**Glossary**

* **abiotic** and **biotic** environmental factors: non-living and living entities in the environment, respectively; abiotic include such things as soil and water chemistry, sunlight, and wind; biotic include members of the same and other species
* **biodiversity**: conservation biologists include diversity of genes, species, up to ecosystems; sometimes used for **species richness** (number of species) in an area without doing actual species diversity calculations
* **database:** a structured set of related data, usually in a computer, that is organized for easy access
* **epidemiology:** the study of the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in populations; more recently includes non-infectious conditions such as cancer
* **exotic species**: a species living outside of its native area; a **non-native species**
* **habitat**: where an organism lives or can be found
* **host**: the organism in or on which a parasite or pathogen lives
* **incidence**: rate or frequency at which an event occurs (as the number of new cases of a specific disease in a population occurring during a certain period of time)
* **infectious disease**: a disease caused by a pathogen (virus, bacterium, protozoan, or fungus) in or on the body
* **invasive species**: species that are “non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and … whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” US Executive Order 13112 (1999).
* **migration:** in biology**,** a pattern of movement by a population, usually periodically from an area and back for feeding or breeding; the same individuals may not make the return journey (as monarch butterflies)
* **native species**: a species that is **indigenous** to a given region or ecosystem; its presence in that region is the result of only natural processes, with no human intervention
* **peer-reviewed literature**: published material in a scientific field that has been edited (“reviewed”) by practicing scientists in that field (“peers”) before publication
* **prevalence**: prevailing generally or being widespread; the *total number* of cases of a disease in a given population at a specific time.
* **sentinel animal**: an animal known to be susceptible to an infection, which is placed in an area and monitored to see if the infectious organism is present, as chickens for WNV
* **topography**: the description or graphical representation of the **relief** or surface of an area, as shown on topographic or “topo” maps
* **vector** (of a disease): a living organism that transmits a pathogen, as female mosquitoes for WNV; transmission can occur by a bite or other means, depending on the vector and the pathogen
* **wetlands**: areas where water at or near the soil surface drives the kind of soils that form, the plants that grow, and the fish and/or wildlife that use the habitat. Examples include s**wamps**, **marshes**, **bogs**, **vernal pools (ephemeral ponds**; pools that form in the spring rains but are dry at other times of the year), **playas** (areas at the bottom of undrained desert basins that are sometimes covered with water), and **prairie potholes** (USEPA 2009).