

# Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1948

1st Quarter, 2023

Newsletter

## 2023 MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

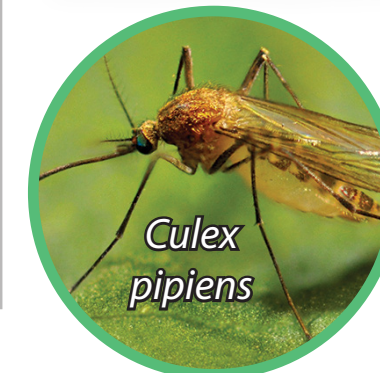
The 2023 mosquito season has started and the District's surveillance program is now underway. The District's 54 sentinel chickens will arrive on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and 42 of the chickens will be evenly distributed to the 7 chicken coops located throughout the District. Blood samples are taken from the chickens bi-weekly and tested for mosquito-borne diseases. The District's 31 gravid traps and 28 New Jersey light traps will be in place in mid-April. The District analyzes the mosquito abundance 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.



Sentinel Chickens



Culex pipiens

## 2022/2023 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's office and website at [www.buttemosquito.com](http://www.buttemosquito.com).



Ixodes pacificus

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.



### 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 - 8 7 7 - W N V - B I R D

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

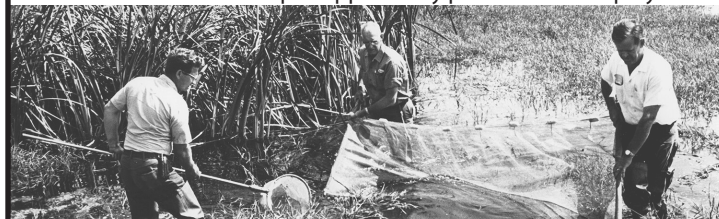
### MISSION STATEMENT

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

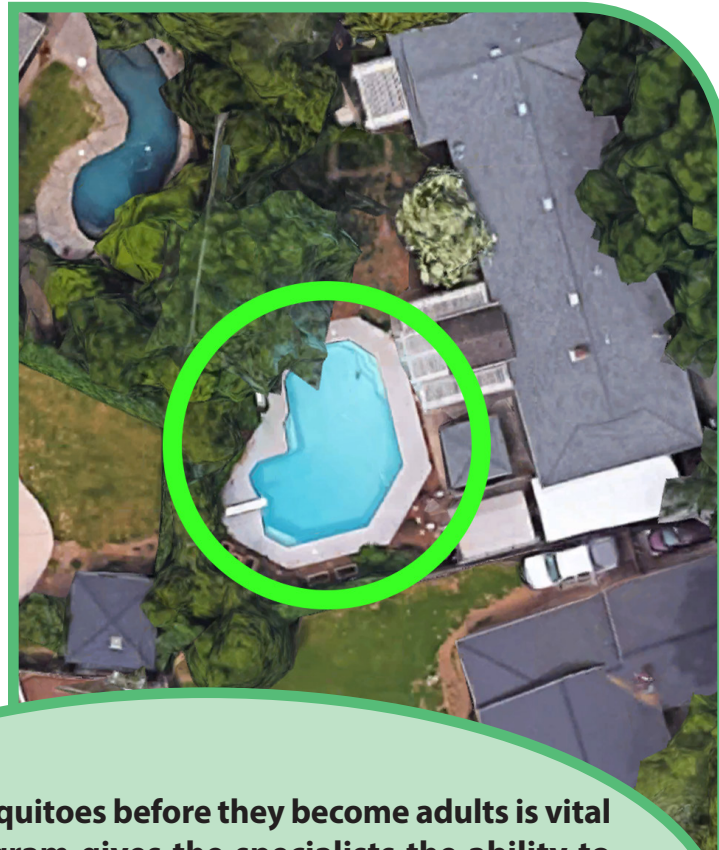
**Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District**  
5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA. 95965  
Phone: (530) 533-6038, (530) 342-7350  
Fax: (530) 534-9916  
[www.buttemosquito.com](http://www.buttemosquito.com)  
"FIGHT THE BITE!"

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## AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

For the 18th 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 contracted with Deer Creek Resources (DCR). DCR has an extensive background in geographic imaging and emergency response planning using technology, storytelling, photos, land information, and custom-made maps to help people solve complex problems. DCR can effectively photograph 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 submitted to the District containing maps, aerial photographs, and GPS fixed positions of possible mosquito breeding sources that are then investigated and remedied.



**"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**



The District's Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists can take these reports into the field and investigate all of the targeted areas. 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, using 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 mark 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.

## 2023 PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

All of the events that the District attends have an excellent insect display, mosquitofish and mosquito larvae display, fly/mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent. All of which are free of charge.

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 partner with Lamar Advertising on a bulletin billboard campaign. This year's slogan is "Fight the Bite: Cover up. Repel. Eliminate". The eight billboards will rotate throughout the county from May through September. The billboard uses the District's new website address, [buttemosquito.com](http://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 vicinity of a detection.



### Chico Spring Home & Garden Show April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

The largest home and garden show in the North State. Five buildings packed with vendors and outdoor displays at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds



### Gold Nugget Craft Faire April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Located in Terry Ashe Recreation Center, Paradise, featuring a variety of crafts vendors, parade, and an assortment of food vendors.



### Red Suspenders Day May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

A celebration of local police and firefighters will be held in Downtown Gridley. The event includes vendors, car show, parade and more.



**FIGHT<sup>the</sup> BITE**  
**COVER UP. REPEL. ELIMINATE.**

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



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