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CONTACT: Laura Bauman  
Epidemiologist  
(734) 544-6763

### **Fifth Dead Bird Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Washtenaw County**

Washtenaw County Public Health received a report on August 17, 2004 that a dead blue jay submitted from the 48103 zip code in Ann Arbor tested positive for West Nile virus. The blue jay was found on August 12th, was approved for testing, and submitted to the State lab. This is the fifth positive bird identified in Washtenaw County for the 2004 West Nile season. The other positive dead birds were found in the 48158, 48130, 48105, and 49187 zip codes. In addition, West Nile positive birds have been identified this season in five Washtenaw zip codes that are shared by other counties (dead bird found in the adjacent county), including 48178, 48169, 48137, 48170, and 49236.

The report of a fifth positive bird in Washtenaw County indicates active transmission of West Nile virus throughout our community. No human cases have been reported in Washtenaw County this year. In 2004 to date, only one human case (Kalamazoo) and one horse case (unvaccinated animal in Clinton County) have been reported in Michigan. However, August and September are the months when human cases of West Nile virus are most common. Dr. Stan Reedy, Medical Director of Washtenaw County Public Health, encourages individuals to continue taking precautions to prevent mosquito bites.

Washtenaw County residents should continue to report sightings of dead birds from all zip codes to the local hotline at **(734) 544-6750**. Dead crows, blue jays and ravens will be accepted for testing from the following zip codes: 48104, 48108, 48109, 48176, 48160, 48198, 48118, 48167, 48191, and 49240.

More information on West Nile virus is available on the county, state and national websites:

[www.ewashtenaw.org](http://www.ewashtenaw.org)

[www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)