



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five Birds Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Marin and Sonoma Counties

(Cotati), California October 11, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Marin and Sonoma Counties again. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird.

Five more birds have tested positive for WNV in Marin and Sonoma Counties by the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District in cooperation with the California State Health Department. The birds were reported from the following locations: Two (2) American Crows from the City of Sonoma; one in the vicinity of Hyde Road submitted on 10/09/06 and the second in the vicinity of The Plaza submitted on 10/02/06, one (1) American Crow from the Town of Windsor in the vicinity of Windsor Road submitted on 10/06/06, one (1) Western Scrub-Jay from the City of Petaluma in the vicinity of Chapman Lane submitted on 10/02/06 and one (1) American Crow from the City of San Rafael in the vicinity of Hubble Court submitted on 10/02/06. **This year, 24 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (17 in Sonoma County and 7 in Marin County) along with 1 Western Gray Squirrel in Marin County, 2 mosquito pool in Marin County, 1 mosquito pool in Sonoma County; 2 horse deaths (1 in Sonoma County and 1 in Marin County), 1 human case in Marin County and two sentinel chickens in Marin County. The detection of WNV in wild birds and other animals indicated the virus is present in both counties.**

“The fact that birds are continuing to test positive for West Nile Virus reaffirms that this vector-borne disease is not going away. Residents need to continue to be diligent in their efforts to minimize mosquito production by checking their properties for any type of standing water. Even something as small as plant saucers can produce hundreds of mosquitoes” Nizza Sequeira, Assistant Public Relations Director said.

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).

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