



**MARIN/SONOMA  
MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**  
**595 Helman Lane, Cotati Ca 94931 ~1.800.231.3236~www.msosquito**

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## ~ News Release ~

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### **Dead Bird Collected From Windsor Tests Positive for WNV**

*~Residents are urged to report potential mosquito breeding sites.*

**(Cotati)**, California August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008- The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that a Western Scrub Jay from the Town of Windsor has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV); the second positive bird in Sonoma County this year. The bird was collected yesterday, August 6, 2008, in the vicinity of Windsor Palms Drive and Jay Bird Way.

“This past week we have had a total of one positive mosquito sample and two positive birds. These are all indicators that WNV is present and active in both counties.” stated Nizza Sequeira, Public Relations Director for the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District. “We are asking for the support and participation of the public in reporting potential breeding sites, especially neglected swimming pools.” stressed Sequeira. Backyard sources are the number one place mosquito production can be found. Mosquitoes need only a tablespoon of water to complete their life cycle; from egg to adult in approximately 5 to 7 days. Common backyard sources include, bird baths, neglected swimming pools, broken water pipes, ponds, animal water dishes, fountains, and septic tanks. Mosquito problems can be reported by calling the District at 1.800. 231.3236 or online at [www.msosquito.com](http://www.msosquito.com).

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

**Sonoma County:** 1 mosquito pool and 1 dead bird 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.

#### **2006 West Nile virus activity:**

**Sonoma County:** 21 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 2 mosquito pools, 0 humans and 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, and 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.

#### **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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