

# See a Dead Bird?

## Report and Submit It to Help Protect Our Community



### Why Dead Birds Matter

Dead birds—especially crows, blue jays, ravens, and other perching birds—can be an early warning that mosquito-borne diseases are in our area. Testing them helps us find viruses before they spread to people or animals. By testing dead birds, we can detect viruses like:

- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
- St. Louis Encephalitis, and more

Finding these viruses early means we can take action to protect the community.

### What Is Dead Bird Surveillance?

Dead bird surveillance is how we track and respond to diseases spread by mosquitoes. Birds are tested at the Thangamani Lab at Upstate Medical University, and results help guide mosquito control and other prevention steps.

### Safety Tips for Handling Dead Birds

There's no evidence you can catch West Nile Virus directly from touching a bird. But to be safe:

- Never touch a dead bird with bare hands
- Use gloves or turn a plastic bag inside out to pick it up
- Wash your hands well afterward



### Why It's Important

Reporting and submitting dead birds for testing helps:

- Detect virus activity early—before people or pets get sick
- Support mosquito control work
- Prevent disease outbreaks

### What You Can Do

1. Report it: Call 315-435-1649 or visit [onondaga.gov/health-env/mosquitoes](https://onondaga.gov/health-env/mosquitoes)
2. Collect (if directed):
  - Only fresh birds (within 24 hrs, no decay/maggots)
  - Wear gloves or use a bag
  - Double-bag the bird
  - Keep it cool (refrigerate, don't freeze)
3. Drop it off:
  - 4170 Rt 31, Clay | Mon–Fri, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

### QUESTIONS?

📞 Call: Vector Control – (315) 435-1649

🌐 Visit: <https://onondaga.gov/health-env/mosquitoes/>



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