-regions represented by cowbird traps, the most cowbirds were dispatched in the Edwards Plateau, while the fewest were dispatched in the Gulf Prairies and Marshes. This was also the case in 2005.



Total cowbirds dispatched per week



Total dispatched cowbirds per county

Male, female and total cowbirds dispatched are tabulated weekly for each county. These data are also updated online weekly during the cowbird trapping season and can be viewed by visiting the cowbird pages on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/cowbirds/>

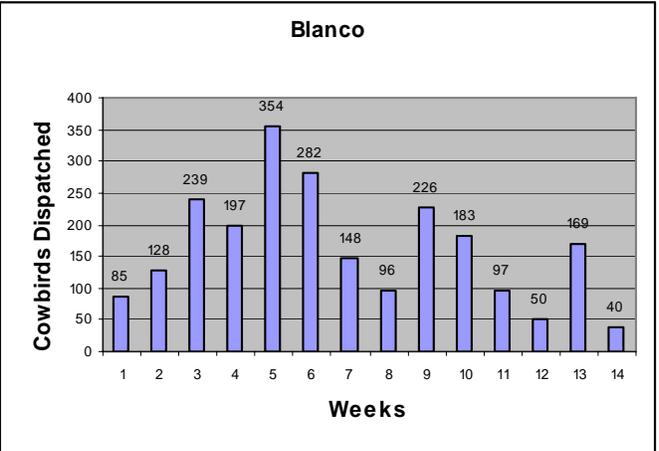
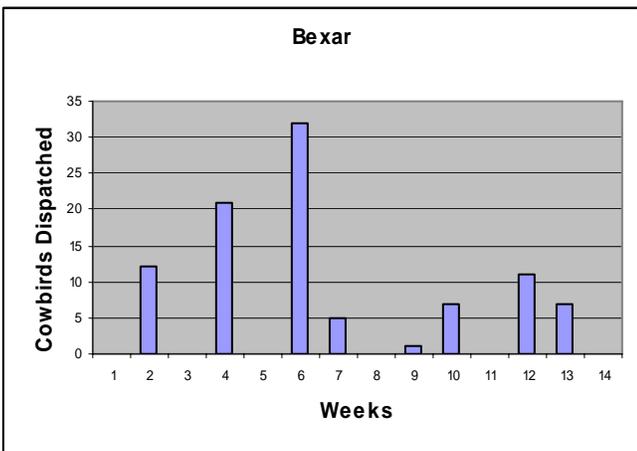
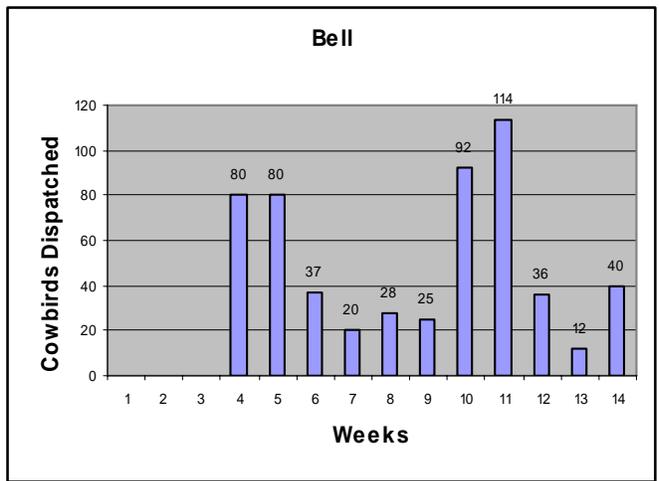
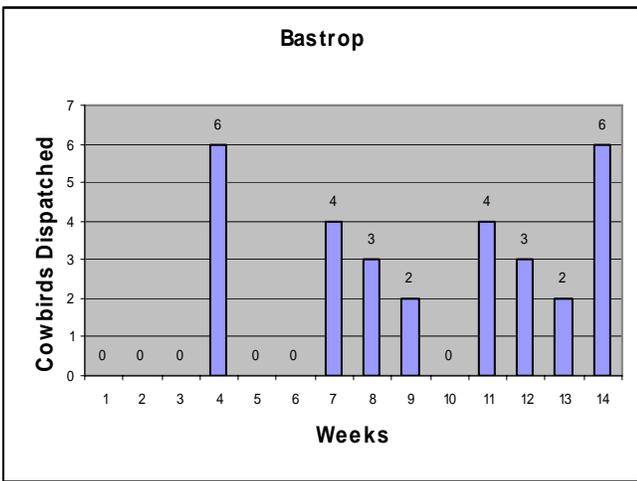
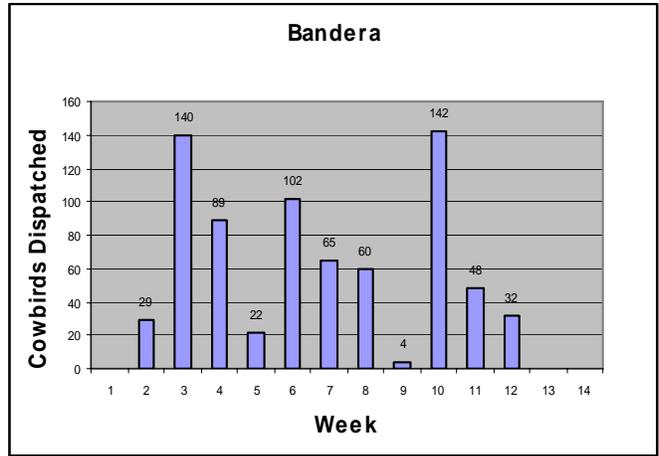
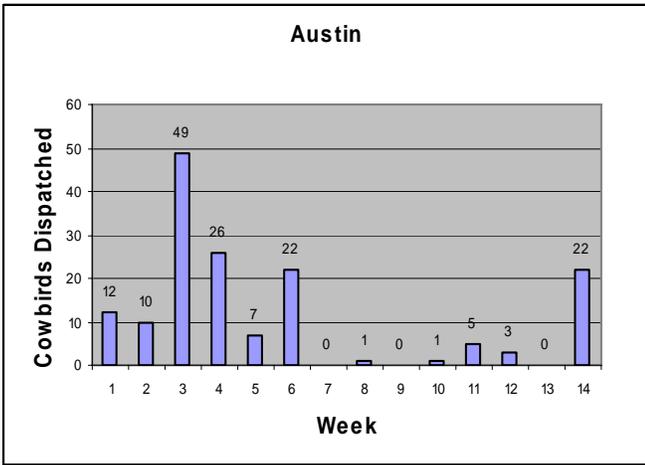
You can navigate to this webpage by clicking on Hunting and Wildlife from the TPWD Home page, then clicking on Wildlife, Nuisance and choosing Cowbirds. There you will see a map of Texas with the eco-regions outlined. Simply click on your area of the state and then click on your county to see the latest totals of dispatched cowbirds.

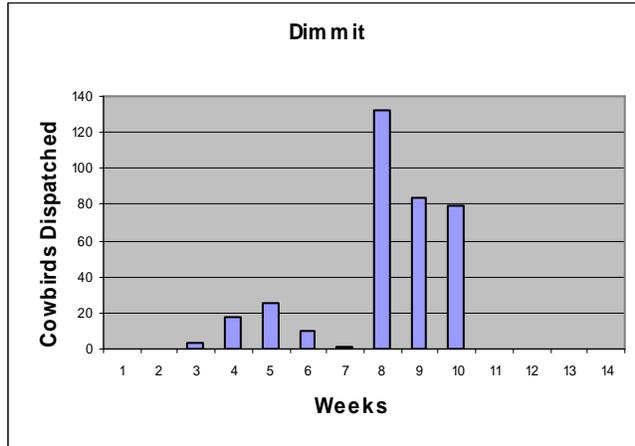
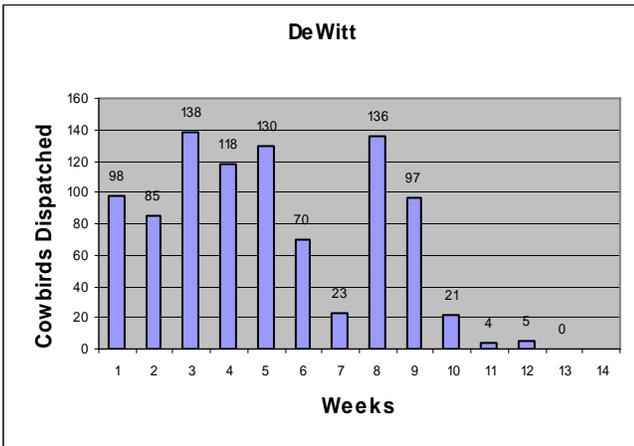
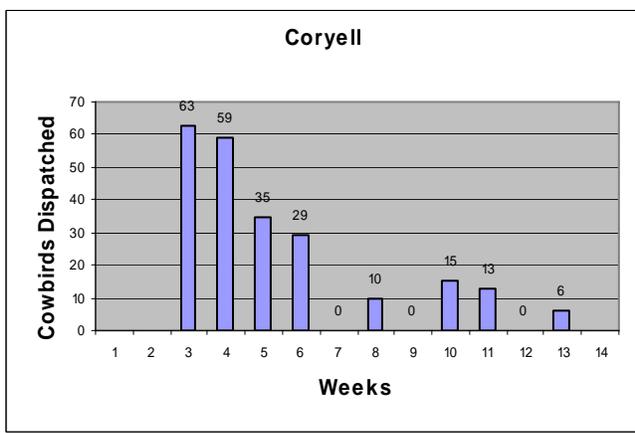
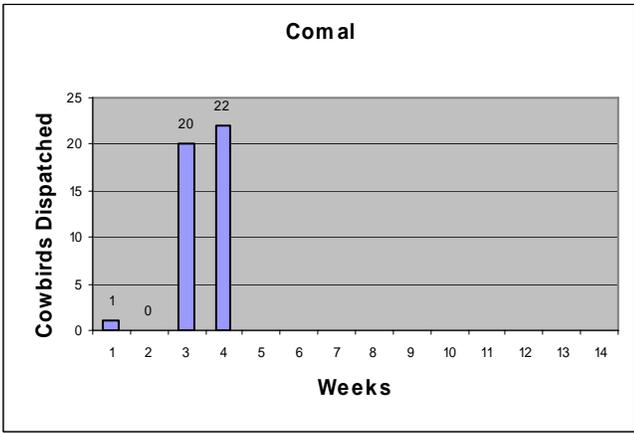
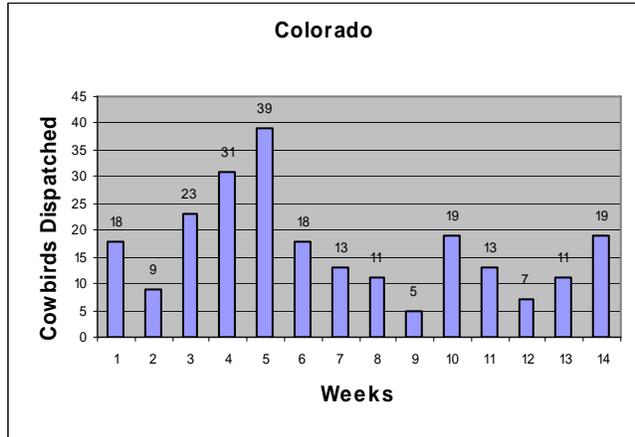
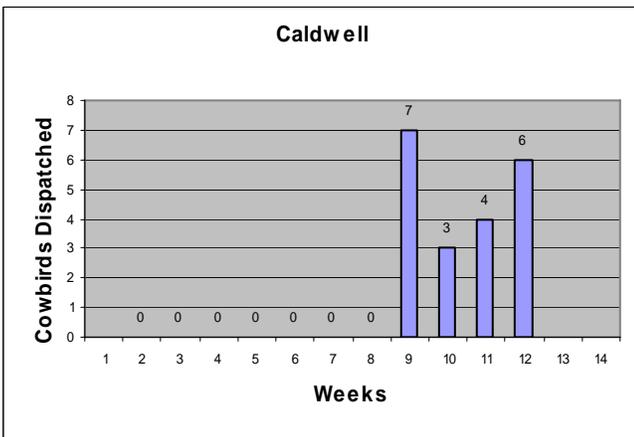
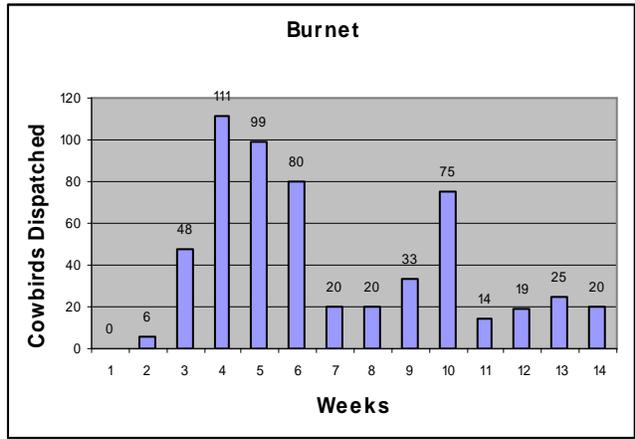
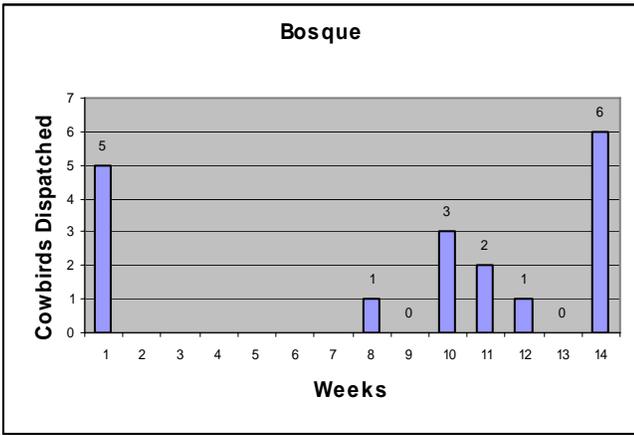
The final tallies for those data are available on the website until the beginning of the next trapping season. Those final tallies are shown in the table below.

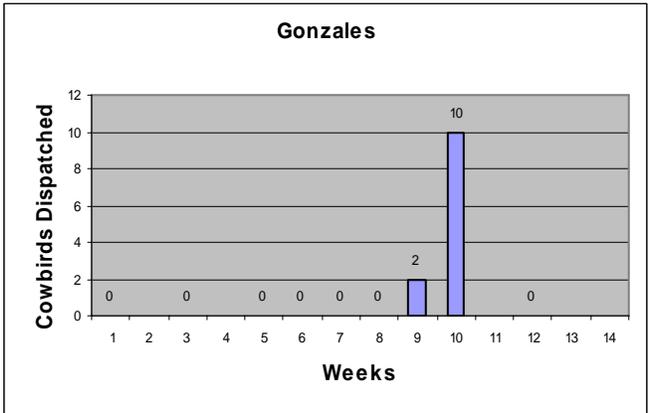
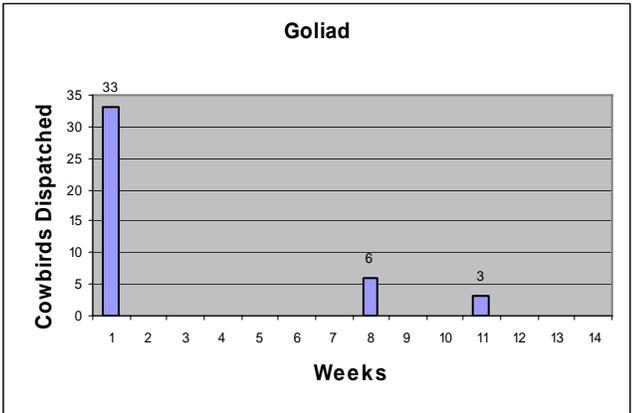
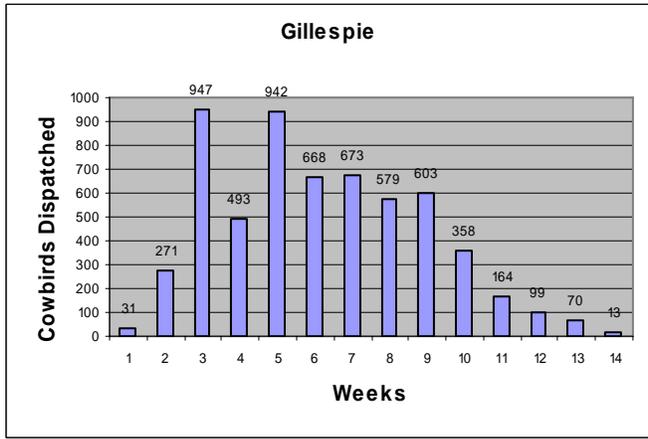
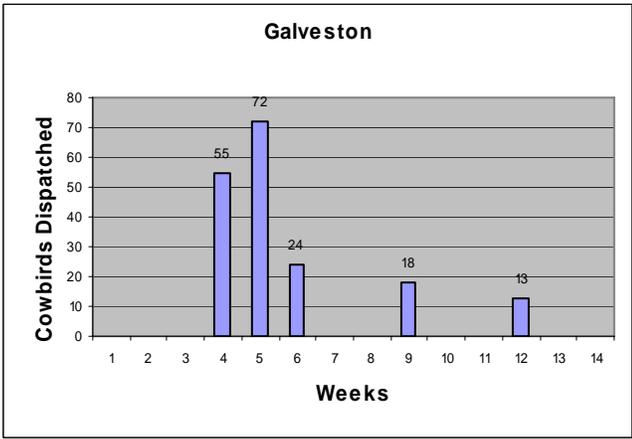
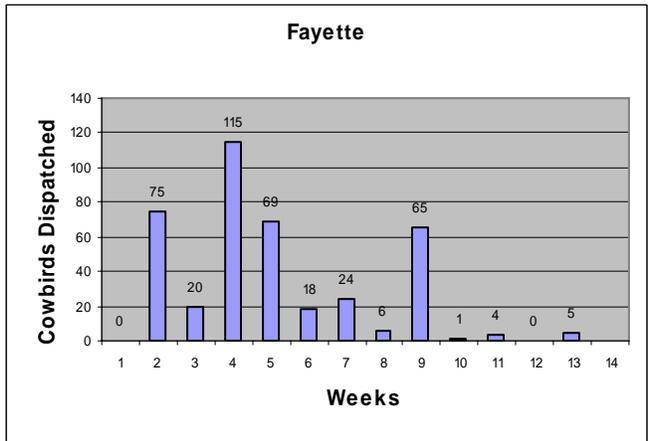
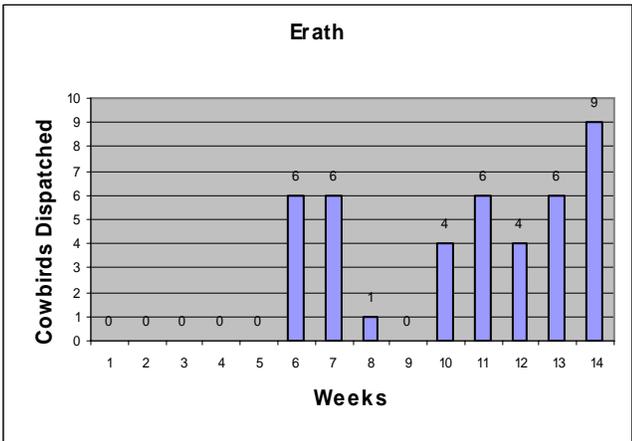
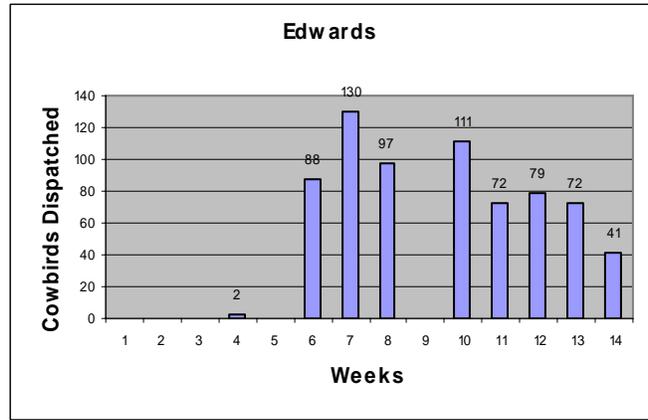
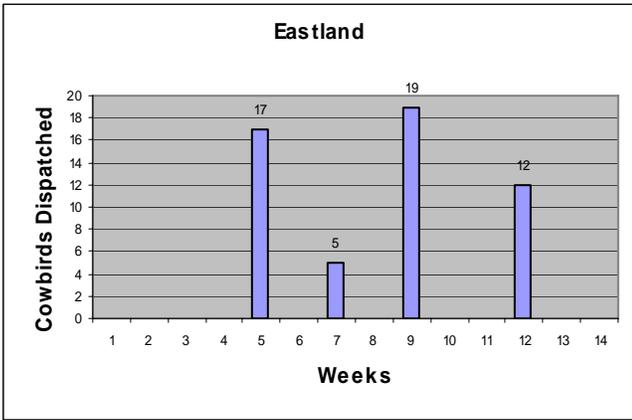
County	Males	Females	Total	County	Males	Females	Total
Austin	58	100	158	Gonzales	5	7	12
Bandera	336	397	733	Guadalupe	67	44	111
Bastrop	13	17	30	Hamilton	104	66	170
Bell	272	292	564	Hays	56	22	78
Bexar	70	26	96	Kendall	785	636	1421
Blanco	1265	1042	2307	Kerr	681	624	1305
Bosque	8	10	18	Kimble	609	509	1118
Burnet	270	300	570	Lampasas	342	135	477
Caldwell	6	14	20	Lavaca	62	194	256
Colorado	138	98	236	Lee	35	175	210
Comal	21	22	43	Llano	501	303	804
Coryell	134	96	230	Mason	210	147	357
DeWitt	304	621	925	Milam	0	0	0
Dimmit	210	142	352	Real	199	163	362
Eastland	42	11	53	San Saba	744	416	1160
Edwards	410	282	692	Schleicher	505	212	717
Erath	37	5	42	Somervell	194	150	344
Fayette	102	300	402	Terrell	433	257	690
Galveston	87	95	182	Travis	282	295	577
Gillespie	3527	2384	5911	Victoria	9	21	30
Goliad	19	23	42	Washington	50	38	88
				Williamson	202	198	400

Total dispatched cowbirds each week per county

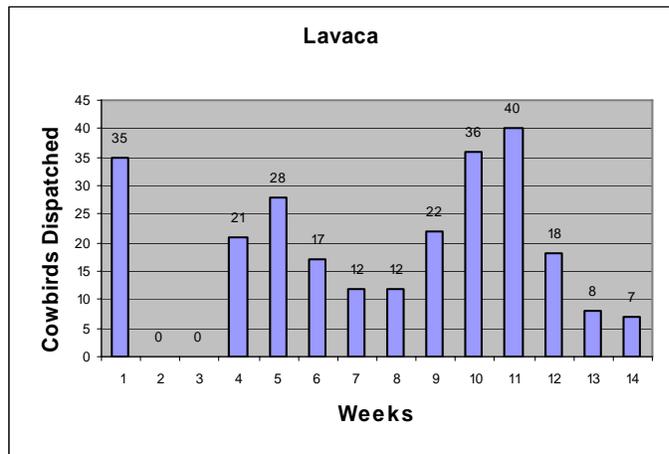
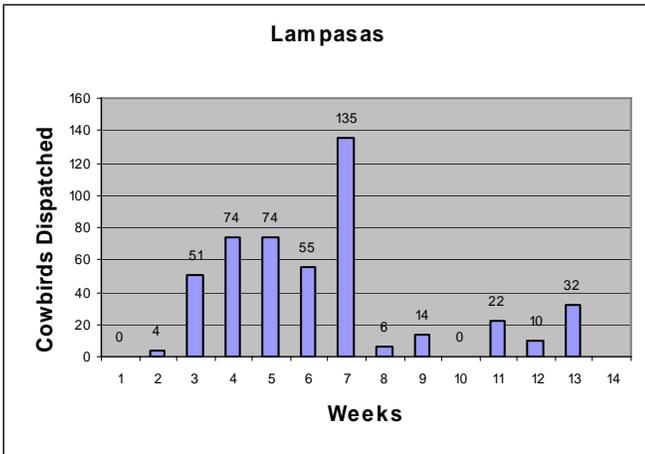
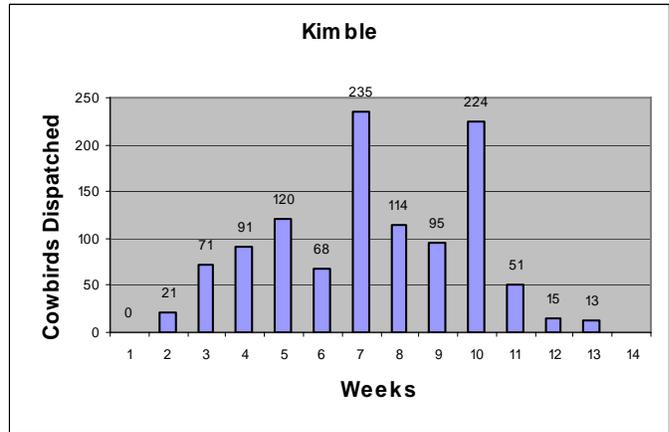
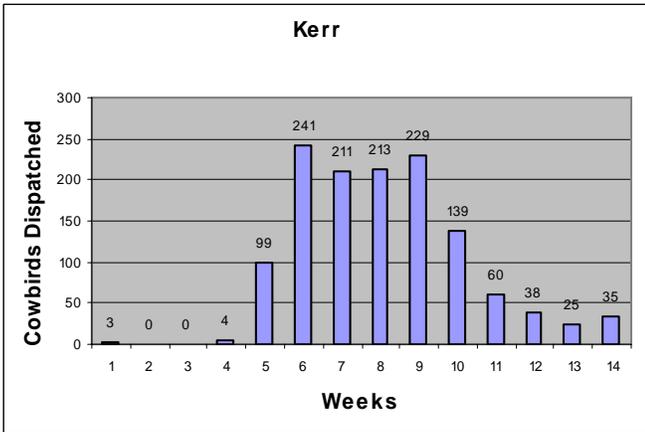
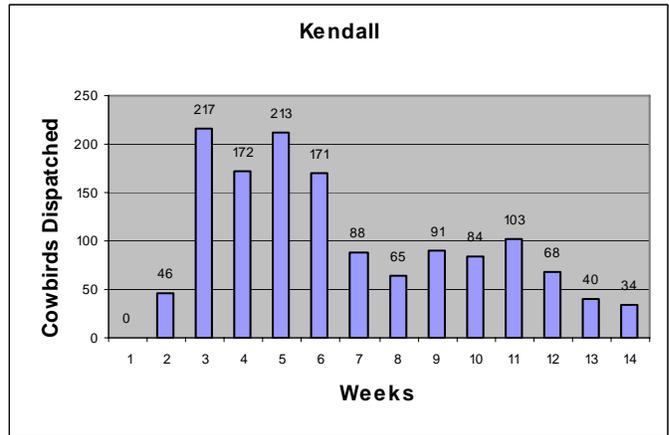
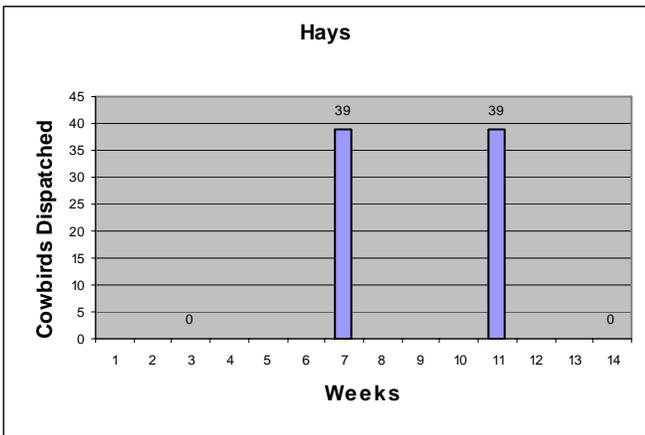
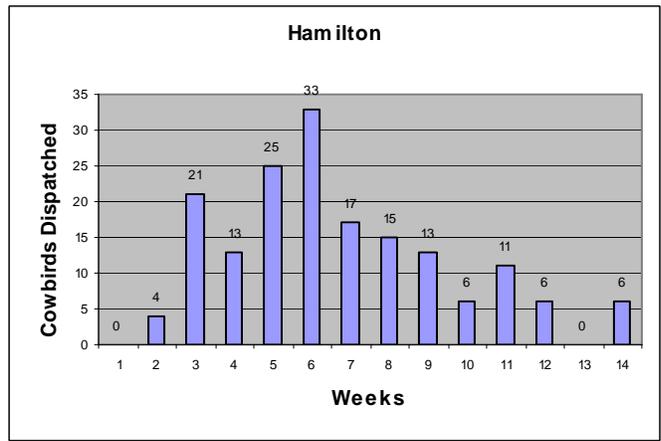
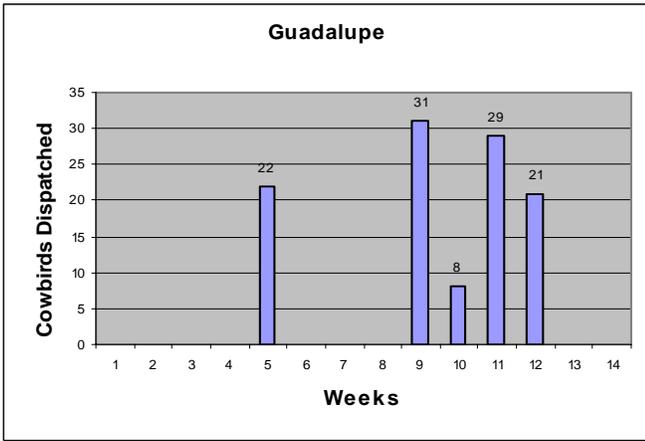
In the graphs that follow, you will see two types of graphs: small (one-county) graphs and large (multiple-county) graphs. The large graphs show several counties together for easier comparison between the counties. The small graphs depict cowbird dispatch numbers for just one county. Please note that the range of Cowbirds Dispatched values on the small, one-county graphs varies widely among graphs. For example, for Gillespie County there were 947 cowbirds dispatched in one week. On the other hand, the graphs for Bastrop and Bosque Counties show the highest number of dispatched cowbirds in any one week to be 6. This disparity between ranges precludes a one-to-one comparison among the graphs because the height of the bar does not represent the same numbers on one graph as it does on another graph. If you want to compare numbers between counties, you can use the larger (multiple-county) graphs in the next section.



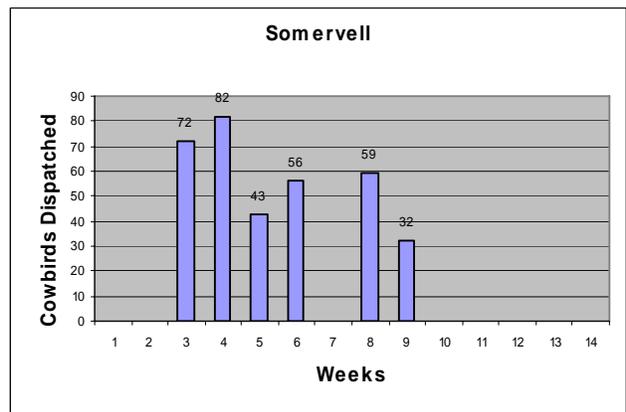
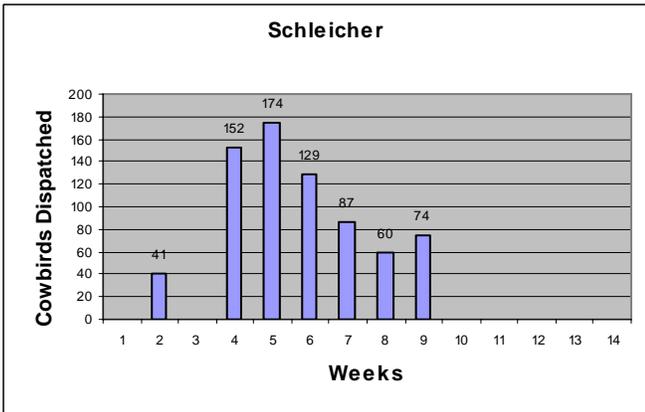
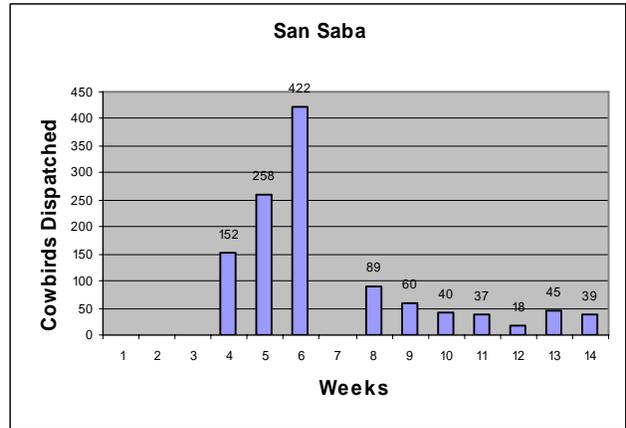
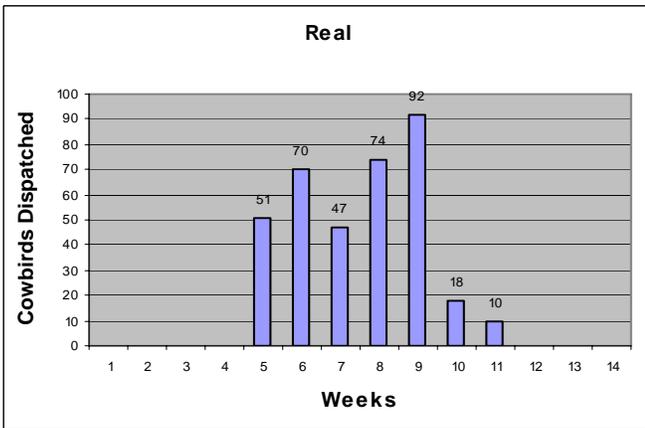
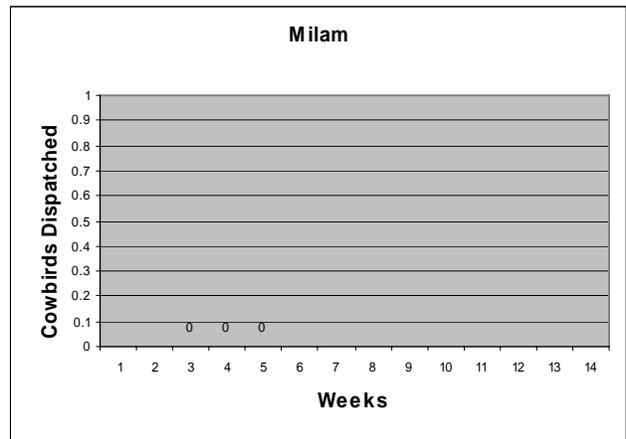
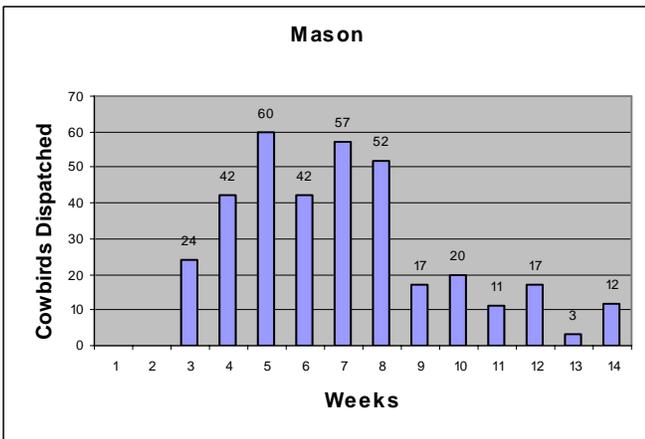
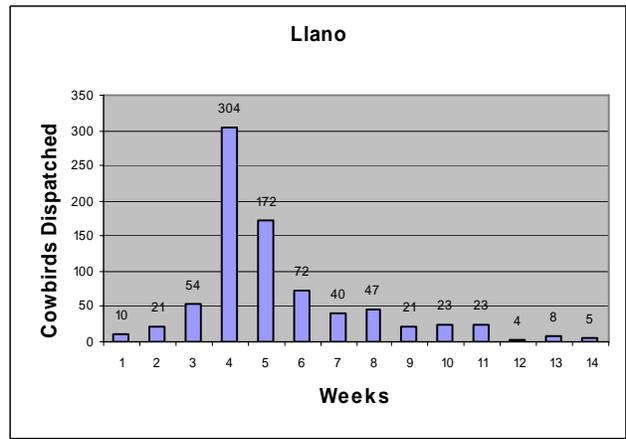
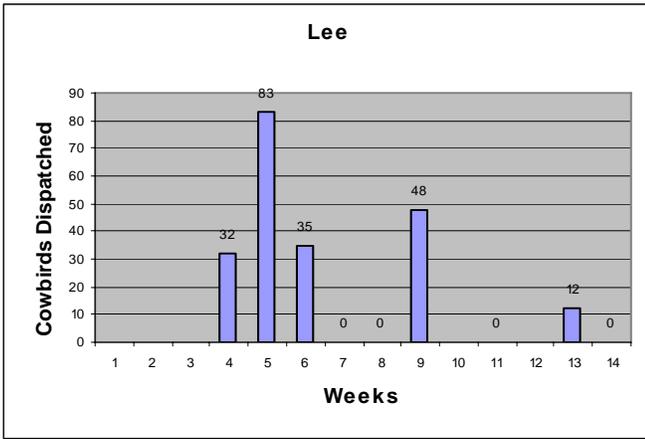




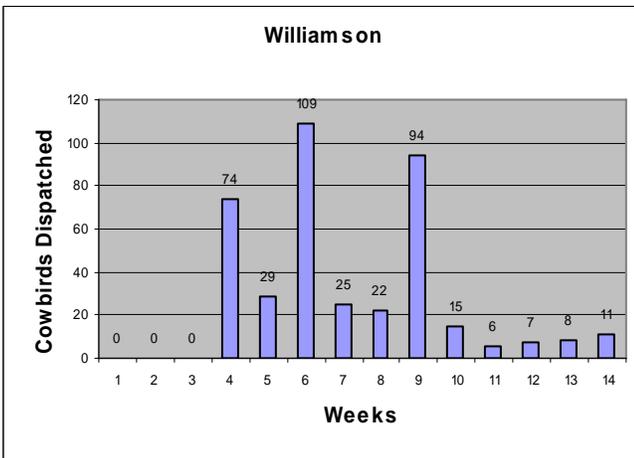
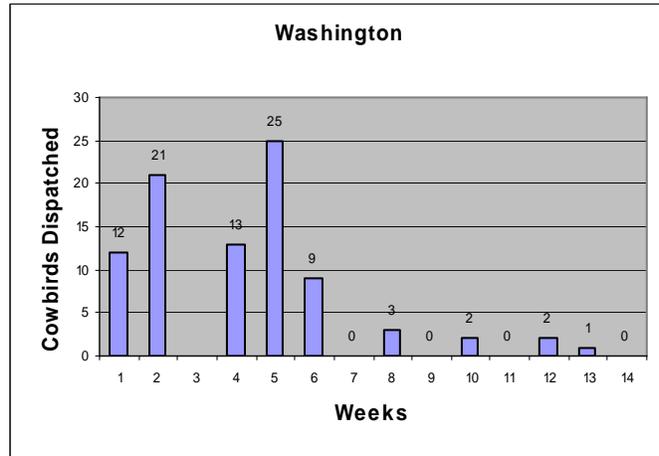
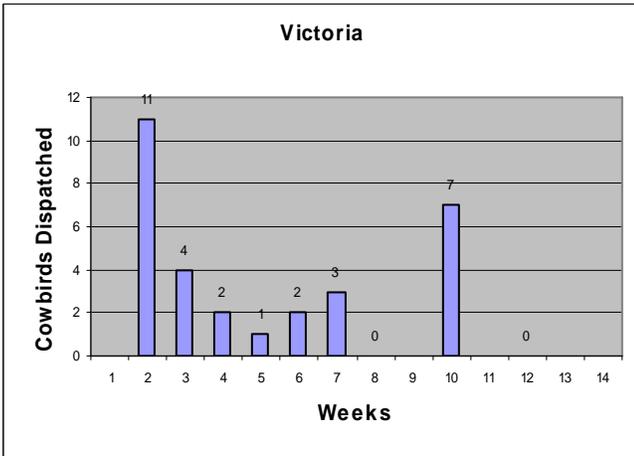
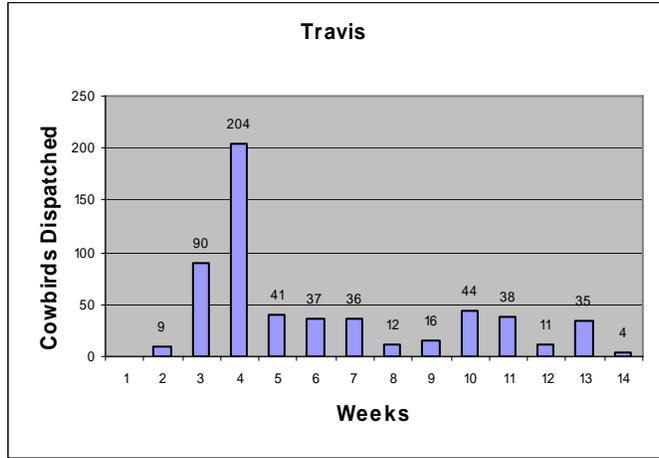
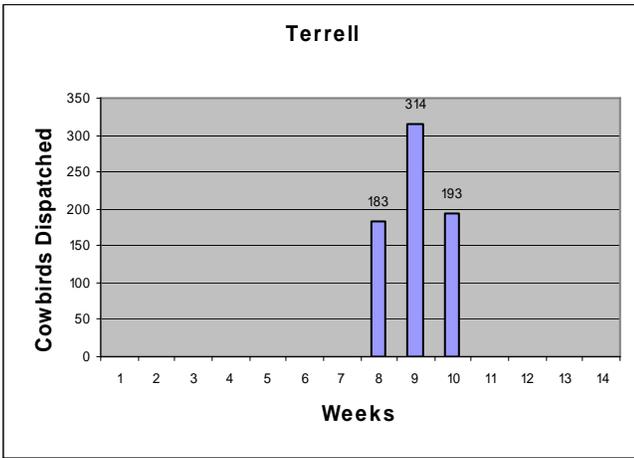
Texas Cowbird Report for 2006 Trapping Season



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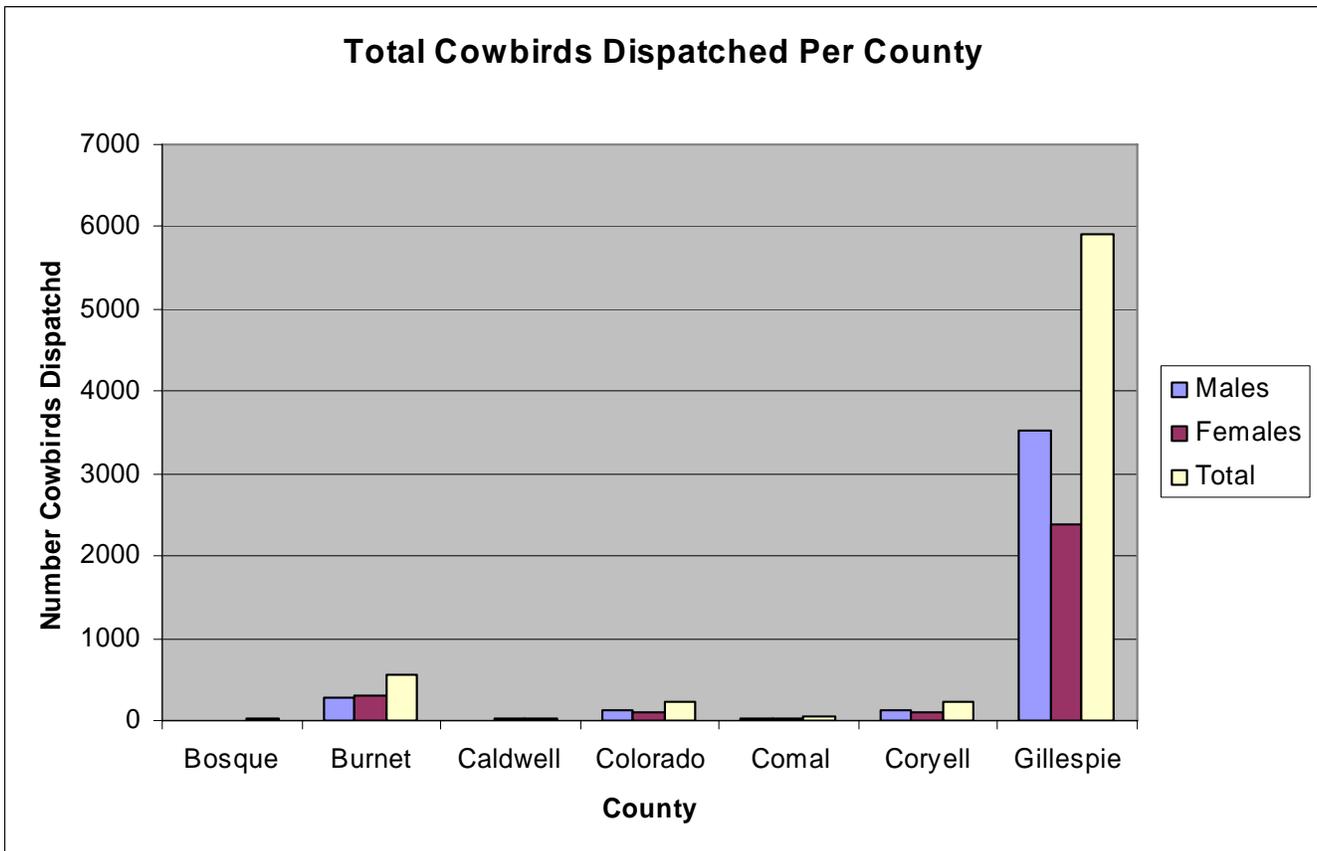
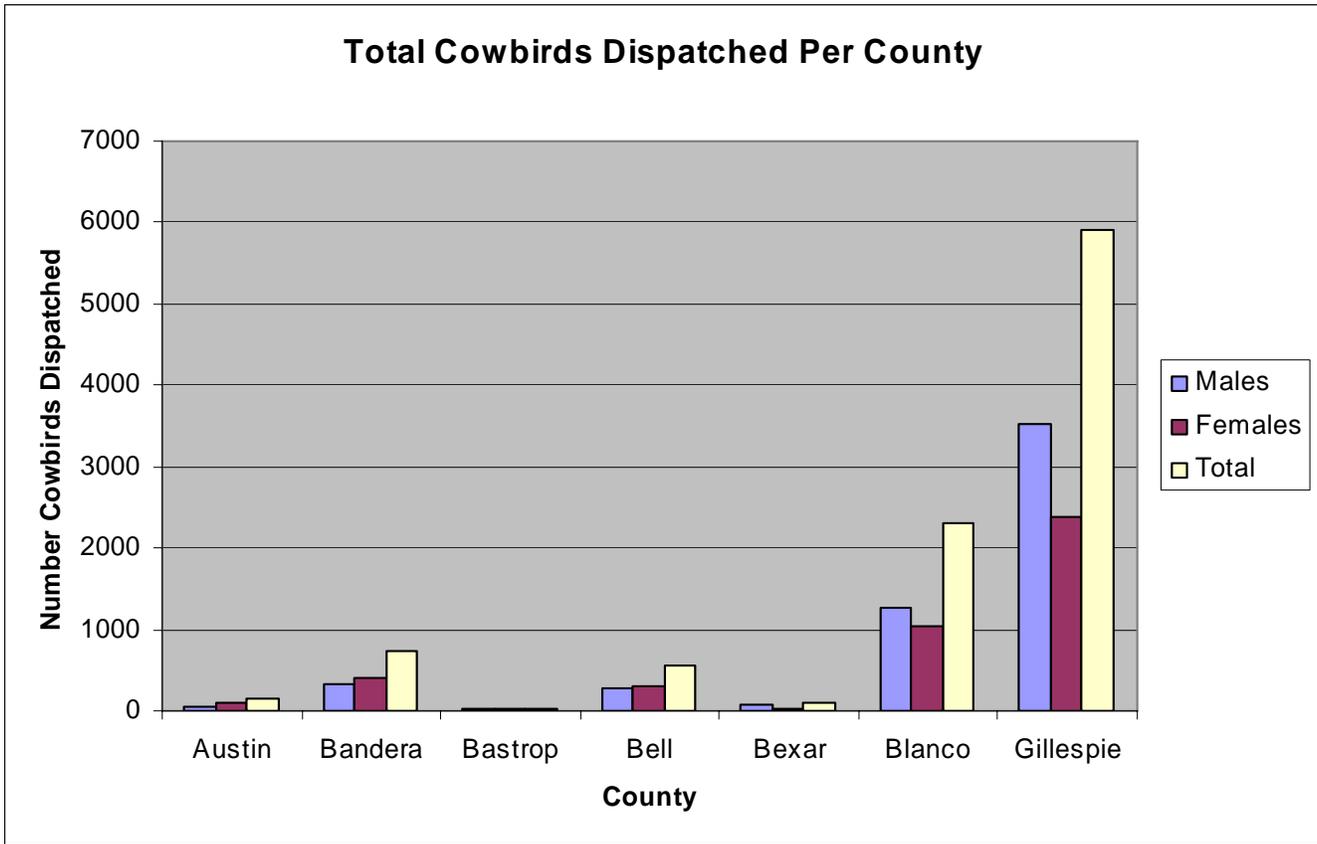


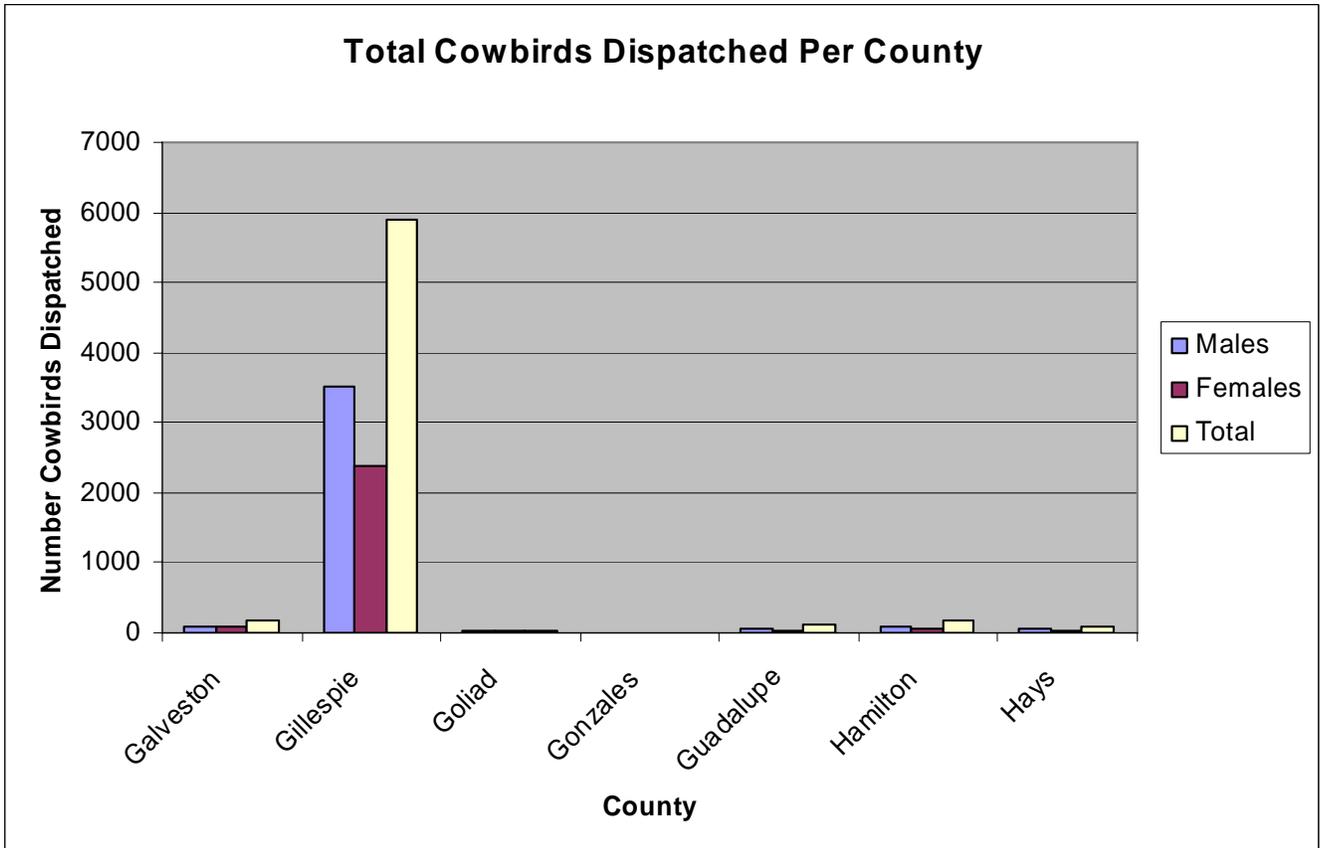
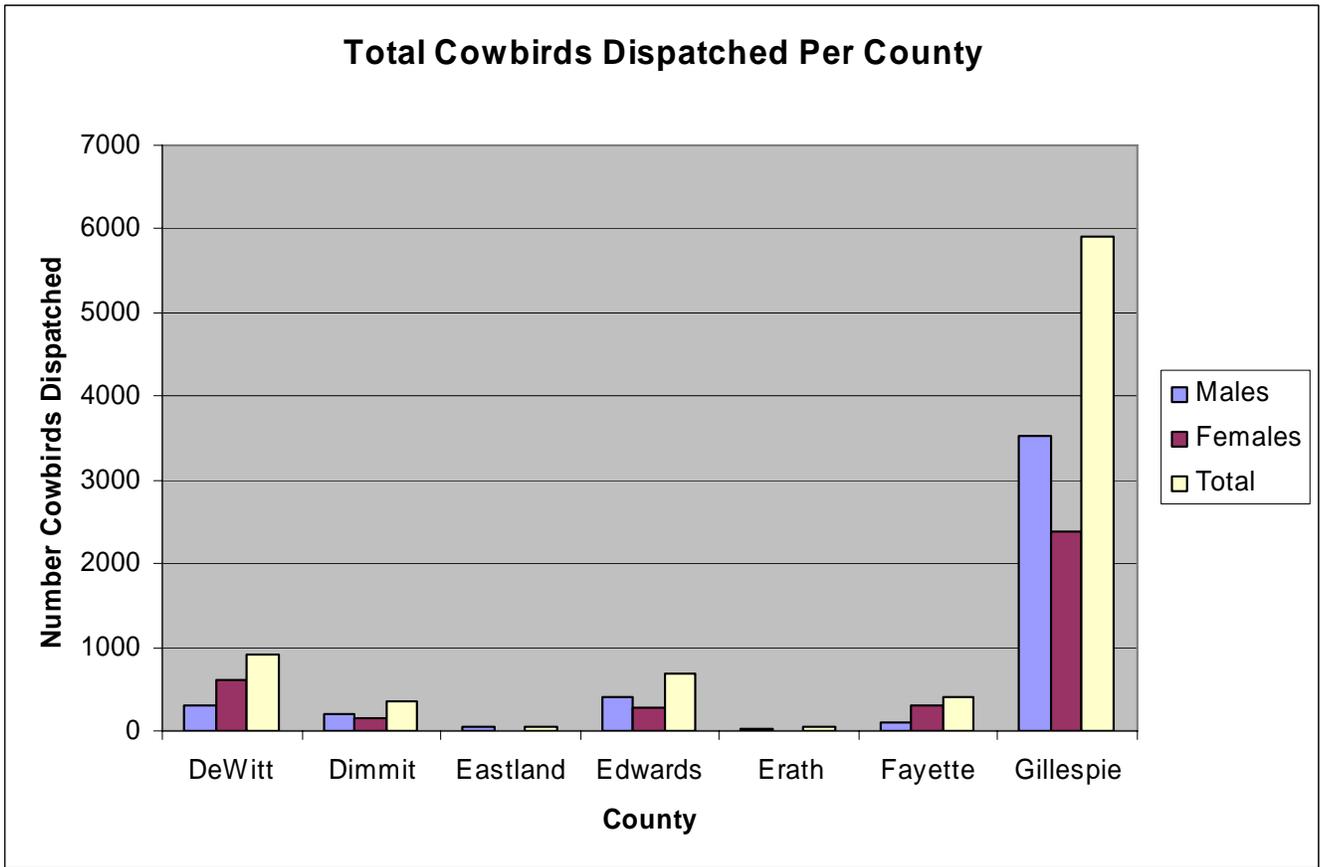
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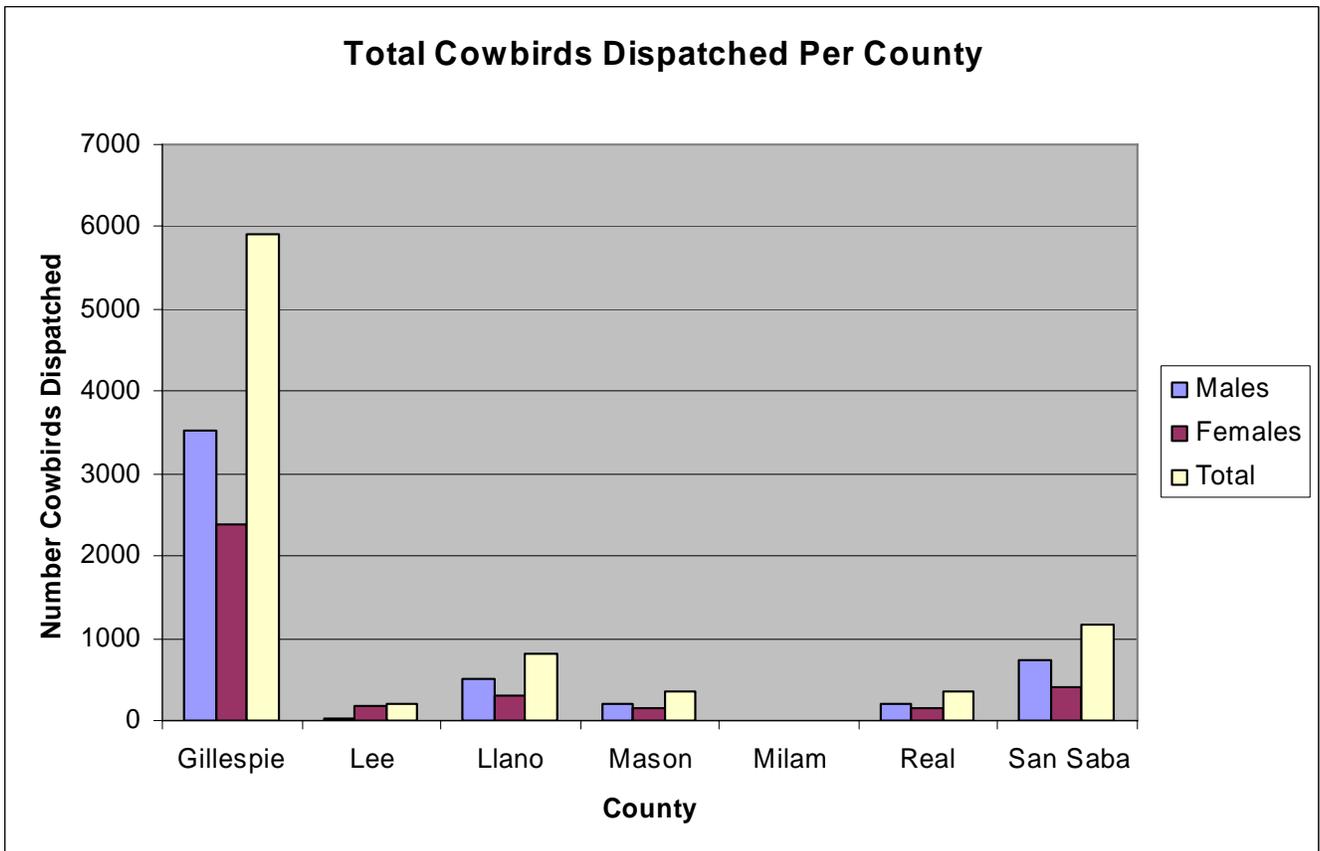
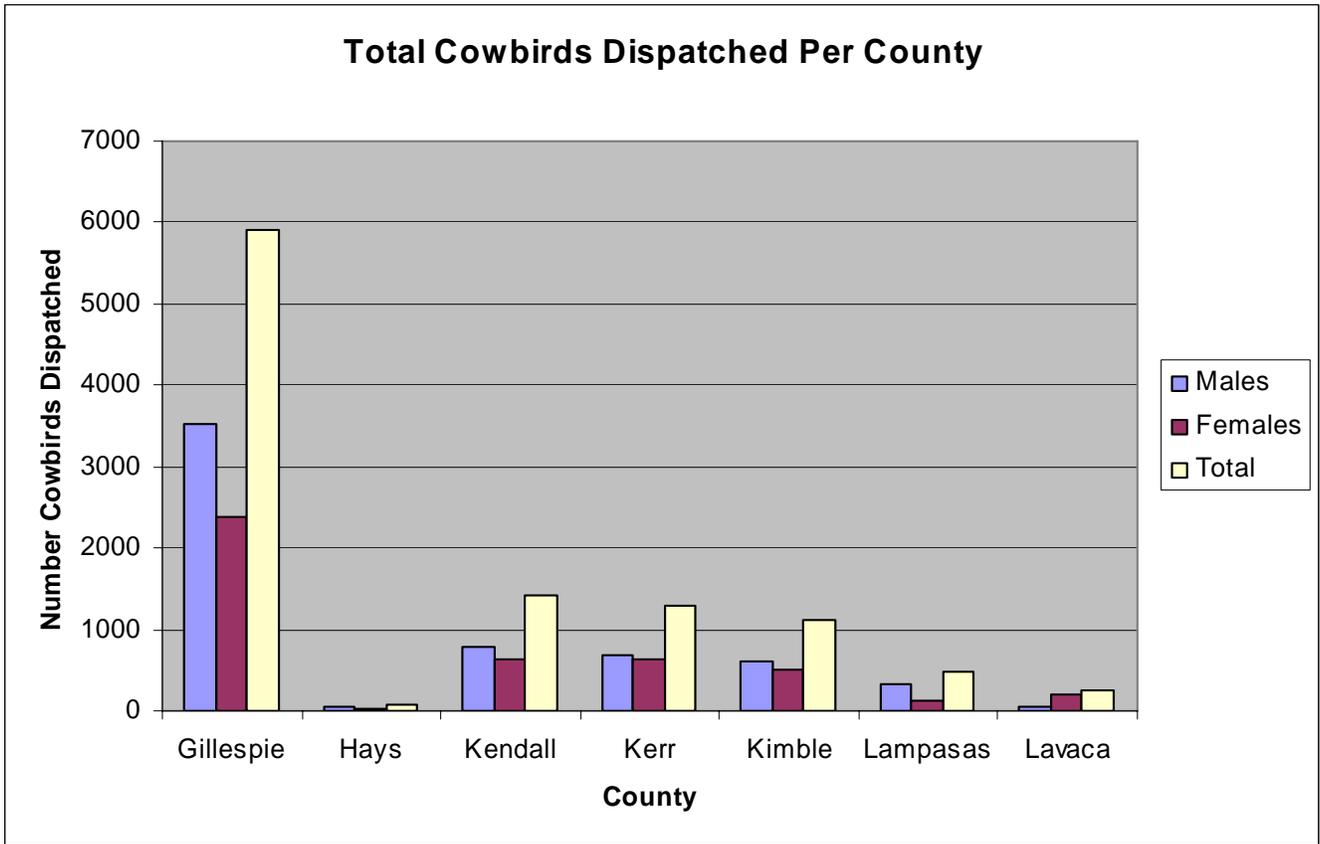


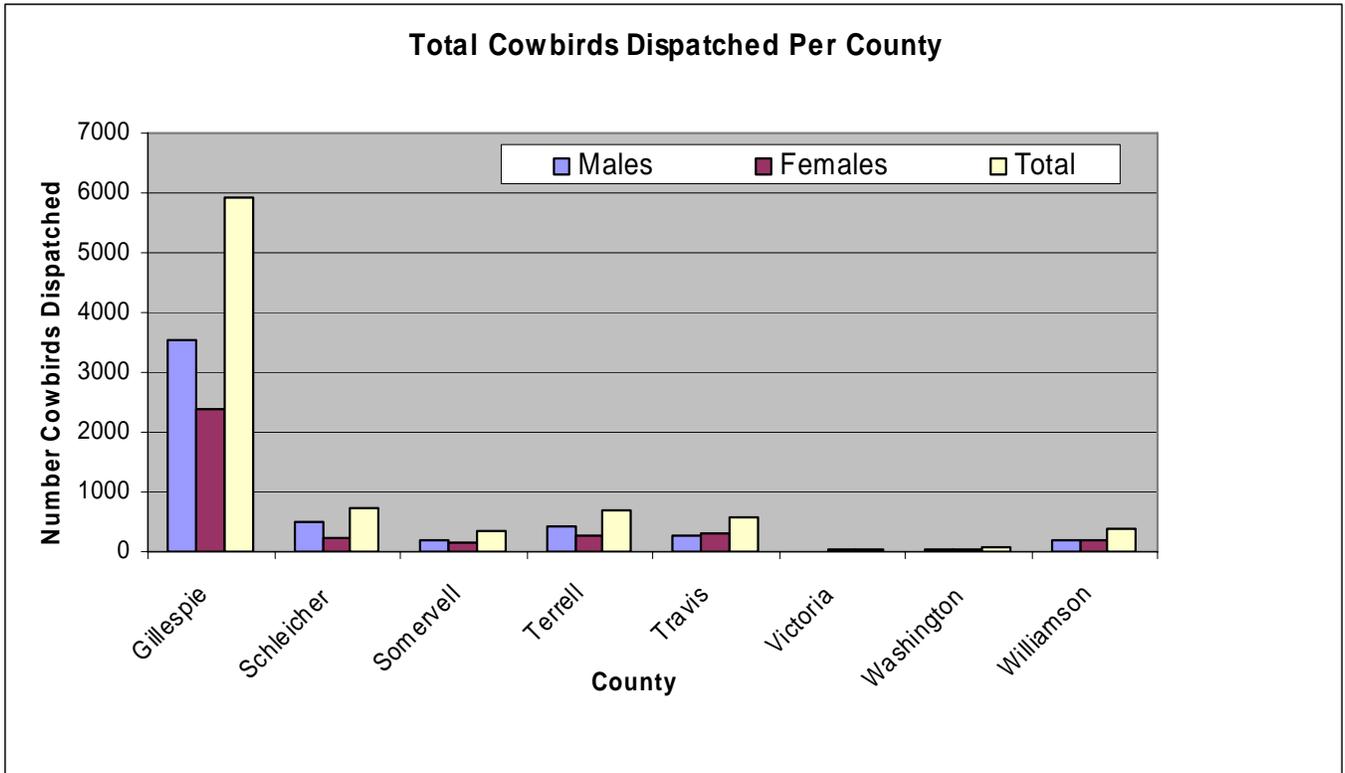
Total Cowbirds Dispatched Per County

The following multiple-county graphs can be compared side-by-side to depict a one-to-one correspondence between cowbird dispatch numbers and height of bar. Gillespie County is used as the calibrating county in all the graphs since it has the highest numbers. Please see Appendix A for raw data showing weekly dispatch totals for each county.

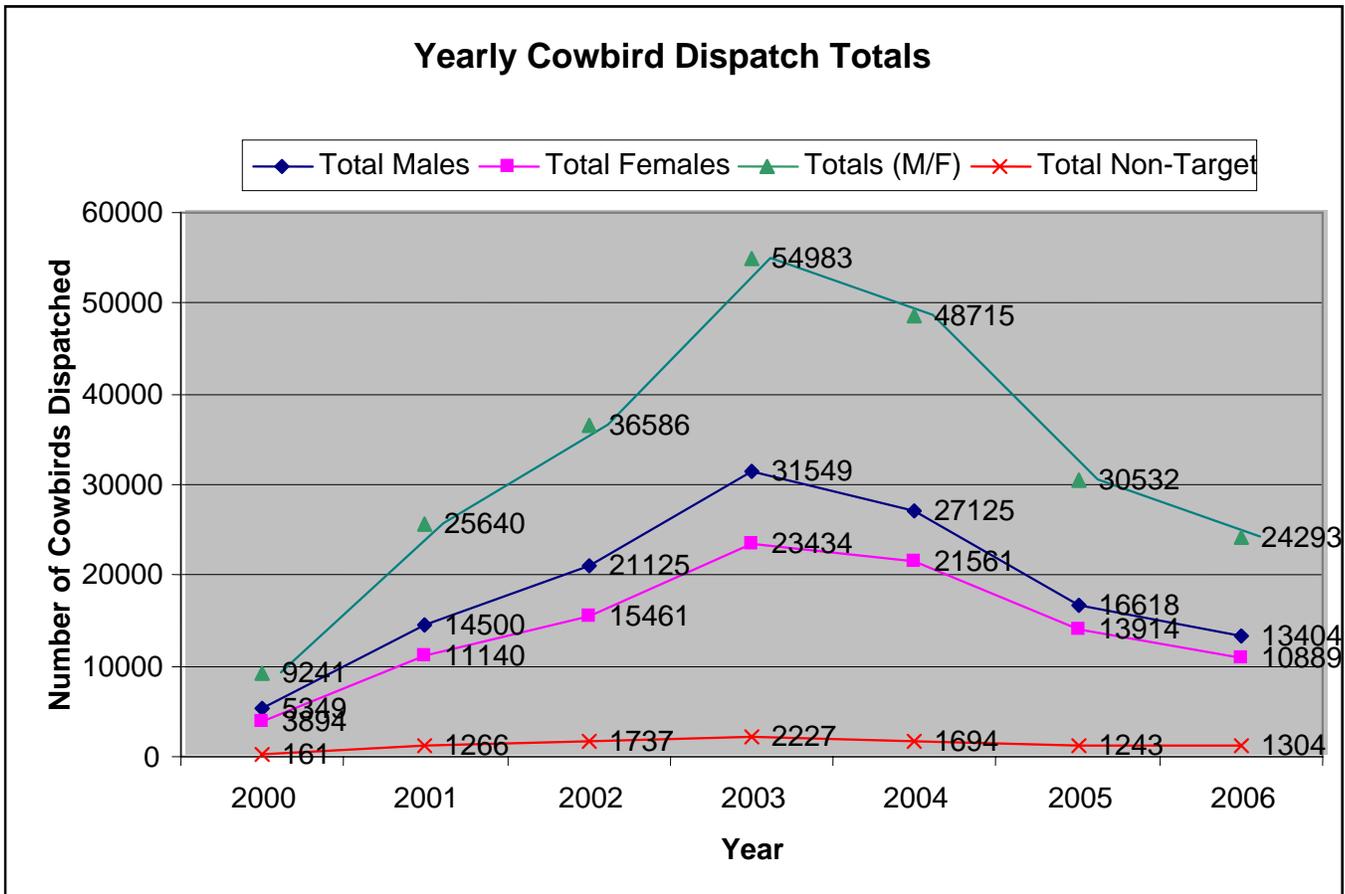








Total dispatched cowbirds and non-targets across all years.



Total statewide counts of non-target bird species trapped between March 1, 2006 and May 31, 2006

Common Name	Number Reported Trapped*
American Goldfinch	2
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1
Black-crested Titmouse	38
Bronzed Cowbird	7
Canyon Towhee	1
Carolina Chickadee	9
Cassin's Sparrow	1
Cedar Waxwing	1
Chipping Sparrow	146
Common Grackle	2
Eastern Bluebird	1
European Starling	3
Gray Bunting	9
Gray Catbird	2
House Finch	124
House Sparrow	334
House Wren	8
Inca Dove	1
Lark Sparrow	4
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Northern Cardinal	166
Northern Mockingbird	21
Painted Bunting	10
Red-winged Blackbird	47
Unknown species (species name not reported)	151
Vesper Sparrow	2
White-crowned Sparrow	12
White-winged Dove	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird	197
Total Non-target Birds Trapped	1304

*Some trappers reported only the species name but no counts. These are shown with a question mark.

Appendix A: Weekly counts and totals of cowbird dispatches for each county and ecoregion

Fields with missing data represent weeks where no data was submitted for that county and it is assumed that no trapping effort was expended for these weeks. Fields with a "0" represent weeks where trapping effort was reported but no birds were trapped and dispatched.

County	Total	Trapping Week Number - 2006													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Austin	158	12	10	49	26	7	22	0	1	0	1	5	3	0	22
Bandera	733		29	140	89	22	102	65	60	4	142	48	32		
Bastrop	30	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	3	2	0	4	3	2	6
Bell	564				80	80	37	20	28	25	92	114	36	12	40
Bexar	96		12		21		32	5	0	1	7	0	11	7	
Blanco	2307	85	128	239	197	354	282	148	96	226	183	97	50	169	40
Bosque	18	5							1	0	3	2	1	0	6
Burnet	570	0	6	48	111	99	80	20	20	33	75	14	19	25	20
Caldwell	20		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	4	6		
Colorado	236	18	9	23	31	39	18	13	11	5	19	13	7	11	19
Comal	43	1	0	20	22										
Coryell	230			63	59	35	29	0	10	0	15	13	0	6	
DeWitt	925	98	85	138	118	130	70	23	136	97	21	4	5	0	
Dimmit	352			3	18	25	10	1	132	84	79				
Eastland	53					17		5		19			12		
Edwards	692				2		88	130	97		111	72	79	72	41
Erath	42	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	1	0	4	6	4	6	9
Fayette	402	0	75	20	115	69	18	24	6	65	1	4	0	5	
Galveston	182				55	72	24			18				13	
Gillespie	5911	31	271	947	493	942	668	673	579	603	358	164	99	70	13
Goliad	42	33							6			3			
Gonzales	12									2	10		0		
Guadalupe	111					22				31	8	29	21		
Hamilton	170	0	4	21	13	25	33	17	15	13	6	11	6	0	6
Hays	78			0				39				39			0
Kendall	1421	0	46	217	172	213	171	88	65	91	84	103	68	40	34
Kerr	1305	3	0	0	4	99	241	211	213	229	139	60	38	25	35
Kimble	1118	0	21	71	91	120	68	235	114	95	224	51	15	13	0
Lampasas	477	0	4	51	74	74	55	135	6	14	0	22	10	32	
Lavaca	256	35	0	0	21	28	17	12	12	22	36	40	18	8	7
Lee	210				32	83	35	0	0	48		0		12	0
Llano	804	10	21	54	304	172	72	40	47	21	23	23	4	8	5
Mason	357			24	42	60	42	57	52	17	20	11	17	3	12
Milam	0			0	0	0									
Real	362					51	70	47	74	92	18	10			
San Saba	1160				152	258	422		89	60	40	37	18	45	39
Schleicher	717		41		152	174	129	87	60	74					
Somervell	344			72	82	43	56		59	32					
Terrell	690								183	314	193				
Travis	577		9	90	204	41	37	36	12	16	44	38	11	35	4
Victoria	30		11	4	2	1	2	3	0		7		0		
Washington	88	12	21		13	25	9	0	3	0	2	0	2	1	0
Williamson	400	0	0	0	74	29	109	25	22	94	15	6	7	8	11

Cross Timbers	1821	5	4	156	308	229	270	73	136	183	135	152	66	32	72
Edwards Plateau	19418	130	588	2053	2236	2843	2226	2016	1678	1926	1520	864	514	570	204
Gulf Prairies	212		11	4	57	73	26	3	0	18	7		13		
Post Oak Savannah	1523	77	115	92	244	273	119	53	36	175	77	102	57	43	60
South Texas Plains	1319	131	85	141	136	155	80	24	274	181	100	7	5	0	

Statewide	24293	343	803	2446	2981	3573	2721	2169	2124	2483	1839	1125	655	645	336
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