



Marin/Sonoma

Mosquito & Vector Control District

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL BIRDS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

(Cotati), California October 18, 2007-The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation from the California State Health Department that four (4) dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus in Sonoma County.

The birds were reported from the following location: One (1) Western Scrub-Jay submitted on 10/02/07 collected from the area of San Miguel Rd in the City of Santa Rosa; One(1)American Crow submitted on 10/10/07 collected from the area of Kresky Way in Petaluma; One American Crow submitted on 10/16/07 collected from the area of Washington Street in Santa Rosa and One (1) American Crow submitted on 10/10/07 collected from the area of Ragle Ranch Road in Sebastopol.

District staff will be searching the areas where dead birds were found looking for anything that could be producing mosquitoes. "Marin and Sonoma Counties are unique in the fact that we have mosquitoes year-round. In the two counties there are twenty-two (22) species each with its own characteristics such as feeding habits, flight range, water source preferences, and ability to transmit disease." District Manager Jim Wanderscheid said. "We always encourage residents to call if they are experiencing a mosquito problem or find potential mosquito producing areas" Wanderscheid stated.

2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 12 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.

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.msosquito.com or call us toll-free at 1-800-231-3236.

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