



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. 94931 (707) 285-2200 FAX: 285-2210 www.msosquito.com

~ News Release ~

Contact: *Chris Canterbury*
(Public Relations Director)
(707-285-2200)
(707-285-2210) FAX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONE MORE BIRD TO TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN SONOMA COUNTY

(Cotati), California August 31, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Sonoma County. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird.

One more bird has tested positive for West Nile virus by the **Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District** in cooperation with the California State Health Department.

The bird was reported from the following location: One (1) American Crow from the city of Sonoma in the vicinity of Arnold Drive submitted on 08/25/06. **This year, 9 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (6 in Sonoma and 3 in Marin) along with 1 Western Gray Squirrel and 1 mosquito pool in Marin County. The detection of WNV in wild birds, squirrels and mosquitoes indicates the virus is present in both counties.** No human cases have been reported positive at this time in either Marin or Sonoma County. The District is checking all known mosquito breeding sites and setting adult mosquito traps in the areas where the bird has been found. **We ask that the public remain diligent in their own mosquito control efforts by checking their yards for breeding sources since they are generally the main source for mosquitoes.**

Symptoms of WNV range from mild flu-like conditions, such as fever, headache, and nausea to a stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however, fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District along with Dr. Fred Schwartz, Marin County Public Health Officer and Dr. Leigh Hall, Sonoma County Deputy Health Officer are reminding citizens to take these protective measures:

- Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn.
- When engaging in outdoor activities, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Products containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin are the most effective, while oil of lemon eucalyptus is another option.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Cover septic tanks and screen roof vent pipes.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property.
- Remove water from rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, plastic containers.
- Report dead birds.

Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov>. The toll-free line to report a dead bird is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).