



MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT of SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

March 2023

Vector-borne Disease Surveillance

Santa Barbara County's March weather went "in like a lion," switched between "lion" and "lamb" every couple of days, and also went "out like a lion." It was too cold, windy, and rainy for mosquito trapping. Good trapping conditions consist of a low temperature above 50°F, with no precipitation, and wind speed less than 12 mph (under 15 mph for windy areas like Oceano and Lompoc). Fortunately, the April forecast looks promising.

One dead bird, an unidentified species of water fowl, was reported near the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. However, it was gone when the reporting party went back to collect it.

Two trails were surveyed for ticks by flagging* last month.

1. 3/20/2023 **San Antonio Creek Trail** SW of Hwy 154 – Western black-legged tick, *Ixodes pacificus*: 3 males, 1 female; Western American dog tick, *Dermacentor similis*: 1 male, 1 female.
2. 3/28/2023 **Cold Springs Trail**, Montecito – *I. pacificus*: 18 males, 18 females

* Visit <https://www.mvmdistrict.org/tick-talk> for an explanation of tick flagging and more information about ticks.

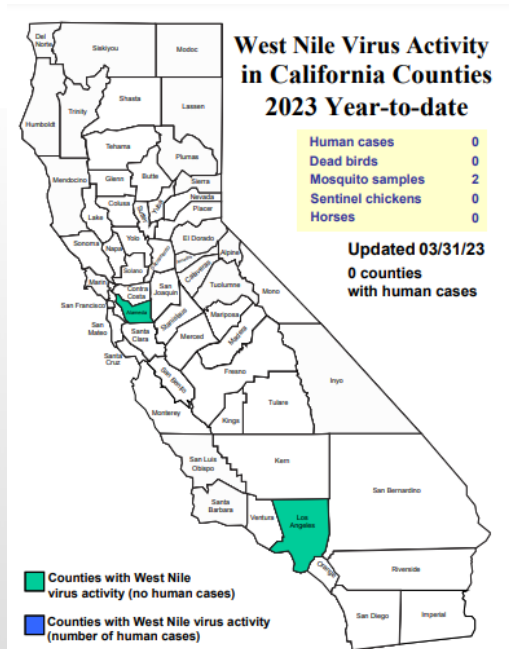
California Disease Surveillance

Two mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus unusually early in the year. One sample was from Alameda County, and the other was from Los Angeles County.

Did you know?

West Nile virus is the most common and serious vector-borne disease in California. There have been more than 7,000 human cases and over 300 deaths reported in California since 2003. The mosquitoes that spread WNV are found throughout the state.

www.westnile.ca.gov



Counties with *Aedes aegypti* only:

Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Riverside, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo

Both *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*:

Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Sacramento, Shasta

www.cdph.ca.gov

Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito and Zika Virus Update

No invasive *Aedes* species have been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date, in 2023.

Crane Flies *Tipulidae*

Sometimes the District receives reports of GIANT mosquitoes, and these usually turn out to be crane flies. There are 1,458 species of crane flies in the insect family *Tipulidae*. They range in size from 1/16 inch to 1-1/2 inches, and they have very long, delicate legs. The larger species have a wingspan of up to 3-inches and are also known as “mosquito hawks,” “skeeter eaters,” or “daddy long-legs.” Contrary to common belief, they do not feed on blood or eat mosquitoes. They lack the long, needle-like sucking mouth part of a mosquito. Some adult crane flies have short mouthparts for ingesting flower nectar, but most species have no functional mouthparts and focus only on reproducing during their short adult life stage. They are valuable food items for bats, birds, lizards, spiders, and predatory insects. Skunks and other animals may damage lawns while digging for crane fly larvae.

Male—blunt, bulging rear end



PantherMediaSeller

Female—pointed ovipositor (for egg-laying)



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Larva--eats decomposing organic matter in soil or water

Common Name: Crane Fly
Class: Insecta
Order: Diptera **Family:** Tipulidae
Ecological niche: scavenger, decomposer
Distinguishing characteristics: fleshy body with swollen rings at each segmental junction; finger-like gills at end of abdomen; no obvious head or mouthparts
 North Carolina State University



Orange County MVCD