

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A BIRD FOUND IN THE POCKET AREA TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS **--Infected Birds Have Been Found in Different Areas of Sacramento County**

ELK GROVE, Calif. June 4, 2008--- The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that an American Crow found in the **Pocket area** in the City of Sacramento has tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the **third** bird that has tested positive in the current season and it the **second** bird found in an **urban** area. "Finding this bird is significant because it shows that West Nile virus activity is spreading throughout our region" said David Brown, District Manager. "Thus far we have found infected dead birds in the southern, northern and central part of our county. It continues to be critical that residents drain any sources of standing water around their homes and that people protect themselves with a good repellent." The District will elevate efforts in the area where the dead bird was found, continuing to do trapping of adult mosquitoes and treating any known breeding sources. In the past weeks, West Nile virus activity has also intensified in other areas of the Sacramento valley within our region.

An issue that continues to be of concern is the high number of neglected swimming pools in the area. The District is asking for the public's cooperation in reporting un-maintained swimming pools that could be producing mosquitoes. One neglected pool can produce thousands of mosquitoes and infect an entire neighborhood. Reports can be made anonymously by calling 1-800-429-1022.

As part of its public information efforts, **tonight** the District will hold an educational community forum in Rancho Cordova. It will be at the Cordova Community Center located at 2197 Chase Dr. from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The public is invited to attend. The last forum in this series will be held on June 19th in North Highlands. For additional information 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, **3** 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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