

Since the project of the Dickcissel night flight calls started in the year 2000, time has shown to be a factor as well as the climate and weather conditions of the Rio Grande Valley. My first guide to the calculations of the number of calls at South Texas were the measures that had been taken by other schools and the Academy itself in the previous years. I noticed that the number of calls in Mission and McAllen were great in numbers compared to the other locations totaling to 8,193 calls in Mission and 9,694 in McAllen in the year 2000.

If you could in a way draw a diagram that would show the comparison of calls throughout the valley no matter the year you would most likely end up with a curve. Starting with Roma the numbers were, to a certain extent, large increasing in number until one got to Mission and McAllen. The numbers here were greater than anywhere else in the valley then decreased going east. The numbers would then have a slight increase after the South Texas Academy and consequently decrease after Harlingen ending with a low number in Laguna Atascosa.

It is then that the numbers in Laguna Atascosa and South Texas were the lowest number of calls registered throughout the years starting from the year 2000. By comparing the weather patterns and the number of bird calls in the radius of Laguna Atascosa it is quite simple to infer the explanation of the difference between the high and low numbers of bird calls. Bird flight might have been possibly but not surely affected by cloud coverage but was indeed notable when changes in wind direction and wind speed occurred. In the night of April 28-29 LAA registered 156 calls. That same night the

wind direction was at an average of 150° degrees while the wind speed was averaged to 13mph. In the night of April 29-30 the number of calls registered was 161 and the average of wind direction was approximately 145° degrees and the wind speed was around 9 mph. During the nights that the wind direction was very far from the 140-160° range and the wind speed was faster than 15mph including gusts of wind the numbers were indeed dramatically low. By this comparison and an adequate judgment of the previous call records I estimate that the number of total calls in the year 2004 at the South Texas Academy was of 550 calls judging from the anterior low records SAT has received from previous years compared as well to the other record keeping locations.