

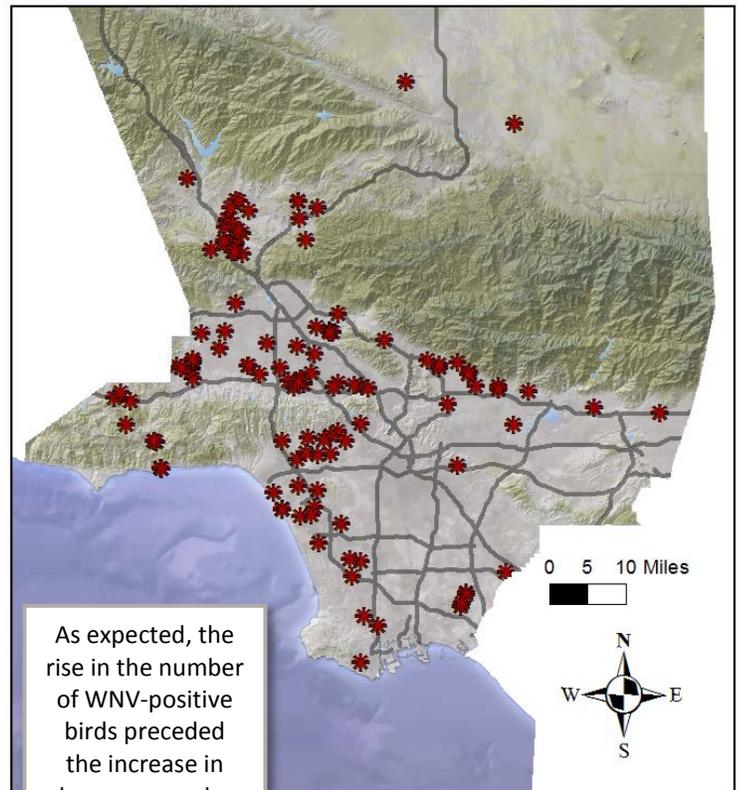
Testing dead birds in Los Angeles County for West Nile Virus (WNV) helps identify potential areas of elevated WNV risk for humans. Birds tend to die from WNV before human cases appear. Birds dying from WNV can also infect local mosquitoes. Therefore, discovery of WNV in dead birds serves as an early warning of the virus being active in the environment. This year, clusters of WNV-positive birds in Santa Clarita and Los Angeles may indicate that these are areas of higher risk for human WNV exposure. For more information or to report a dead bird, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/WNV.htm>. Learn more about WNV in people at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorwestnile.htm>.

In 2016, a total of 188 reported dead birds were tested for WNV in Los Angeles County. 124 (66%) were positive. Most birds that tested positive for WNV were American Crows (88%).

In May, there was a sudden increase in the number and percentage of birds testing positive for WNV (Fig 2). This shows that the WNV season started in May, about one month earlier than it did last year.

Altadena and zip codes starting with 913 in the city of Los Angeles had the highest percentage of WNV-positive birds this year, 100% and 84.6%, respectively.

Fig 1. West Nile Virus Positive Birds by location where found, Los Angeles County, 2016



As expected, the rise in the number of WNV-positive birds preceded the increase in human cases by about one month.

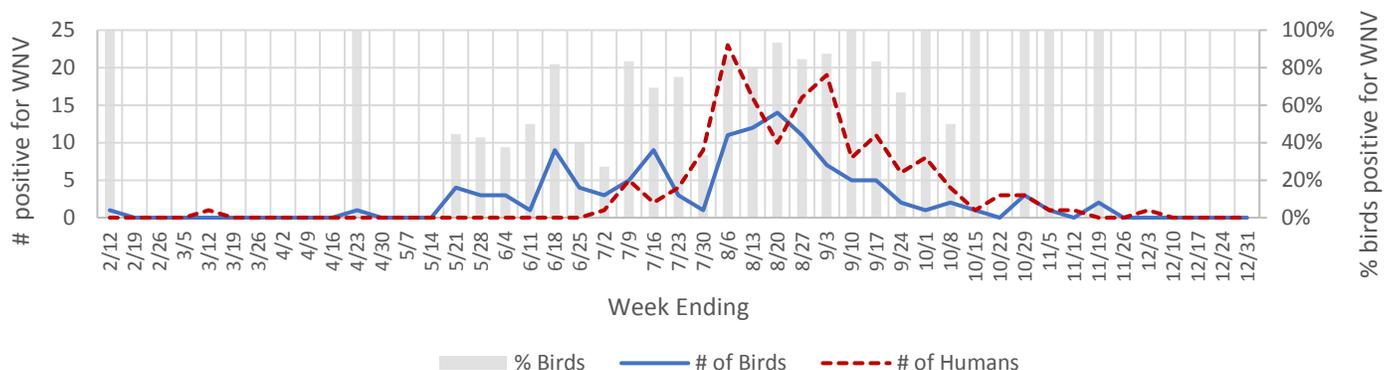
* West Nile Positive Birds
— Freeway

Table 1. Top 5 cities/regions with the highest percentage of dead birds that tested positive for WNV*

City/region	% positive	# positive
1. Altadena	100.0%	5
2. LA City, zip codes starting with 913	84.6%	22
3. LA City, zip codes starting with 914	80.0%	8
4. Santa Clarita	75.0%	24
5. Agoura Hills	66.7%	4

*includes only cities/regions that had 5 or more birds tested

Fig 2. Dead birds tested and human cases that were positive for WNV, by week Los Angeles County, 2016



These data were compiled by the West Nile Virus Surveillance Program of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This program is collaborative effort involving the public, vector control agencies, animal control agencies, wildlife rehabilitators, CDPH, and the Veterinary Public Health Program of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. 7.20.2017 JL EB