

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS **--Mosquito Control's Ongoing Surveillance Program Finds Another Warning Sign**

ELK GROVE, Calif. May 29, 2008--- The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that a Western Scrubjay found in the Antelope area of north Sacramento has tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the second bird that has tested positive for the virus in the District's service area for 2008, but it is the first bird found in an urban area. "We saw a rise in the temperatures a few weeks ago and mosquitoes are definitely out" said David Brown, District Manager. "It is extremely important that the public drain any standing water around their home and take the necessary precautions to protect themselves. More people are out and about in the early morning and evening hours, so please dress appropriately or wear an effective mosquito repellent." The District will intensify efforts in the area where the dead bird was found by doing extensive adult mosquito trapping and treating larval sources. The first bird, an American Crow was found near Herald back in March.

The District is also asking for the public's cooperation in reporting neglected swimming pools producing mosquitoes. Of special concern is the fact that many neighbors are taking matters into their own hands and are throwing chlorine in the green pools. "Many times we will have already treated the pool with mosquito eating fish and the chlorine will kill them, the best thing is to call the District and we'll address the situation" said Brown.

Tonight, the District is sponsoring an educational community forum to educate and inform residents about mosquitoes, West Nile virus and District services. It will be held at the Oak Park Community Center located at 3425 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The public is invited to attend. For additional forum dates and locations in our area, visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net

West Nile virus:

According to the Centers for Disease Control, West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in 1999 in New York city. Since then, it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever. The virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

2008 West Nile virus activity update for Sacramento and Yolo Counties

Level 2—This year, 2 birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

DAWN and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside.

DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions!

DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition.

DISTRICT personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visiting the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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