



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND BIRD FOUND THIS WEEK WITH WEST NILE VIRUS IN SONOMA COUNTY

(Cotati), California September 3rd, 2004 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Sonoma and Marin 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 WNV in Sonoma County by the **Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District** in cooperation with the California State Health Department.

The Western Screech Owl was reported on August 18th in the area of Redwood Hill Rd. and Mark West Springs Rd. in the City of Santa Rosa. This brings the total of WNV positive dead birds to twenty-four in the two counties (18 in Sonoma County and 6 in Marin County). The detection of WNV in wild birds indicates the virus is present. No human cases or mosquito pools have been reported positive at this time in either County. The District is checking all know mosquito breeding sites and setting adult mosquito traps in the areas where the birds have 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. There is no vaccine for WNV.

- 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 have been proven to be the most effective.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Remove water from rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, plastic containers, and any other areas that contain standing water.
- Report dead crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors that have been dead for less than 24 hrs. On Line Reporting is Preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov/deadbird.cfm> .The toll-free line to report dead birds is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).
- Horses are susceptible to mosquito-borne viruses and should be vaccinated.
- For more mosquito control ideas, or to report unusual mosquito activity, contact the District at **(707-285-2200)** for more information.

