



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MORE BIRDS TEST POSITIVE IN SONOMA COUNTY WITH WEST NILE VIRUS

(Cotati), California September 8th 2005, 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.

Three birds have tested positive this week for WNV in Sonoma County by the **Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District** in cooperation with the California State Health Department.

The birds were reported from the following areas: 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk collected on 8/26/2005 from Sonoma in the area of Thornsberry Rd., 1 Western Scrub-jay in Healdsburg in the area of Fitch Mountain Rd. collected on 8/22/2005, and 1 Yellow Warbler from Santa Rosa in the area of Hartley Rd. collected on 8/24/2005. **This year 37 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma County (30 in Sonoma and 7 in Marin).** The detection of WNV in wild birds indicates the virus is present in both counties. We have also had one human and one horse case reported positive this year in Sonoma County.

Residents are encouraged to call the District to report mosquito problems, request mosquito-eating fish, or to request an inspection. This District is a public health agency and these services are provided to residents at no additional charge.

West Nile virus is now a part of our natural environment. We encourage the public to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones from mosquito bites and help us break the mosquito life cycle by dumping out standing water. This is a community issue and we need everyone's help!

The District is checking all know mosquito breeding sites and setting adult mosquito traps in the areas where the birds were found. 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. Adults over the age of 50 are at highest risk for severe illness and fatality. There is currently 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. Use an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those containing DEET, picaridin, soybean oil or oil of lemon eucalyptus. DEET and Picaridin have been shown to have the highest efficacy. Check labels and/or with your doctor regarding appropriateness for children and duration of protection.
- 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 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 information:

- Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District <http://www.msosquito.com/westnile.html> and #800-231-3236.
- County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services: www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/hh/main/hs/PublicHealth/WNV/WNV.cfm and Warmline # 415-499-3236 (English, Spanish, Vietnamese)
- Sonoma County Health Department: www.sonoma-county.org/health/ph/phpreparedness/wnv/index.htm

- California Department of Health Services: www.westnile.ca.gov/ and #877-WNV-BIRD
- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm and #888-246-2675
- National Pesticide Information Center (for information on repellants): <http://npic.orst.edu> and #800-858-7378

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