



MARIN/SONOMA  
MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT  
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## ~ News Release ~

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 3, 2008

### **Two More Dead Birds Test Positive For West Nile Virus in Sonoma County**

**COTATI, CALIFORNIA-** The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that two more dead birds have tested positive for West Nile virus this week. The following birds tested positive for WNV in Sonoma County this week: *One (1) American Crow found in the vicinity of Valentine Avenue in Sebastopol was submitted on 09/23/08; One (1) Domestic Goose found in the vicinity of Willowside Road in Santa Rosa was submitted on 09/18/08.* “With the forecast of rain this weekend residents are encouraged to be proactive by checking their yards for items that may hold water” said Jim Wanderscheid, District Manager of the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District. “By removing, tarping or turning over items that could hold water, before it rains, residents can reduce the chances of breeding mosquitoes in their own backyards” said Wanderscheid. For more information or to obtain a backyard checklist visit the District’s website at [www.ms mosquito.com](http://www.ms mosquito.com).

Protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes by following these simple tips:

- Be aware that 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. Repellents containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin or oil of lemon are most effective.
- 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.

#### **2008 West Nile virus activity:**

**Sonoma County:** 1 mosquito pool and 6 dead birds have tested positive for West Nile virus.

**Marin County:** 1 dead bird has tested positive for West Nile virus.

#### **2007 West Nile virus activity:**

**Sonoma County:** 2 equine cases, 1 human, 19 dead birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens and 1 mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile virus.

**Marin County:** 4 dead birds 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 include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

#### **Report all dead birds and squirrels.**

Online reporting is preferred at [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov) or Call toll free at 1-877-WNV-BIRD

*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.*

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