

MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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

~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2007

2nd West Nile Virus Positive Bird Found in Sonoma County -Surveillance traps set in the area

(Cotati), California September 18, 2007-The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that another Western Scrub-Jay tested positive for West Nile Virus in Santa Rosa. "It is apparent by the discovery of another positive bird that West Nile virus is active and residents should take actions to reduce mosquito productions on their property" District Manager, Jim Wanderscheid said. "One improperly maintained pool or even a broken water pipe under a home can produce enough mosquitoes to put an entire neighborhood at risk for West Nile virus transmission." Wanderscheid stated.

Adult mosquito traps have been set in the area to ascertain the abundance of mosquitoes and whether or not those mosquitoes are carrying the virus. Anyone experiencing a mosquito problem should contact the District at 707-285-2200.

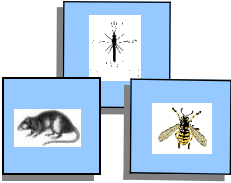
West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on an infected bird.

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:

- Be aware of 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.
- 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 including rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, and plastic containers.
- Report mosquito problems to the District at 1-800-231-3236 or 707-285-2200
- Report all dead birds and squirrels.

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).



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2nd WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE BIRD
IN SONOMA COUNTY

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2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 2 birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 humans, 0 mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: No detection of WNV

2006 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 21 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 2 mosquito pools, 0 humans, 1 sentinel chicken tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 8 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 3 mosquito pools, 1 human, 1 Western Gray squirrel, 2 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus.

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