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West Nile Virus found in dead bird

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Originally published 12:15 p.m., June 19, 2009
Updated 12:15 p.m., June 19, 2009

A dead bird found in Shasta County has tested positive for West Nile Virus at U.C. Davis.

The savannah sparrow was retrieved in North Redding by the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District on June 4 and sent to the Davis lab for testing. West Nile Virus, which is spread by infected mosquitoes, has infected at least one person in Shasta County each year since 2004. The virus, though rare, can be fatal to humans.

The Shasta County West Nile Virus Task Force outlined the following tips to prevent the spread of the virus: Drain standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs, avoid being outside during dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, use insect repellents and dress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active. Public Health officials advise Shasta County residents to contact their health care providers immediately if symptoms of the virus are present including high fever, severe headache and stiff neck.

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