

BAY COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

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Community Initiatives
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TOM HICKNER
County Executive

Press Release

First West Nile Positive Bird in Bay County

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2013

Contact: Bay County Mosquito Control, Thomas J. Putt or Mary J. McCarry, Phone: (989) 894-4555, FAX: (989) 894-0526

A crow collected last week on the west side of Bay City has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

“Since 2002, when WNV was at its peak, we have picked up positive birds or mosquitoes nearly every year.

This is typically the time of year when the virus builds in bird populations, so it’s important for people to take precautions to help prevent WNV,” said Tom Putt, Bay County Mosquito Control Director.

Simple measures can help prevent infection:

- Apply insect repellents
- Empty standing water from containers or plastic wading pools or store them upside down
- Mosquito-proof your home by installing screens
- Keep ditches, drains, and culverts clear of weeds and trash for proper drainage
- Change bird bath water weekly
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed so adult mosquitoes will not rest there for harborage during the day
- Use fine mesh screen on the top of rain barrels to prevent female adults from reaching the water surface to lay eggs.

Locally, Saginaw County has reported West Nile activity in two birds. Statewide, Michigan has reported no human cases this year, but activity often peaks in August or September so residents should

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continue awareness throughout the summer.

Bay County Mosquito Control (BCMC) has initiated adulticiding (controlling adult female mosquitoes) and larviciding (controlling immature mosquito stages) in the immediate area of the detection and will continue outward until the entire area has been treated and mosquito populations (as detected through various traps) have decreased. Mosquito and bird surveillance will continue; Bay County residents are encouraged to call BCMC at (989) 894-4555 to report any dead birds.

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