



West Nile Virus Program

Dead Bird Surveillance

Thanks for submitting a dead bird to the Arkansas Department of Health for our surveillance program for West Nile Virus! Your submission will help us determine where viral activity is in the state in one or both of the following ways:

- ❖ **Dead bird count** – The numbers of dead birds in an area gives us a rough indication of where we may find the virus. This virus causes death, especially in sensitive species like crows and blue jays, so keeping track of “die offs” can signal that mosquitoes in the area may be infected.
- ❖ **Viral testing** – We are having some birds in each county tested for the virus to get a confirmation that the West Nile Virus is actually present in an area. This helps us know we need to get the message out to folks to take precautions to protect themselves from exposure to infected mosquitoes. We do this through primarily through the media.

If you have submitted a bird, it may be counted then disposed of, or, if it is from an area we still need test data from, it may be tested by the laboratory. We are only testing crows and blue jays, since these are the species known to give us the best information.

Even if your bird is not tested, you have provided important information by contributing to the count. We appreciate your effort to help us in “Keeping Your Hometown Healthy.”