

# Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

1st Quarter, 2022

Newsletter

## 2022 MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

The 2022 mosquito season has started and the District's surveillance program is now underway. The District's 54 sentinel chickens will arrive on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and 42 of the chickens will be evenly distributed to one of the seven flocks located throughout the District. Blood samples are taken from the chickens bi-weekly and tested for mosquito-borne viruses. The District's 31 gravid traps and 28 New Jersey light traps will be in place in mid-April. The District utilizes the trap counts from these traps to focus the efforts of the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists throughout the County.

Along with the surveillance program, mosquito control has once again commenced.



Urban and residential regions are areas of concern for spring mosquitoes. These are the mosquito species that can carry and transmit diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV). Larval inspections and larval control are currently underway in municipal and private sources such as storm drains, catch basins, retention ponds, detention ponds, and other man-made mosquito-breeding sources. Floodwater sources are also being monitored and treated as needed. Identifying mosquito sources early in the spring and eliminating the mosquitoes in their larval state is essential to the overall success of lowering the adult populations that will threaten communities in the summer.



## 2021/2022 TICK SURVEILLANCE

The District remains committed to lowering the risk of tick bites and tick-borne disease through public education and outreach. The District routinely conducts tick surveillance in Upper Bidwell Park and the Lake Oroville Recreation area. The tick species of highest concern to the District is the Western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), commonly referred to as the deer tick. The heightened concern with this tick is due to its ability to transmit Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Residents are reminded that the best way to avoid getting a tick-borne illness is to ensure that you don't get bitten by a tick. A good precaution to take after visiting an area that possibly had ticks is to thoroughly check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks. For more information on ticks, the District has informational pamphlets available to the public at the District office and the District's website at ButteMosquito.com.



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District  
5117 Larkin Road  
Oroville, CA. 95965

## MOSQUITOFISH

Mosquitofish are currently available only at the District headquarters in Oroville and in Chico at the Chico sub-station. Mosquitofish may be requested over the phone (530) 533-6038 or through service requests at [www.ButteMosquito.com](http://www.ButteMosquito.com). Mosquitofish tanks will be deployed at a number of locations in May. Visit our website or call for location details.



## DEAD BIRD HOTLINE

You can submit a dead bird report to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) year-round using



[www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com](http://www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com)  
[www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)  
1-877-WNV-BIRD

The hotline is open from April to October, 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is primarily to suppress mosquito-transmitted disease and also to reduce the annoyance levels of mosquitoes and diseases associated with ticks, fleas and other vectors through environmentally compatible control practices and public education.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA. 95965

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Website: [www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com](http://www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com)

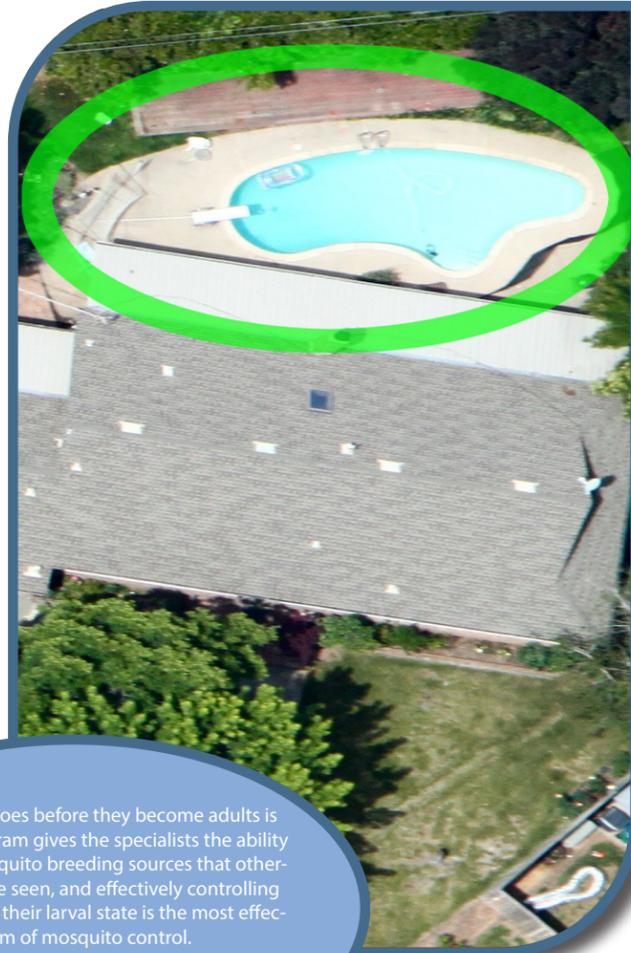
"FIGHT THE BITE!"

## AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

For the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the District has contracted with an aerial surveillance service to survey un-maintained swimming pools and other possible mosquito breeding sources (target areas) in the District. This year, the District has again contracted with Ron O’Hanlon and Associates.

Ron O’Hanlon has an extensive background in geographic imaging having spent many years creating maps for the United States Forest Service. O’Hanlon and Associates can effectively snap photos from a helicopter or a fixed wing aircraft over “suspected un-maintained swimming pools” and record the location using global positioning systems (GPS).

A report is then constructed from this data and the report containing maps, aerial photographs, and GPS fixed positions of possible mosquito breeding sources is then submitted to the District. The District’s Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists can take these reports into the field and investigate all of the targeted areas.



“Finding mosquitoes before they become adults is vital and this program gives the specialists the ability to see a lot of mosquito breeding sources that otherwise would not be seen, and effectively controlling the mosquitoes in their larval state is the most effective form of mosquito control.

-Matt Ball, District Manager  
Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

Additionally, the District will again commence the “fixed” wing aerial surveillance program. This program focuses on the surveillance of large properties such as duck clubs, artificial wetlands, and periodic flooding of large areas such as wildlife areas. The District utilizes a Cessna aircraft that can hold up to four individuals (three Mosquito Control Specialists and the pilot). From the air the Mosquito Control Specialists can take aerial photographs and plot the movement of floodwater and fix a location using a GPS unit. This information is then taken to the field and the appropriate action is taken if mosquito larvae are found.



## 2022 PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

All of the events that the District attends have an excellent insect display, as well as a mosquito-fish and mosquito larvae display. At these events the District hands out, free of charge, fly/mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent.

The District gives classroom presentations at local schools in Butte County. The classroom presentations include “Trouble with Ticks” and “Fight the Bite”.

The District will again partner with Stott Advertising on a billboard campaign. This year’s slogan is “Prevent Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus”. The eight billboards will rotate throughout the county from May through September. The new billboard uses the District’s new website address: [www.ButteMosquito.com](http://www.ButteMosquito.com)

The District has contracted with Action News Now, for a 30 second mosquito awareness animated public service announcement. Also, the District will continue with its radio and print public service announcements.

Invasive *Aedes aegypti* brochures, mailers and door hangers will be distributed at events and in the immediate

### Gold Nugget Craft Faire April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

This annual event will be held at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center, Paradise, featuring a variety of crafts created by artisans from all over Northern California, Oregon, and Nevada. An assortment of food vendors will also be available.



### Red Suspender Days May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

This all-day annual event begins at 7am with the Little League Pancake breakfast, vendors/food trucks 8am to 3pm, classic car show 8am to 1pm, 9:30 bed races, 11am parade, noon to 3pm live music, noon to 3pm princesses & pony rides, 1pm firemens games, 4 to 7pm Museum tri tip dinner.



# Prevent Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

[ButteMosquito.com](http://ButteMosquito.com)

STOTT

