



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Birds Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Sonoma County

(Cotati), California October 19, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Sonoma County again. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird.

Two more birds have tested positive 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 locations: One (1) American Crow from the City of Santa Rosa in the vicinity of Meadow Lane submitted on 10/12/06 and one (1) Red-tailed Hawk from the City of Santa Rosa in the vicinity of Leddy Avenue submitted on 09/22/06. **This year, 26 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (19 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.**

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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