



Wild Bird Surveillance, Georgia
(updated 4.24.12)

It does look as if very basic surveillance for increases in mosquito populations, along with limited bird surveillance data, provides good evidence of increased human risk.

Dead bird surveillance has been a sensitive indicator of local epizootic transmission of WNV in Georgia and in other states and can play a role in predicting human risk of infection. However, due to budget cuts, Georgia's surveillance for WNV will no longer involve dead wild bird testing. However, collecting and mapping reports of dead bird sightings from the public can still provide information about the spread of WNV in an area.

Dead Bird Reports:

1. County health departments are encouraged to keep a line list or a database of all reports of dead birds.
2. District and county health departments should map these data to help determine where WNV transmission is occurring. This information can also be combined with data about mosquito complaints, mosquito counts, or detection of human or horse cases to help make mosquito control decisions.
3. For each dead bird sighting, collect the following information: the date of the report, date of dead bird sighting, species of bird, number of birds, town, and zip code where the bird(s) were seen
(http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/Dead_Bird_Log-2012.xls).
4. **Dead bird logs should not be sent to the GDPH** unless arrangements have been made to have the data mapped.
5. Everyone who calls in to report a dead bird should be educated about protecting themselves and their neighbors from WNV by taking personal protection measures and reducing mosquito breeding areas around their house and in their neighborhood.
(<http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/epi/PublicDeadBirdCalls12.pdf>)
6. Remind people that while testing dead birds provides useful information about arbovirus transmission, whether or not the bird is sent for testing, the precautions that need to be taken to reduce WNV risk are the same.