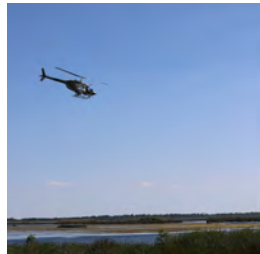
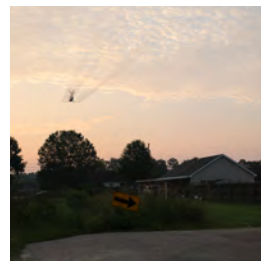


MOSQUITO ABATEMENT  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH

2022

# February MONTHLY Report



# Ready for Launch

Director Kevin Caillouet, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.



Pilot John Sable during his first few days as a new member of the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement team.

The February delivery of a new Bell 407 GXi helicopter to our agency marks a new era in our ability to manage mosquito populations. Three years ago, we began treating for larval and adult mosquitoes with a leased helicopter. Together with our contract partner, Blackstar Helicopters LLC., we pioneered the application of larvicides over coastal marshes, residential neighborhoods and insecticides to manage adult mosquitoes throughout the parish. Widely used in Florida, helicopters allow for more precise application of insecticides by air than fixed wing aircraft. Given the modular design of spray equipment helicopters can also switch between larval and adult mosquito control efforts in short order.

Owning and operating this helicopter will save over one third of the cost of leasing and allow us to treat mosquito problems the same day they arise. In addition, treating the precise location of mosquito problems will save on insecticide use and costs.

thousands of hours for the Louisiana Air National Guard and has 35-years of aviation experience. John has a tremendous amount of experience in a variety of aircraft – we are fortunate to have his continued service to our community.

Piloting this aircraft will be the job of John Sable, a native of Abita Springs and Covington High graduate, who has flown

The acquisition of the helicopter would not have been possible without the vision of our former director Viki Taylor and the STPMAD Board of Commissioners. Aerial Operations Supervisor Paul Spadoni, and Pilot Brandon Campbell put in hundreds of hours into coordinating with Blackstar LLC and into completing the due diligence in the public bid process for the new helicopter.

Our team focus is on continuous improvement of the services we provide to St. Tammany. With the acquisition of this aircraft, we have undoubtedly gained a valuable tool for the management of mosquitoes.

Yours in health,

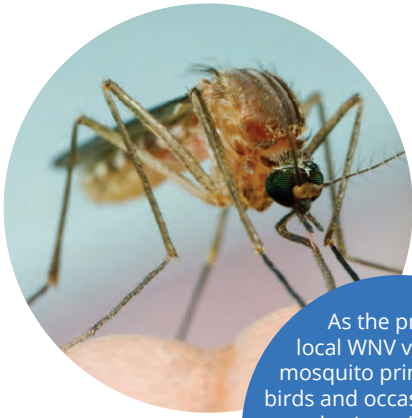
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Caillouet".

Kevin A. Caillouet, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.  
Director

On the cover: (Clockwise from top)

- Pilot John Sable and Aerial Operations Supervisor Paul Spadoni discuss how the new helicopter and landing pad will fit in the hangar.
- STPMAD's new Bell 407 GXi helicopter.
- Board Members hold monthly meeting at the St. Tammany Parish School Board.
- Blackstar LLC larvicides Fritchie Marsh.
- First aerial larvicide mission conducted by Blackstar LLC over Tammany Hills.
- Pilot John Sable and Aerial Operations Supervisor Paul Spadoni pose in front of the Twin Otter aircraft.
- Front facing view of STPMAD's new Bell 407 GXi helicopter.

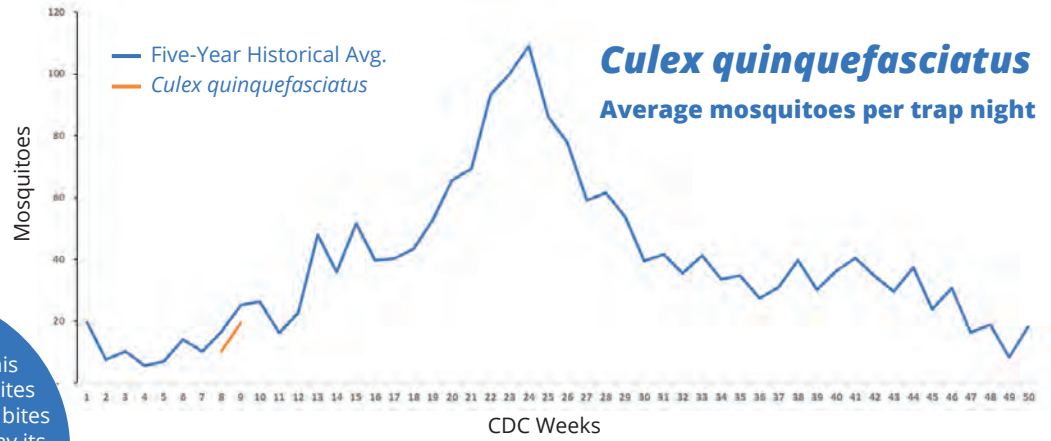
# How Bad are the Mosquitoes?



**Common name:**

The southern house mosquito

As the primary local WNV vector this mosquito primarily bites birds and occasionally bites people. It prefers to lay its eggs in sewage-associated water. As it readily enters structures, it is named the "southern house mosquito."



**1,185**

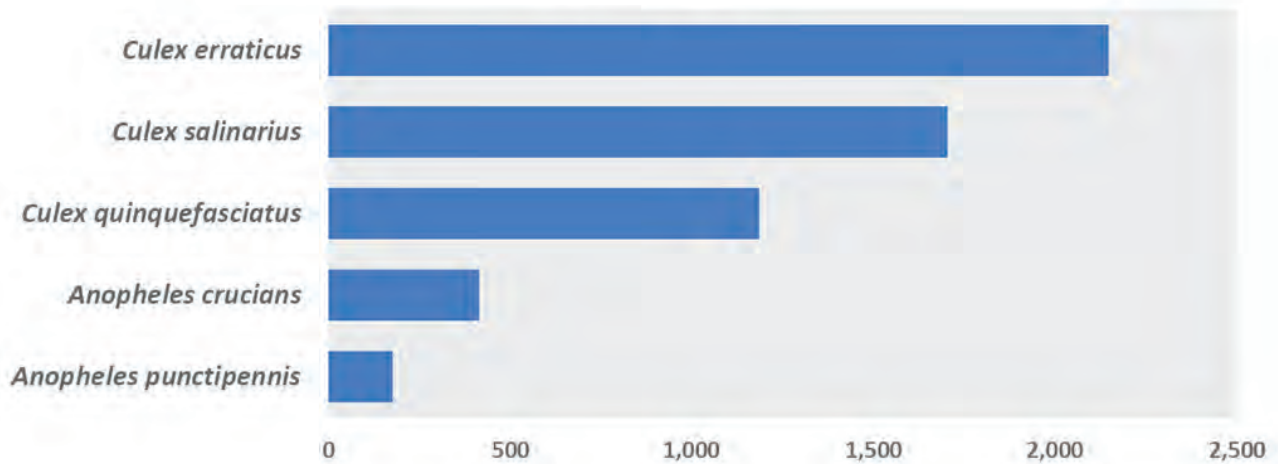
Cx. quinquefasciatus trapped in February



**5,945**

total mosquitoes trapped in February

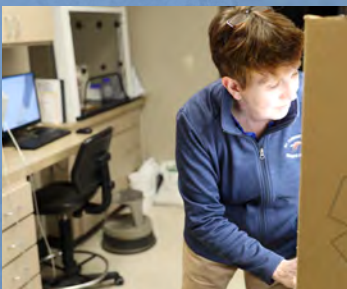
## Top five species trapped in February



## February Arbovirus Report



None of the 147 pools of mosquitoes, tested from specimens collected during February 2022, were positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Adult mosquitoes are collected using No Light CO<sub>2</sub>-baited CDC traps and tested in pools (or groups) via RT-PCR, by the Louisiana Arbovirus Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) in Baton Rouge.



A total of 4,151 mosquitoes were collected and tested for WNV during the February 2022 across St. Tammany Parish. *Culex erraticus*, a secondary WNV vector, consisted of 44.8 % of the mosquitoes collected. Populations of *Culex salinarius*, another secondary WNV vector, accounted for 31.6% of mosquitoes submitted for virus testing and tested for WNV.

The Louisiana Department of Health has not reported any human cases of West Nile fever or neuro-invasive West Nile disease year-to-date in St. Tammany.