COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Operations and Surveillance Report

FEBRUARY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

DON'T BE A TICK MAGNET

Tick ticks off by learning all you can about them.

Ticks dwell in habitats such as grassy areas, tree trunks, and fallen branches. If you go into such habitats, follow these tick safety tips:

- Wear long pants, long sleeves, and long socks
- Wear closed-toe shoes, and light-colored clothing with a tight weave to easily spot ticks
- Inspect yourself, kids, and pets frequently while being outdoors
- Consider using repellent
- Inspect for ticks again after leaving the outdoors

Visit sccvector.org for a full tick checklist.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Nayer Zahiri
County of Santa Clara
Vector Control District Manager

I am grateful for the amazing staff of the Santa Clara County Vector Control District (SCCVCD) and the Santa Clara County community, because of their awareness and dedication to reduce vector–borne diseases.

West Nile virus (WNV) is now considered to be endemic in the state of California and remains the District's largest public health concern. In 2003, when WNV was first detected in California, 6,797 human infections with 302 fatalities were confirmed. The team at the SCCVCD is resourceful in protecting the environment, improving public health, and providing a strong foundation for the County's economy.

SCCVCD staff continues to control unmaintained swimming pools, catch basins, storm drains, curbs, and retention ponds that breed mosquito larvae and have the potential to spread dangerous human diseases.

The mission of SCCVCD is to detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, abate mosquitoes, and assist the public in resolving problems that can cause diseases, discomfort, or injury to the public of Santa Clara County. The prevention of vector-born disease outbreaks remains the District's primary goal and its most important responsibility to the public.

Respectfully,

Nayer Zahiri

SERVICES AVAILABLE

SCCVCD is committed to protecting the public from vectors that are capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The services listed below are provided to the public of Santa Clara County for FREE:

- Response to customer initiated service requests for identification, advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes, rodents, wildlife, and miscellaneous invertebrates (ticks, yellowjackets, cockroaches, bees, fleas, flies, and others)
- K-12 educational presentations and hands-on activities tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies.
- Educational presentations for homeowner associations, private businesses, civic groups, and other interested organizations
- Educational booths for community, corporate, or school events
- Informational material on all vectors and vector-borne diseases
- Delivery of mosquitofish to control mosquito populations. Mosquitofish is a topminnow (Gabusia affinis), that is a natural predator of larval and pupal stage mosquitoes.

A VECTOR is any animal that can transmit diseases to animals or people.

OPERATIONS REPORT

The District employs seasonal staff to check and treat mosquito larvae in flooded street stormwater catch basins, curbs, naturally breeding sources, and ponds.

These sites hold standing water due to the rainfall or urban runoff from domestic water usage.

Stagnant water in these areas, and in neglected swimming pools, can breed mosquitoes that can carry dangerous human diseases like West Nile virus.

Santa Clara County Vector Control District actively monitors such locations to prevent these local nuisances from emerging and potentially spreading diseases.

February Updates

- Staff inspected 385 locations throughout the County and treated 79 of them (Figure 1).
- In February, the District placed mosquitofish in two locations. The District will restart delivering FREE fish in April to stock in backyards sites like fountains, ponds, and rain barrels.
- As a part of the Annual Mosquito Prevention Program, specifically for the winter salt marsh mosquito (Aedes squamiger), the District initiated an aerial application of larvicides at the Flood Basin in Palo Alto. The operation covered about 470 acres and successfully controlled the mosquito larvae (Figure 2).

OPERATIONS REPORT DATA

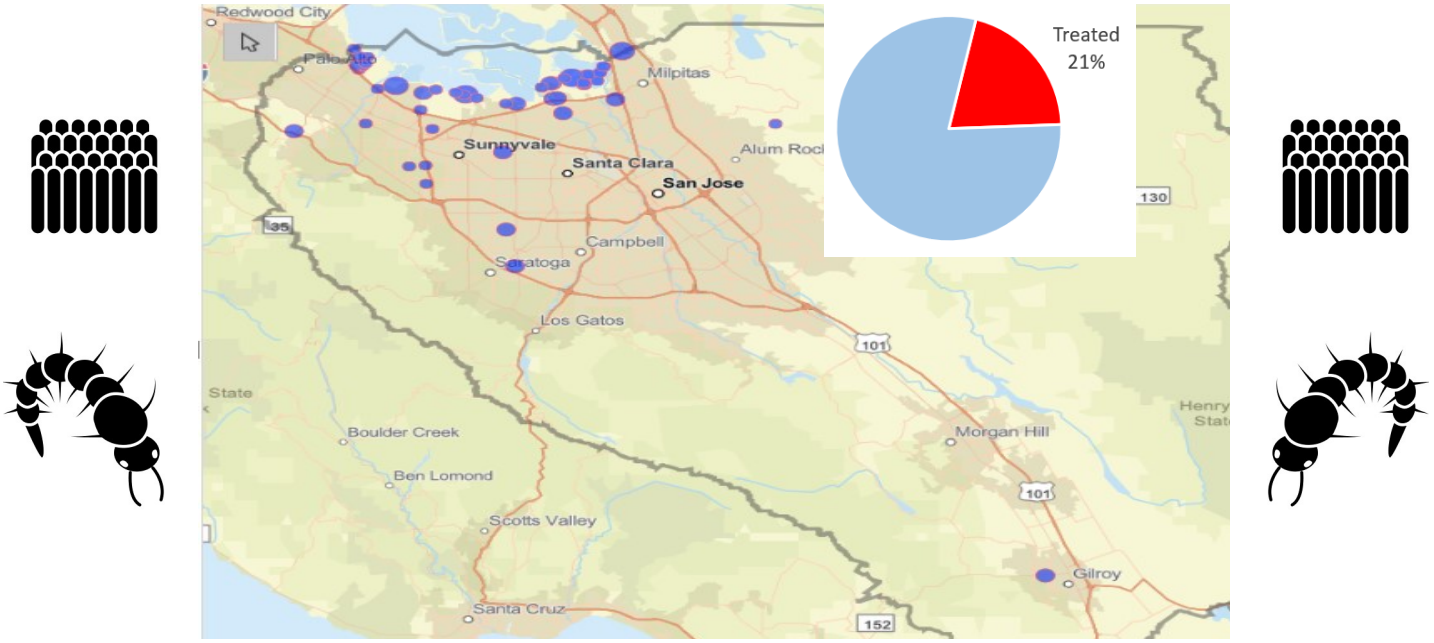


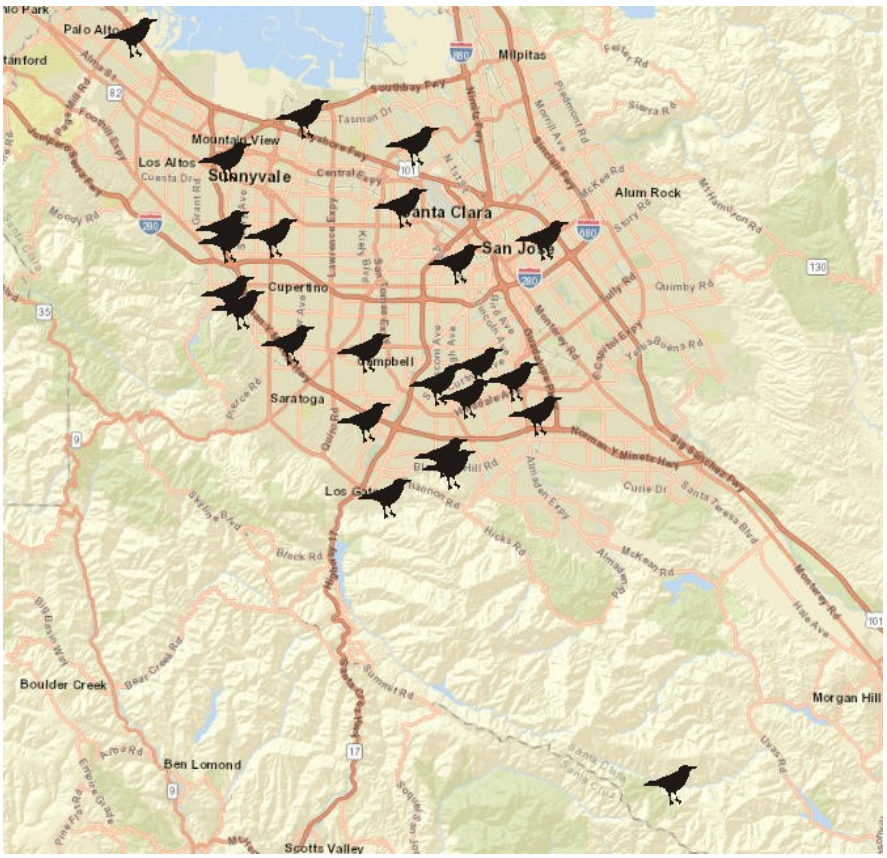
Figure 1. Areas treated for mosquito larvae populations during the month of February.

Figure 2. Area treated in Palo Alto Flood Basin for the winter saltmarsh mosquito.

WEST NILE SURVEILLANCE

DEAD BIRD PROGRAM

The District monitors for West Nile virus through mosquito traps and the collection of dead birds that are reported by the public. Laboratory staff test collected birds for West Nile virus by taking a saliva sample. As of February, 29 samples from 11 species have been collected from eight cities throughout the County. So far, all samples have been negative for West Nile virus. The public can help by contacting the District and reporting any dead bird sightings.



COUNT OF BIRDS TESTED	
SPECIES	TOTAL
American Crow	8
Cedar Waxwing	4
American Robin	2
California Towhee	2
House Finch	2
Lesser Goldfinch	2
Unknown	2
Unknown - songbird	2
Hawk	1
House Sparrow	1
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Song Sparrow	1
Grand Total	29

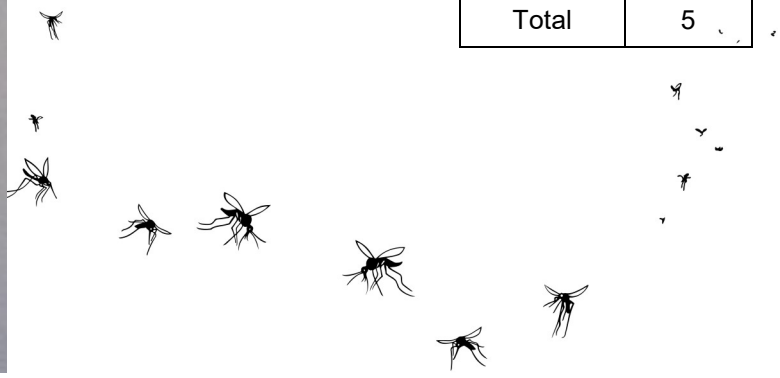
LOCATION OF REPORTED DEAD BIRDS	
CITY	TOTAL
San Jose	11
Los Gatos	5
Sunnyvale	5
Palo Alto	2
Cupertino	2
Santa Clara	2
Morgan Hill	1
Mountain View	1

WEST NILE SURVEILLANCE

NEW JERSEY LIGHT TRAPS

During the month of February, New Jersey Light Traps (NJLT) continued to collect adult mosquitoes and other nocturnal flying insects attracted to 25 watt light bulbs. The contents inside the trap are collected on a weekly basis and identified by District laboratory staff. Traps were not as successful as other months due to winter weather and frequent rains. Trap success is most likely to increase during the warmer spring days approaching. Traps were removed from Gilroy Agriculture Farm, San Martin coop site, and the Vector Control yard due to low activity.

TRAP TYPE	SITE NAME	SPECIES	TOTAL
NJLT	Hellyer Park NJLT	None	0
	Kelley Park NJLT	None	0
	Oakcreek Pump Station	*Aedes washinoi*	2
	Palo Alto NJLT	*Culex erythrothorax*	1
	Oka Road NJLT	None	0
	PAWC	None	0
	Sunken Gardens NJLT	*Culex incidens*	1
		Culex pipiens	1
	Westmont FFA	None	0
		Total	5



PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

SERVICE REQUESTS

There were 123 service requests in February. Rodents and wildlife continue to be the most popular service request, which may be caused by higher rodent and wildlife activity due to the spring time approaching Mosquito activity is also on the rise due to the stagnant water left behind from recent heavy rains.

INSECT IDENTIFICATION

Nine samples were submitted by the public for identification via photos or walk-in requests. Specimens identified were winged ants, spiders, and droppings from oriental cockroaches and termites. Termite excrement is the same color as the wood consumed and resembles coffee grounds or sawdust. Drywood termites colonize and feed on wood structures that are eventually weakened by extensive activity. Termites may resemble ants, but are believed to be most closely related to cockroaches.

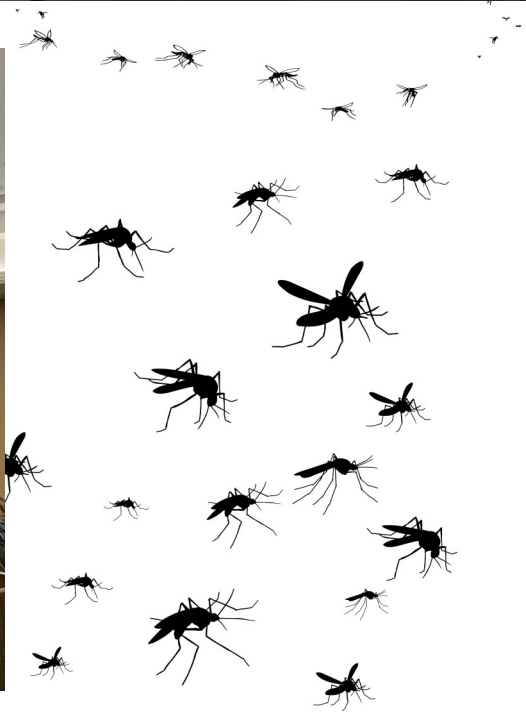
ISSUE	TOTAL
Rodents	46
Skunk	14
Mosquitoes	13
Coyote	13
Other Vertebrate	6
Raccoons	6
Other Invertebrate	4
Neglected Pool	4
Gambusia (Mosquito Fish)	4
Squirrels	2
Opossum	2
Bats	2
Bed Bug	2
Wasps/Yellowjackets	1
Other (see description)	1
Information Request	1
Bees	1
Cockroaches	1
Grand Total	123

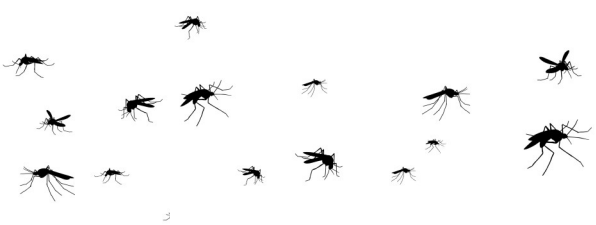
Drywood termite droppings with characteristic five sided compression marks

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED EDUCATION

Four staff members attended the annual conference of the American Mosquito Control Association. Presentation topics included mosquito surveillance, operation methods and reports, surveillance and research findings, policy and legislature updates, and successful outreach methods.





OUTREACH PROGRAM

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

During the month of February, our Health Educator worked with more than 200 students and members of the Gilroy Senior Center, and helped provide educational information on vectors and the prevention of vector-borne diseases. Presentations and educational booths are available to schools, community groups, homeowner associations, and other interested parties for FREE. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation or educational booth, please call our Health Educator, Hung Pham, at (408) 918-4794.

> *My 7 year old shared everything he learned about mosquitoes and really enjoyed building his own mosquito.*

Northern House Mosquito — Culex *pipien*

MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes, and to assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury to humans in Santa Clara County.

www.sccvector.org

@sccvcd