

California Arbovirus Surveillance Bulletin # 6

Week 21 Friday, May 28, 2004

Weekly Summary

California Weekly Summary Comments:

Dead Birds:

The hotline received 1745 reported dead birds last week (YTD = 4936). As it was reported in the last week's bulletin, the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) reported 36 dead birds tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) via RT-PCR that included 32 crows, three ravens, and one house sparrow from Los Angeles (25), Riverside (3), and San Bernardino (8) counties. The ravens and sparrow were the first non-crows and non-corvid of the year. Currently, the yearly total stands at fifty-two positive dead birds from LA County (38), Riverside (4), San Bernardino (9) and Ventura (1) counties.

News Flash:

CVEC has just reported a total of 157 WNV positive bird carcasses from Los Angeles (60), Riverside (22), and San Bernardino (75) counties. The tally included 153 crows, 2 scrub jays, 1 raven, and 1 black phoebe. The complete list will be published in next week bulletin.

Mosquito Pools:

CVEC reported seven pools of *Culex tarsalis* collected on 5/12 from sites near Mecca (Riverside County) and one pool of *Culex quinquefasciatus* collected from South El Monte (Los Angeles County) on 5/11, tested positive for WNV.

All of the human, chicken and equine samples tested negative for arboviruses this week.

Website Information:

For updated information on WNV, please visit the California WNV website, www.westnile.ca.gov; the CDC website, www.cdc.gov; and the USGS website, www.westnilemaps.usgs.gov. Please go to the Vector website at <http://vector.ucdavis.edu/arbo.html> for flock location and more information on WNV and other vector-borne diseases.

POSITIVES

Dead Birds Tested Positive for WNV last week

Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91006	5/6/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Hacienda Heights	91745	5/6/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	El Monte	91732	5/6/2004	5/19/2004
House Sparrow	Riverside	Riverside	92504	5/6/2004	5/19/2004
Common Raven	Los Angeles	La Puente	91744	5/7/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Fontana	92335	5/7/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	West Covina	91790	5/7/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	West Covina	91791	5/7/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Whittier	90606	5/9/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Bloomington	92316	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91007	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Monrovia	91016	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Cerritos	90703	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	San Gabriel	91775	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	92405	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Cerritos	90703	5/10/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Riverside	Riverside	92501	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
Common Raven	Los Angeles	Hacienda Heights	91745	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Temple City	91780	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	West Covina	91791	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Montclair	91763	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
Common Raven	Los Angeles	Whittier	90604	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Fontana	92335	5/11/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	West Covina	91790	5/12/2004	5/19/2004

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Species	County	City	Zip Code	Date Collected	Date Tested
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91007	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Rosemead	91770	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91007	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Whittier	90605	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Whittier	90605	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91007	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Arcadia	91006	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Riverside	Riverside	92506	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	Los Angeles	Monrovia	91016	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Rialto	92376	5/12/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Rialto	92376	5/13/2004	5/19/2004
American Crow	San Bernardino	Highland	92346	5/13/2004	5/19/2004

Virus Isolations From Mosquito Pools:

Virus	Mosquito species	Date Collected	ACODE	Pool #	City	County	Date Received
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	419	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	421	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	422	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	423	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	424	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WMV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	425	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex tarsalis	12-May	COAV	426	Mecca	Riverside	20-May
WNV	Culex quinquefasciatus	11-May	GRLA	299	South El Monte	Los Angeles	20-May

TESTING SUMMARIES

Humans and Equines

		Number Tested	WNV Positive		WEE Positive		SLE Positive		Other Positive	
			Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local	Imported	Local
Individuals Tested	Week	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect Equine Cases	Week	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	YTD	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Dead Birds

	Number Tested	WNV Positive
Week	95	36
YTD	522	52

Sentinel Chickens and Mosquito Pools

		Number Tested	WNV Positive	WEE Positive	SLE Positive	Other Positive
Chicken sera	Week	883	0	0	0	0
	YTD	6395	0	0	0	0
Mosquito pools	Week	570	8	0	0	0
	YTD	2266	19	0	0	0

National Comments:

As of May 26, 2004, West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been detected in 18 states, with New Mexico, Ohio, and Oklahoma reporting their first activity this week. New Mexico announced the first human case on Wednesday, May 26, 2004. A second human case was reported from Arizona on Thursday, May 27, 2004. The human case previously reported in Ohio was determined to be negative for WNV infection upon further testing.

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Dead Birds:

Dead bird kidney tissues are tested at CVEC using the PCR Taqman assay, subsequent to carcass necropsy at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratories. Organ pools from PCR positive carcasses are tested using cell culture for virus isolation. The WNV Dead Bird Surveillance Coordinator, Ryan Carney, can be reached directly at (510) 412-6251.

Sentinel Chickens:

Dried blood spot specimens from sentinel chickens submitted each week to the DHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) are tested for the presence of antibodies to West Nile virus (WNV), western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), and St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) viruses by EIA and IFA. The VRDL performs additional testing (including Plaque Reduction Neutralization (PRNT) and IgM Capture – Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (MAC-ELISA)) on specimens from sentinel chickens in which antibodies are detected in new geographic areas. The VRDL also forwards selected serum to the UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases (CVEC) for additional testing for WNV, WEE, and SLE antibodies as needed.

Mosquito Pools:

All mosquito pools are screened for WEE, SLE, and WNV viral RNA using a Taqman multiplex RT-PCR. All species except *Culex tarsalis* are also tested for California Encephalitis via EIA. All positive pools are confirmed by both singleplex RT-PCR as well as *in situ* EIA.

Prepared by the Vector-Borne Disease Section (Infectious Diseases Branch) and the Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Branch, Division of Communicable Disease Control, California Department of Health Services, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804. Questions concerning this bulletin should be addressed to Al Hom by phone (510) 412-6254, FAX (510) 412-6263, or email [ahom@dhs.ca.gov].
