

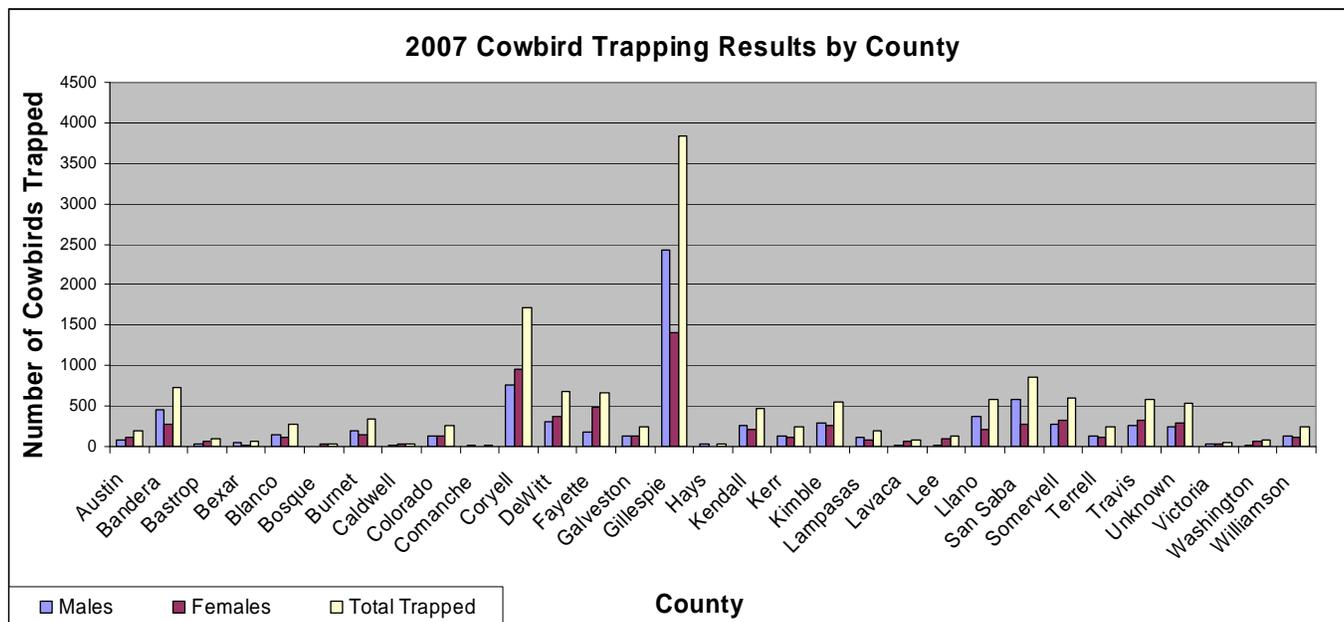
# 2007 Cowbird Trapping Report

The 2007 cowbird trapping season continued the downward trend in capture rates that began in 2003. During the period 2003-2007, traps that had consistently captured high numbers of cowbirds began seeing significant decreases in the number of birds being trapped. During this same period, anecdotal evidence provided by landowners indicated an increase in both the diversity and numbers of songbirds observed.

One possible reason for the downward trend in numbers of cowbirds trapped is that trapping efforts have reduced overall cowbird numbers in areas where trapping occurs. With eight years of trapping history in Texas, it is likely that trapping has reduced cowbird parasitism in localized areas, thus partially mitigating the effects of parasitism on songbird productivity. However, it is clear that cowbird trapping must continue as a land management practice in these areas in order to sustain a reduction in cowbird parasitism.

## Trapping Graphs and Charts

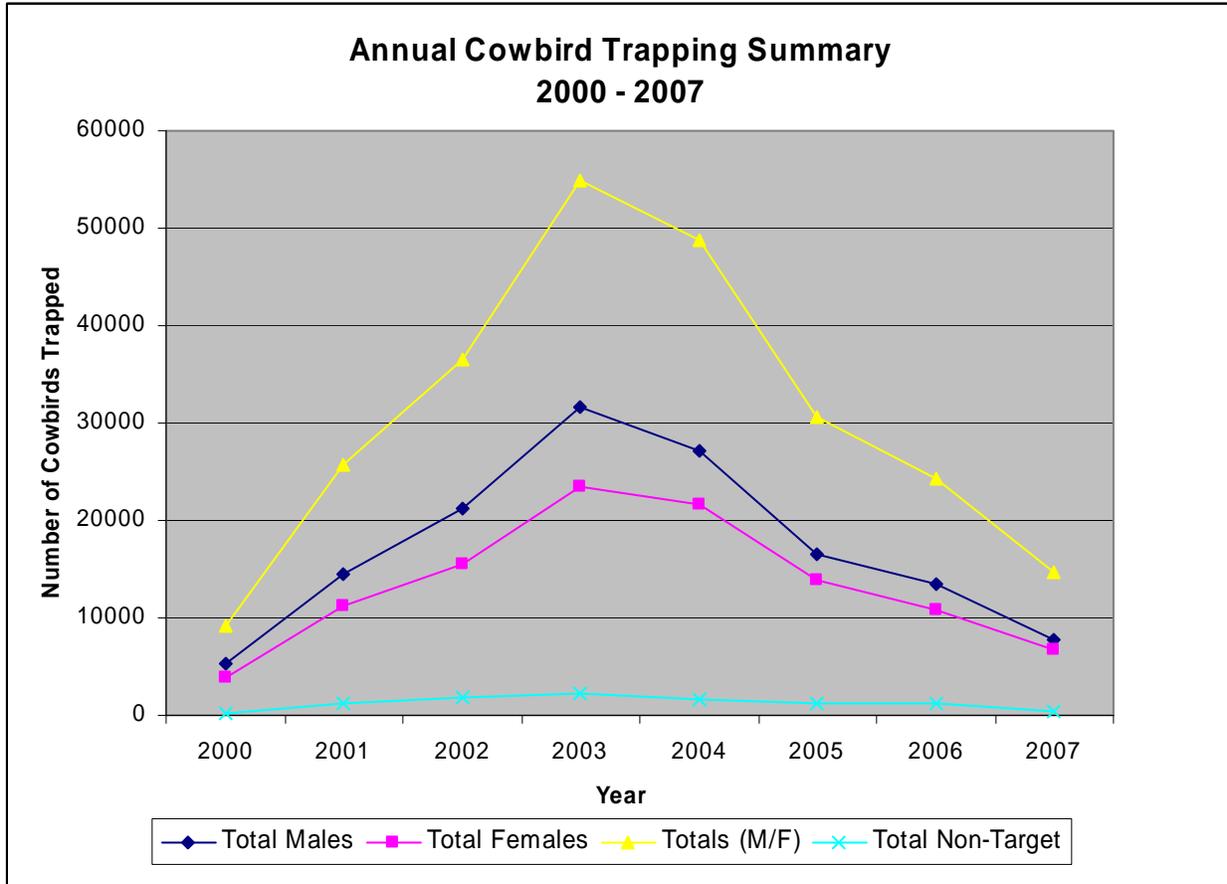
The following graphs and charts show the data from the 2007 cowbird trapping season compared with cumulative data.



## 2007 Data Table

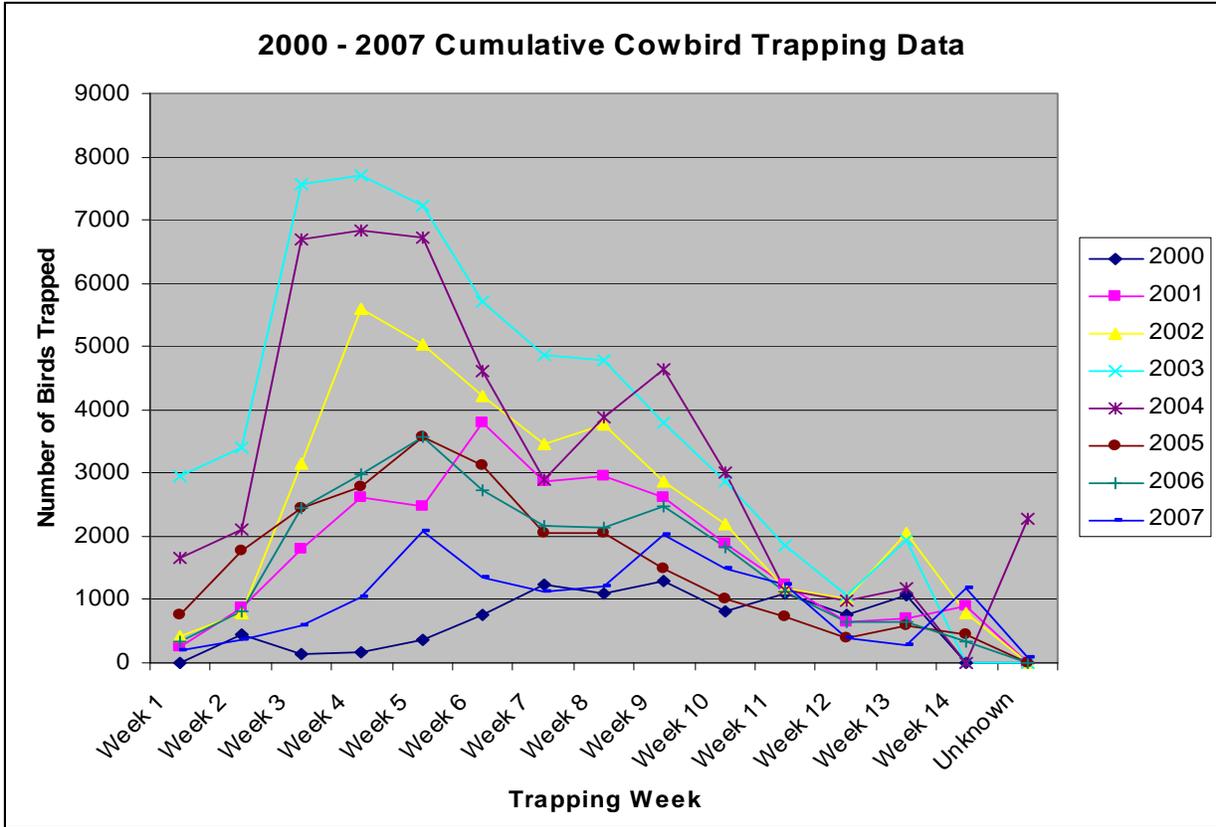
<b>County</b>	<b>Males Trapped</b>	<b>Females Trapped</b>	<b>Total Trapped</b>
Austin	82	116	198
Bandera	448	282	730
Bastrop	33	57	90
Bexar	45	19	64
Blanco	153	118	271
Bosque	6	29	35
Burnet	201	139	340
Caldwell	9	25	34
Colorado	127	129	256
Comanche	17	6	23
Coryell	763	951	1714
DeWitt	305	374	679
Fayette	181	479	660
Galveston	123	123	246
Gillespie	2428	1406	3834
Hays	25	7	32
Kendall	264	210	474
Kerr	135	115	250
Kimble	295	257	552
Lampasas	121	80	201
Lavaca	16	62	78
Lee	20	104	124
Llano	380	206	586
San Saba	577	275	852
Somervell	278	318	596
Terrell	127	110	237
Travis	260	323	583
Unknown	235	296	531
Victoria	26	30	56
Washington	23	66	89
Williamson	129	119	248
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7832</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>14663</b>

## 2000 – 2007 Cumulative Cowbird Trapping Results



**Annual Cowbird Trapping Summary Data Table  
2000 - 2007**

	Total Males	Total Females	Totals (M/F)	Total Non-Target
<b>2000</b>	5349	3894	9241	161
<b>2001</b>	14500	11140	25640	1266
<b>2002</b>	21125	15461	36586	1737
<b>2003</b>	31549	23434	54983	2227
<b>2004</b>	27125	21561	48715	1694
<b>2005</b>	16618	13914	30532	1243
<b>2006</b>	13404	10889	24293	1304
<b>2007</b>	7832	6831	14663	426



### 2000-2007 Cumulative Years of Data for M/F Cowbirds

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3/1-3/7	Week 1	0	242	428	2943	1668	772	343	206
3/8-3/14	Week 2	455	870	795	3402	2112	1774	803	374
3/15-3/21	Week 3	127	1792	3149	7568	6682	2442	2446	589
3/22-3/28	Week 4	160	2609	5605	7711	6839	2786	2981	1033
3/29-4/4	Week 5	367	2487	5044	7220	6723	3569	3573	2093
4/5-4/11	Week 6	764	3799	4215	5721	4608	3110	2721	1344
4/12-4/18	Week 7	1228	2869	3461	4865	2888	2048	2169	1112
4/19-4/25	Week 8	1107	2946	3764	4780	3891	2045	2124	1214
4/26-5/2	Week 9	1293	2621	2866	3790	4647	1483	2483	2013
5/3-5/9	Week 10	818	1878	2204	2872	3018	1023	1839	1496
5/10-5/16	Week 11	1103	1234	1193	1861	1143	733	1125	1243
5/14-5/23	Week 12	763	658	1015	1058	989	389	655	386
5/24-5/31	Week 13	1056	698	2067	1954	1186	603	645	279
6/1-6/20	Week 14	0	904	780	0	0	445	336	1190
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	2288	0	0	91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9241</b>	<b>25607</b>	<b>36586</b>	<b>55745</b>	<b>48715</b>	<b>23222</b>	<b>24243</b>	<b>14663</b>

When weekly trap data for the 2007 season is compared with data from previous years, similar trends can be seen. Weather is likely the most important factor influencing the

peak in numbers of cowbirds trapped. Overall trends show a peak in numbers trapped during weeks 4 or 5 and again in weeks 9 or 10 in most years.

## **Conclusion**

Thanks to the efforts of landowners throughout Texas, cowbird trapping programs are making a difference in decreasing individual songbird nest parasitism rates. Although secondary to habitat management designed to enhance songbird populations, cowbird trapping has become an important practice to increase reproductive success of a diversity of songbirds, especially when used in conjunction with other habitat improvement practices.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department would like to thank all those landowners who are participating in the cowbird trapping program and providing their data to us.



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