

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for April 2017. Jesse Paul took 75 hogs in April. This brings the calendar year total to 261. This month 27 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 48 in traps.

Cowbirds

Jesse Paul caught 314 females and 331 males for a total of 645 cowbirds in April. He reports that there are not nearly as many cowbirds around as in past years, so maybe the trapping program is actually suppressing the population. That's really good news for our other songbirds. You've probably heard this before, but it bears repeating: a female cowbird can lay up to 40 eggs in a season, and each time she lays an egg in another bird's nest, she pecks a hole in one or more of the host's eggs to reduce competition for her chick. Some hosts are capable of raising a cowbird chick and one of their own young, but many of the smaller songbirds raise only the cowbird chick, or nothing at all.

The new trapping period (May - October) is underway. I still have several properties who have not sent in their participation fees yet. I sent out the renewal letters in early April, so if you didn't get it or you misplaced it, I will be sending an electronic copy to you as a reminder this week. Please get those fees in promptly. Thanks!

John Cornelius
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