



CWHC Ontario/Nunavut Dead Bird West Nile Virus Testing Summary for 2020

The CWHC Ontario/Nunavut Region has tested 62 birds for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2020. All corvids and raptors submitted to the CWHC during the season were tested along with any other birds with known susceptibility, exhibiting neurological signs, or showing lesions consistent with WNV. Of the 62 tested, 23 confirmed positive for the virus by real-time RT-PCR.

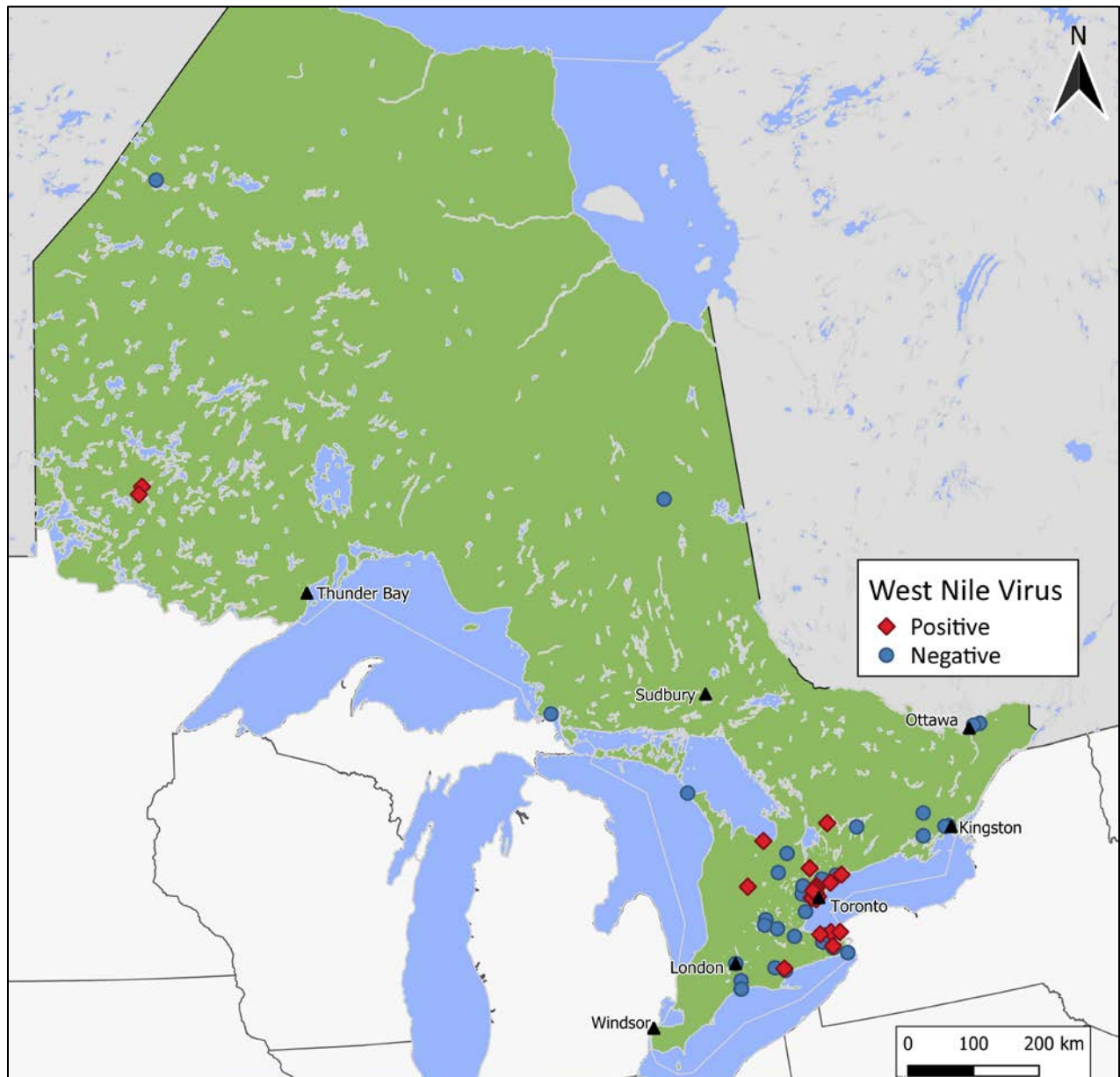


Figure 1. Location of birds tested for West Nile Virus in Ontario in 2020.
Red locations tested positive, blue tested negative.



With corvid species accounting for only 8 of the 23 birds which tested positive for West Nile virus, a widening range of additional species have also tested positive in 2020. The earliest detection in 2020 was a Common Raven found dead in Dryden, Ontario on June 11th, 2020. Since then, the CWHC has confirmed West Nile virus in unlikely species including Double-crested Cormorants and a Canada Goose (Table 1). Waterfowl/shorebirds are continuing to test positive for West Nile virus despite fewer cases this year.

Table 1. Species breakdown for birds testing positive for West Nile virus in 2020.

Species	Tested	Positive
Corvids		
American Crow	15	7
Blue Jay	3	0
Common Raven	2	1
Raptors		
Bald Eagle	3	1
Barred Owl	3	0
Boreal Owl	1	0
Cooper's Hawk	4	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	0
Great Horned Owl	8	3
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	1	0
Osprey	1	0
Red-tailed Hawk	6	4
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	1	1
Song Birds		
American Robin	2	0
House Sparrow	1	0
Waterfowl and Waterbirds		
Double-Crested Cormorant	4	2
Canada Goose	1	1
Herring Gull	2	0
Ring-Billed Gull	1	0
Other		
Common Grackle	1	0
Totals	62	23



Table 2. Species, date, and locations for dead birds tested by PCR for West Nile virus in 2020.

Common Name	Date of Death	City	WNV Diagnosis
Eastern Screech-Owl	2020-05-08	Waterloo	Negative
Eastern Screech-Owl	2020-06-07	Hamilton	Negative
Blue Jay	2020-06-10	Cambridge	Negative
Common Raven	2020-06-11	Dryden	Positive
American Robin	2020-06-11	Ottawa	Negative
Blue Jay	2020-06-13	Cambridge	Negative
Great Horned Owl	2020-06-17	Saint Anns	Negative
American Crow	2020-06-18	London	Negative
American Crow	2020-06-18	London	Negative
Cooper's Hawk	2020-06-19	Brampton	Negative
Great Horned Owl	2020-06-21	Vineland Station	Negative
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-06-22	Kitchener	Negative
American Crow	2020-06-23	Curve Lake	Negative
Boreal Owl	2020-06-27	Frederickhouse	Negative
Osprey	2020-07-03	Whitby	Negative
American Crow	2020-07-06	Delhi	Negative
Common Grackle	2020-07-07	Deseronto	Negative
American Crow	2020-07-07	Sault Ste. Marie	Negative
American Crow	2020-07-08	Lincoln	Negative
American Crow	2020-07-09	Dryden	Positive
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-07-14	Toronto	Positive
American Crow	2020-07-15	Toronto	Positive
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-07-16	Toronto	Negative
Bald Eagle	2020-07-17	Calabogie	Negative
Great Horned Owl	2020-07-20	St. Catharines	Negative
Bald Eagle	2020-07-21	Fort Erie	Negative
Cooper's Hawk	2020-07-29	Toronto	Positive
American Crow	2020-07-30	Toronto	Positive
Double-Crested Cormorant	2020-07-31	Kingston	Negative
Barred Owl	2020-08-01	Lincoln	Negative
Barred Owl	2020-08-01	Lincoln	Negative
Common Raven	2020-08-01	Tamworth	Negative
Double-Crested Cormorant	2020-08-04	Markham	Positive
American Robin	2020-08-07	Oakville	Negative
American Crow	2020-08-09	Newmarket	Positive
Canada Goose	2020-08-09	Toronto	Positive



Common Name	Date of Death	City	WNV Diagnosis
House Sparrow	2020-08-14	Ottawa	Negative
Blue Jay	2020-08-15	Kingston	Negative
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-08-16	Toronto	Positive
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-08-16	St. Catharines	Positive
Cooper's Hawk	2020-08-21	Welland	Positive
American Crow	2020-08-24	Oshawa	Positive
Great Horned Owl	2020-08-25	Harriston	Positive
American Crow	2020-08-25	Sachigo Lake	Negative
American Crow	2020-08-26	Simcoe	Positive
American Crow	2020-08-26	Simcoe	Positive
Cooper's Hawk	2020-08-28	Toronto	Positive
Red-Tailed Hawk	2020-09-01	Lincoln	Positive
Ring-Billed Gull	2020-09-02	Port Stanley	Negative
Double-Crested Cormorant	2020-09-03	Tobermory	Negative
Herring Gull	2020-09-03	Port Stanley	Negative
Herring Gull	2020-09-04	St. Thomas	Negative
Great Horned Owl	2020-09-05	The Blue Mountains	Positive
Double-Crested Cormorant	2020-09-05	Pickering	Positive
Great Horned Owl	2020-09-08	Simcoe	Negative
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	2020-09-09	Toronto	Positive
Bald Eagle	2020-09-10	Kawartha Lakes	Positive
Great Horned Owl	2020-09-14	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Positive
American Crow	2020-09-20	Mono	Negative
Great Horned Owl	2020-10-14	Welland	Negative
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	2020-10-14	Markham	Negative
Barred Owl	2020-11-03	Essa	Negative

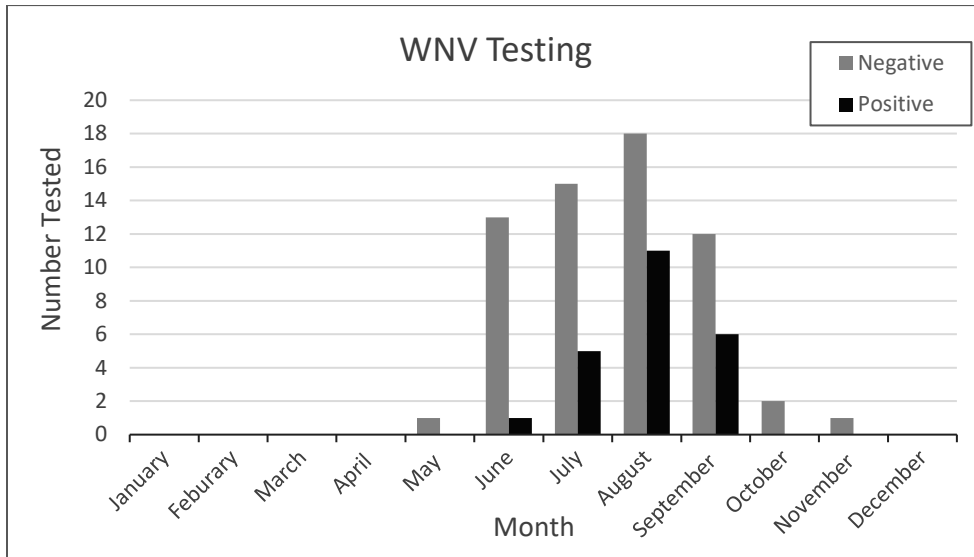


Figure 2. WNV testing completed by month in 2019.

Note: This report is only accurate to date of publishing and only accounts for mortalities that occurred in 2020. Any cases submitted during 2020 that died during a previous year have been removed.