

SLT bird tests positive for West Nile virus

A bird in South Lake Tahoe has tested positive for West Nile virus.

The Stellar's jay was found on July 31.

West Nile virus activity has been reported in 28 California counties, including Placer County.

Last year, four West Nile virus positive birds were identified in El Dorado County on the western slope. One human case was reported.

West Nile virus can be transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get the virus when they feed on infected birds. The illness is not spread from person-to-person. While most people infected with the virus show no symptoms, some may have high fever, severe headache, tiredness and/or a stiff neck that can last several days to several weeks. The most serious cases of West Nile virus infection can lead to encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, which can be fatal.