



Marin/Sonoma
Mosquito & Vector Control District
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~ News Release ~

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2007

BIRDS CONTINUE TO TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

-Sonoma County takes lead over Marin with 17 positive birds thus far.

(Cotati), California October 25, 2007-The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation from the California State Health Department that four (2) 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 10/17/07 collected from the area of Hoen Avenue in the City of Santa Rosa and One(1) American Crow submitted on 10/18/07 collected from the area of Hembree Way in Windsor.

Surveillance has been conducted in both areas revealing no major source of mosquito production. "With the increase of temperatures due to our Indian Summer we may experience a boost in mosquito production." District Manager Jim Wanderscheid said. "We plan to continue our general surveillance to ensure that the public's health is protected as well as helping to make the last days of summer comfortable and mosquito free." Wanderscheid stated.

2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 14 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.ms mosquito.com or call us toll-free at 1-800-231-3236.

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