Be a West Nile Watcher

Report all
dead birds and tree squirrels
to the
California Department of Public Health
WEST NILE VIRUS and
DEAD BIRD HOTLINE
(877) 968-BIRD (2473)
or online at
westnile.ca.gov

Hotline Operators are available seven days a week
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (please leave a message after hours)

Why should you report dead birds and tree squirrels?

The State of California uses ALL reports to help identify "hot spots" of West Nile virus activity, even if the reported bird or tree squirrel is not tested.

- Local mosquito control agencies receive reports immediately
- Local health departments are alerted of community risk

When reporting dead birds and tree squirrels, please provide the following:

- Location of animal (city, zip code, street address or intersection)
- Description of animal (color, size, and type; see examples on back)
- Date found and condition of animal (intact, runover)

Help us protect you and your community by reporting
dead birds and tree squirrels in your area!

If you forget the WNV Hotline number call Directory Assistance at 411 (charges may apply).

American Crow (LARGE)
- Length: 17 in.
- Bill is small, straight, and sharp
- Entirely black plumage

Brewer's Blackbird
- Length: 8 in.
- Sharp black bill
- Male: entirely black, yellow eyes
- Female: dark gray, dark eyes

House Finch
- Length: 5.25 in.
- Conical bill
- Males have red breast, rump and forehead
- Brown wings and tail
- Streaked belly

House Sparrow
- Length: 4.25 in.
- Brown throat
- Gray crown and body
- Brown, streaked wings
- White patch on wing
- Thick conical bill
- Pink legs and feet

Western Scrub Jay
- Length: 11 in.
- Blue head and body
- Gray belly

American Robin
- Length: 8.5 in.
- Red breast and belly
- Back is gray-brown, with darker head and tail

Rock Dove (Pigeon)
- Length: 12.5 in.
- Small round head
- Plumage may have a variety of colors

Fox Squirrel
- Body: 13 in. Tail: 11 in.
- Common in urban parks
- Fur on tail and hind feet reddish-orange
- Back is brown to grayish
- Cream to orange belly

Western Gray Squirrel
- Body: 12 in. Tail: 12 in.
- Large squirrel
- Found in woodlands
- Back is silver gray
- White belly
- No rust color in fur

Eastern Gray Squirrel
- Body: 10 in. Tail: 10 in
- Found in urban parks
- Similar to Western Gray Squirrel but yellow or rusty color on back
- White belly
- Sometimes all black in color

Photo Credits: American Crow-Ron Austing;Brewers Blackbird-National Park Service; American Robin,House Finch, Rock Dove, Western Scrub Jay-Tom Grey; Fox Squirrel-Peter Harland; House Sparrow-© Patricia Velte, BackyardBirdCam.com, Eastern Gray Squirrel-© 2007 Peter G. May

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