



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 20, 2006

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### **TWO MORE DEAD BIRDS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

*-Fourth bird tests positive in Oakley, first positive bird in Concord-*

**CONCORD, CALIFORNIA** - - Another dead western scrub jay found in Oakley has tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was found in the vicinity of Laurel Road and Empire Avenue. This is the fourth dead bird to test positive for the virus in Oakley so far this year. The other bird, an American crow found in Concord near Highway 4 and Laura Alice, tested positive for West Nile virus as well, bringing the total to six positive birds in Contra Costa County to date. No other cases of West Nile virus have been detected in the county this year.

“Warmer weather means mosquitoes develop faster, which means we have the potential for more mosquitoes,” said Carlos Sanabria, operations manager for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. “Every mosquito counts in the long run and I can’t stress it enough that the public needs to maintain their swimming pools and check their yards at least once every five days for standing water.”

Last year in Contra Costa County there were 11 human cases, 94 dead birds, 18 chickens, four mosquito samples\*, ten horses, and 25 squirrels that tested positive for West Nile virus. So far in California this year, there have been three human cases, 97 dead birds, seven chickens, 62 mosquito samples, and one horse that have tested positive for the virus.

Most people who are bitten by a mosquito with WNV will not get sick; however, up to 20 percent of the population infected with WNV will get West Nile fever. West Nile fever causes people to experience mild to severe flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body ache and possible paralysis. Less than one percent of infected individuals will require hospitalization. The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are most susceptible to illness and death caused by WNV.

Residents are urged to take the following precautions:

**DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using a repellent with an effective active ingredient such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure to follow label directions.  
**DRAIN** all sources of standing water that may support mosquito-breeding habitats. Residential sources are the biggest producer of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County.

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DOOR and window screens should fit tight and be in good repair. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

DO vaccinate your horses. Horses are highly susceptible to West Nile virus – approximately half of the horses that get WNV die or are euthanized.

DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoor since this is when mosquitoes are most active.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors and mosquitoes are present.

DEAD birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473). Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

To learn if the District is spraying for adult mosquitoes in your neighborhood in Contra Costa County, please visit the district's website at [www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us](http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us) or call (925) 685-9301 for a recorded message.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 685-9301, or visit their office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs.

To report dead birds or to learn of your local mosquito control district, call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

For information concerning West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at [www.ccpublichealth.org](http://www.ccpublichealth.org)

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at [www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\\_info.htm](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm) or call them at (916) 654-1447.

\* Mosquito samples: Mosquitoes are trapped, collected from the field, and then the females are pooled together by species. Each pool contains one to 50 mosquitoes. Each sample is tested for the presence of St. Louis encephalitis, Western Equine encephalomyelitis and West Nile viruses.