

MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2007

FIVE DEAD BIRDS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

-Four additional birds discovered in Sonoma County and One more in Marin County

(Cotati), California October 4, 2007-The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation from the California State Health Department that five (5) dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus; four (4) from Sonoma County and one (1) from Marin County.

The birds were reported from the following locations: One (1) American Crow from the City of Sebastopol found in the Johnston Street area and submitted on 09/19/07; One (1) Lesser Goldfinch from the Town of Geyserville found in the Lytton Station Road area and submitted on 09/23/07; One California Towhee from the City of Santa Rosa found in the Halyard Drive area and submitted on 9/19/07; One Western Scrub-Jay from the City of Healdsburg found in the Norton Road area and submitted on 09/19/07; One Lesser Goldfinch from the City of Novato found in the Fairway Drive area and submitted on 09/14/07.

“As summer comes to an end and we begin to prepare for winter, we would like to remind the public to check their yards for containers that can hold water” District Manager Jim Wanderscheid said. “Empty and store kiddie pools, turn over wheelbarrows, store pots upside down, clean your gutters; if you do these simple tasks now while it is on your mind it can help reduce mosquito production especially after the rain subsides. Wanderscheid stressed.

2007 West Nile virus activity:

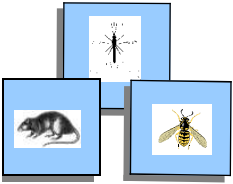
Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 7 birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens, 1 mosquito pool have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 3 birds have tested positive for West Nile virus.

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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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 is a public health agency funded by property taxes and committed to protecting the public from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease. Please visit our website for more information www.ms mosquito.com or call us toll-free at 1-800-231-3236.

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