


# Predicting West Nile

- Raj
  - Riordan
  - Mud
- 
- A dark blue diagonal gradient bar that starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top right, covering the lower half of the slide.

Which features are best at  
identifying the presence of  
West Nile?

# Our Process

1. Question ✓
2. Data
3. Explore
4. Model
5. Communicate

# Epidemiology

1. WNV introduced to the US in 1999 (NYC)

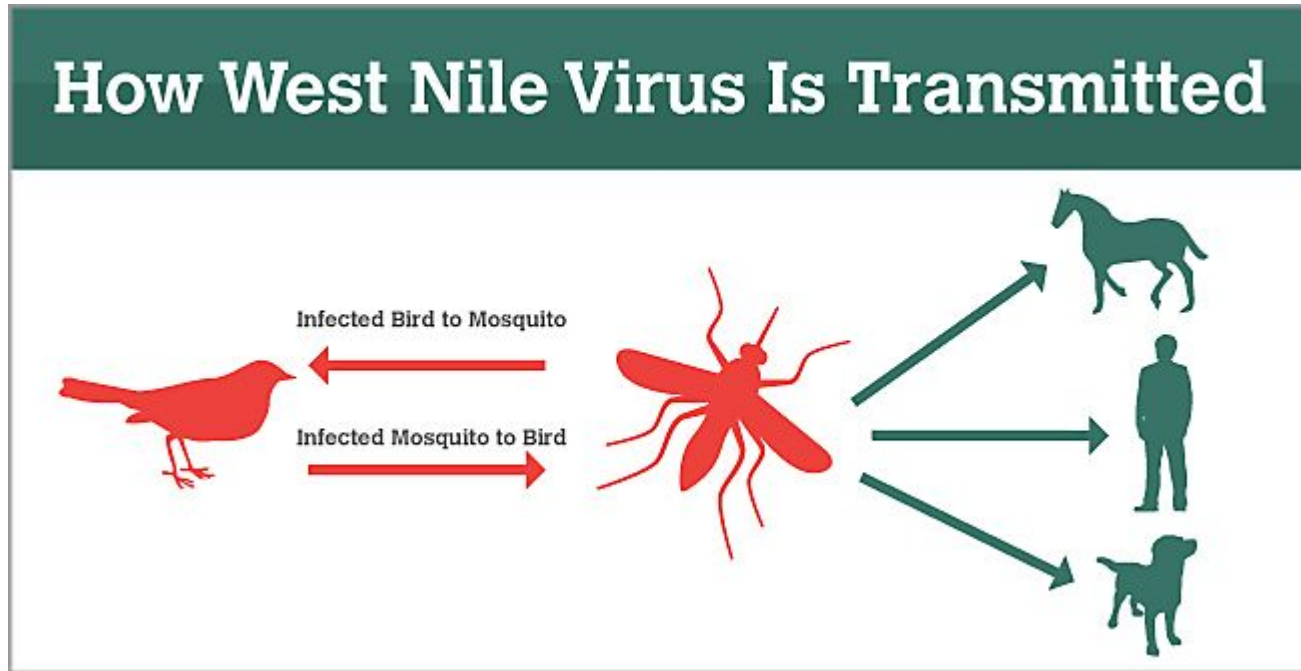
Since then it has spread to the entire continental US

2. Birds are main carriers of the virus

99% of crows died in 1999

3. Transmitted to humans via *culex* mosquitoes

# Mosquitoes, Birds, and West Nile



# Our Process

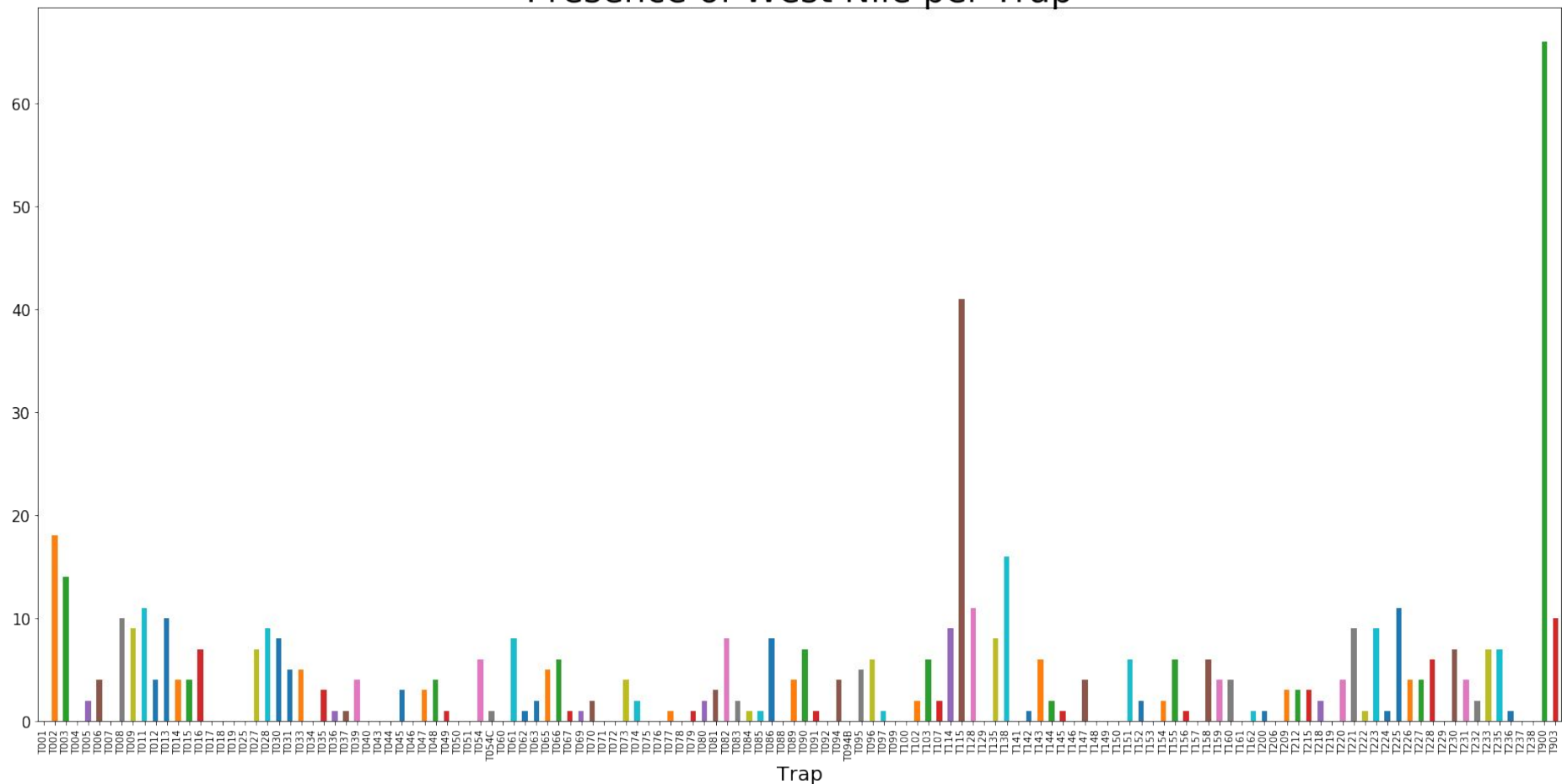
1. Question ✓
2. Data ✓
3. Explore
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# Explore – Traps, Spray, and Weather

- Time
- Counts
- Location
- West Nile

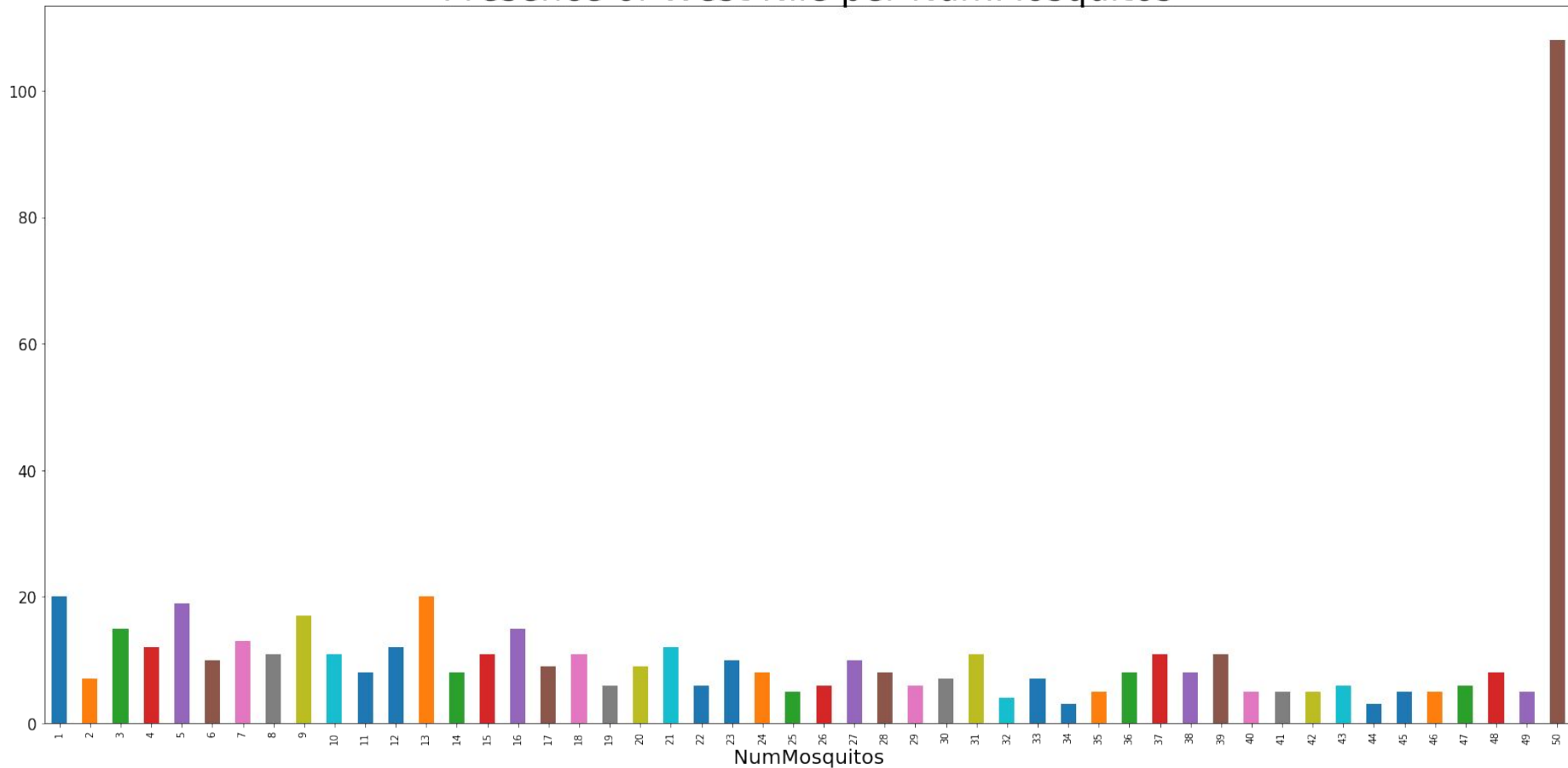
Any Trends?

# Presence of West Nile per Trap

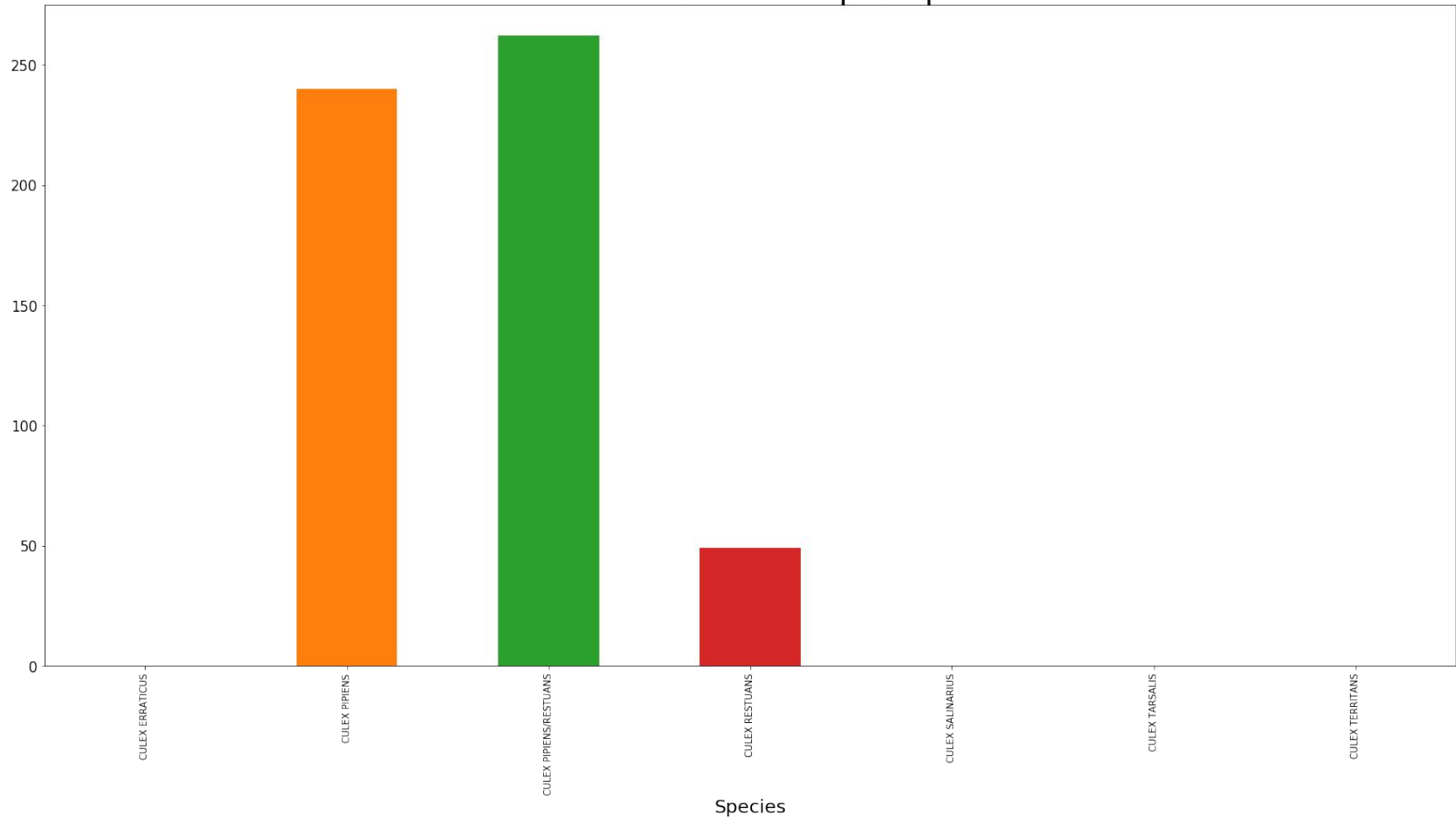




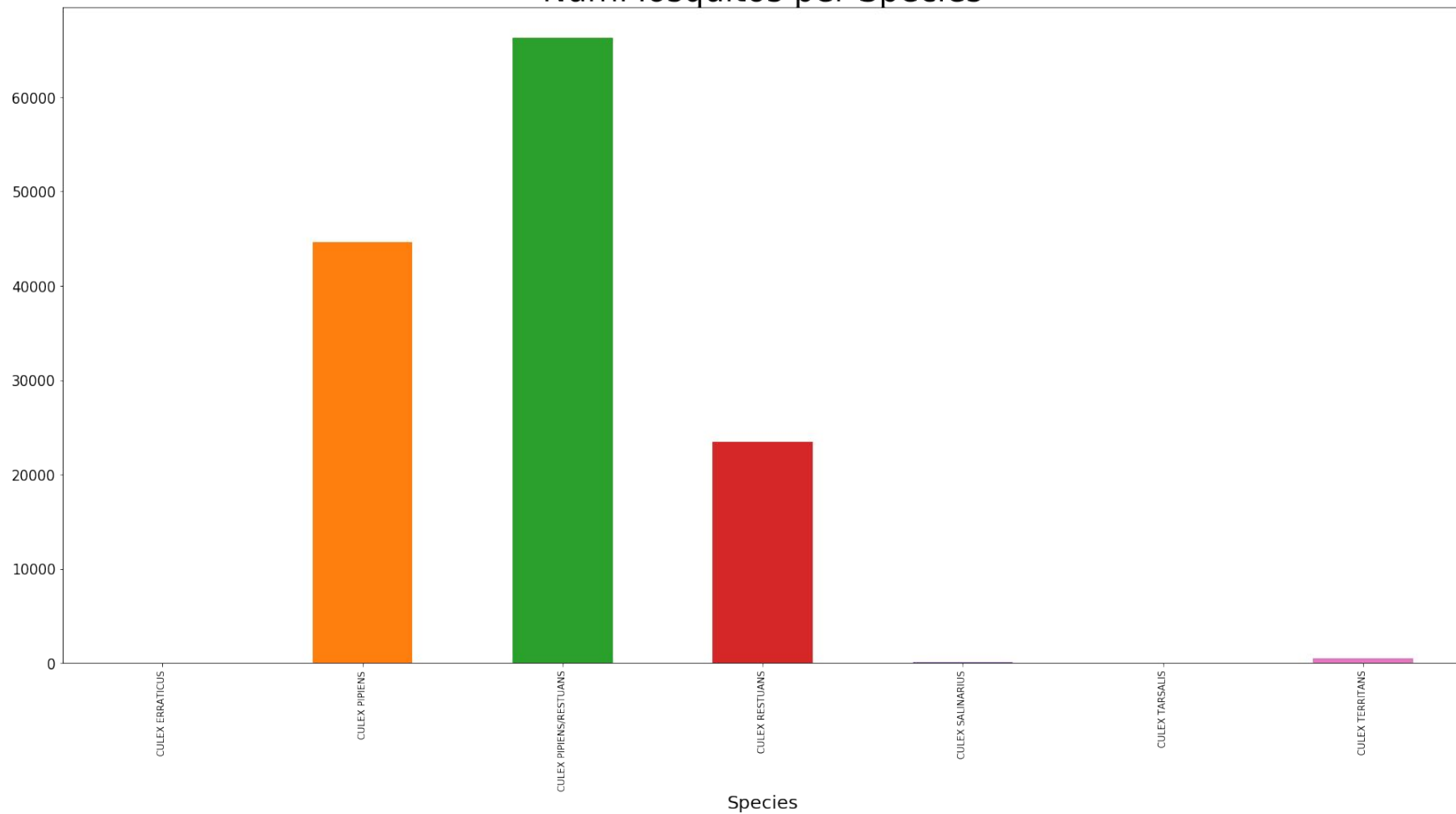
## Presence of West Nile per NumMosquitos



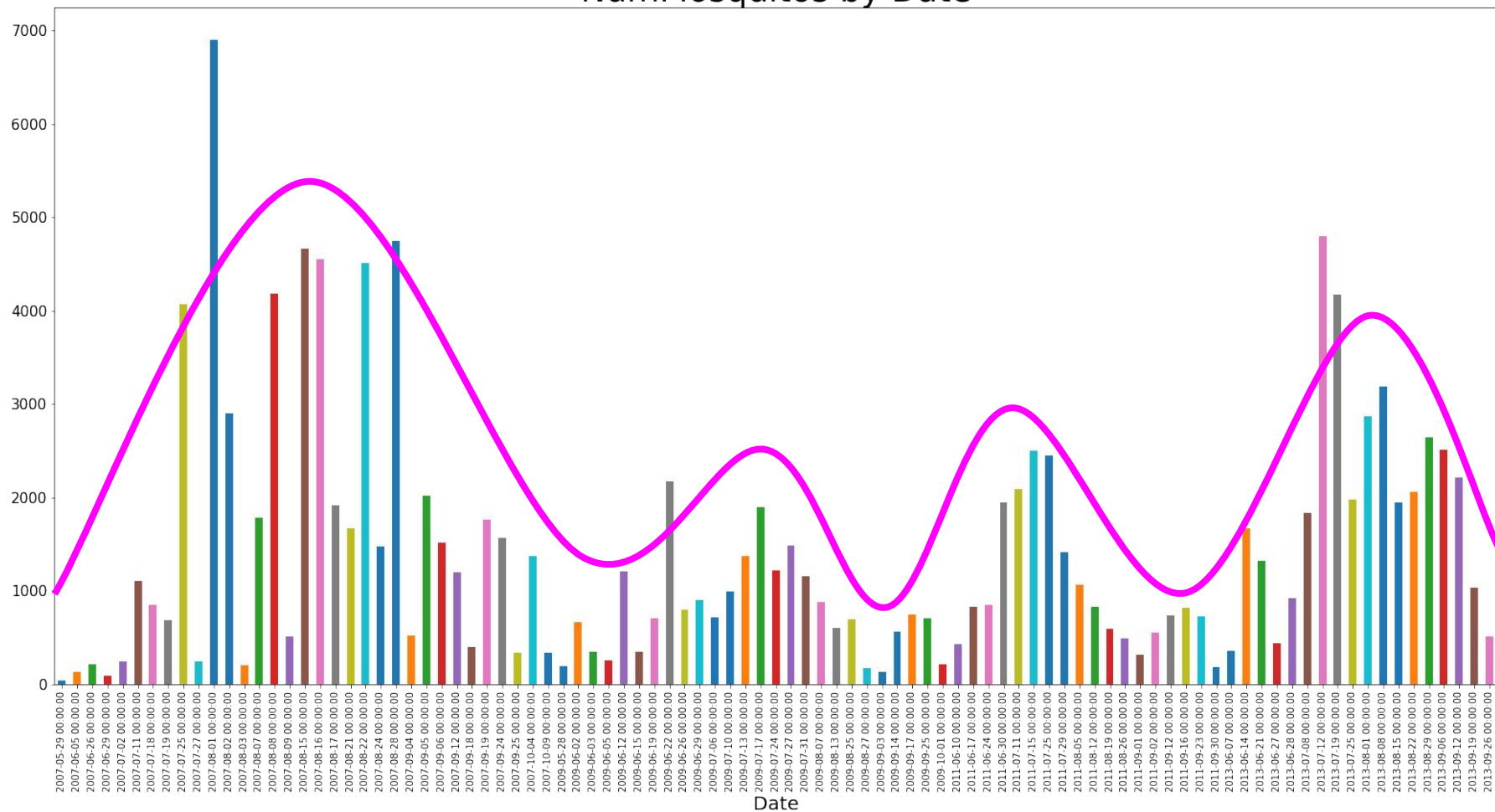
Presence of West Nile per Species



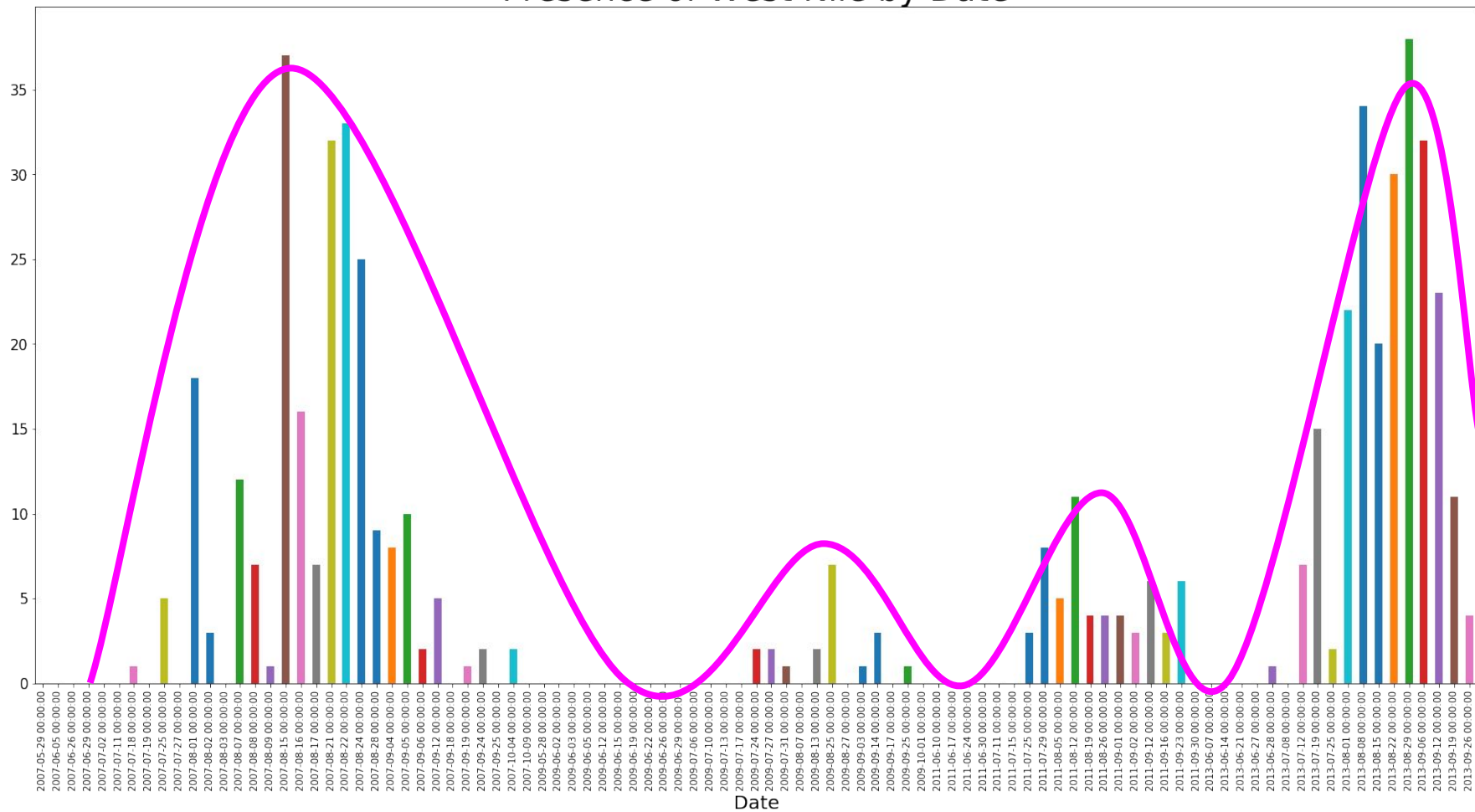
# NumMosquitos per Species



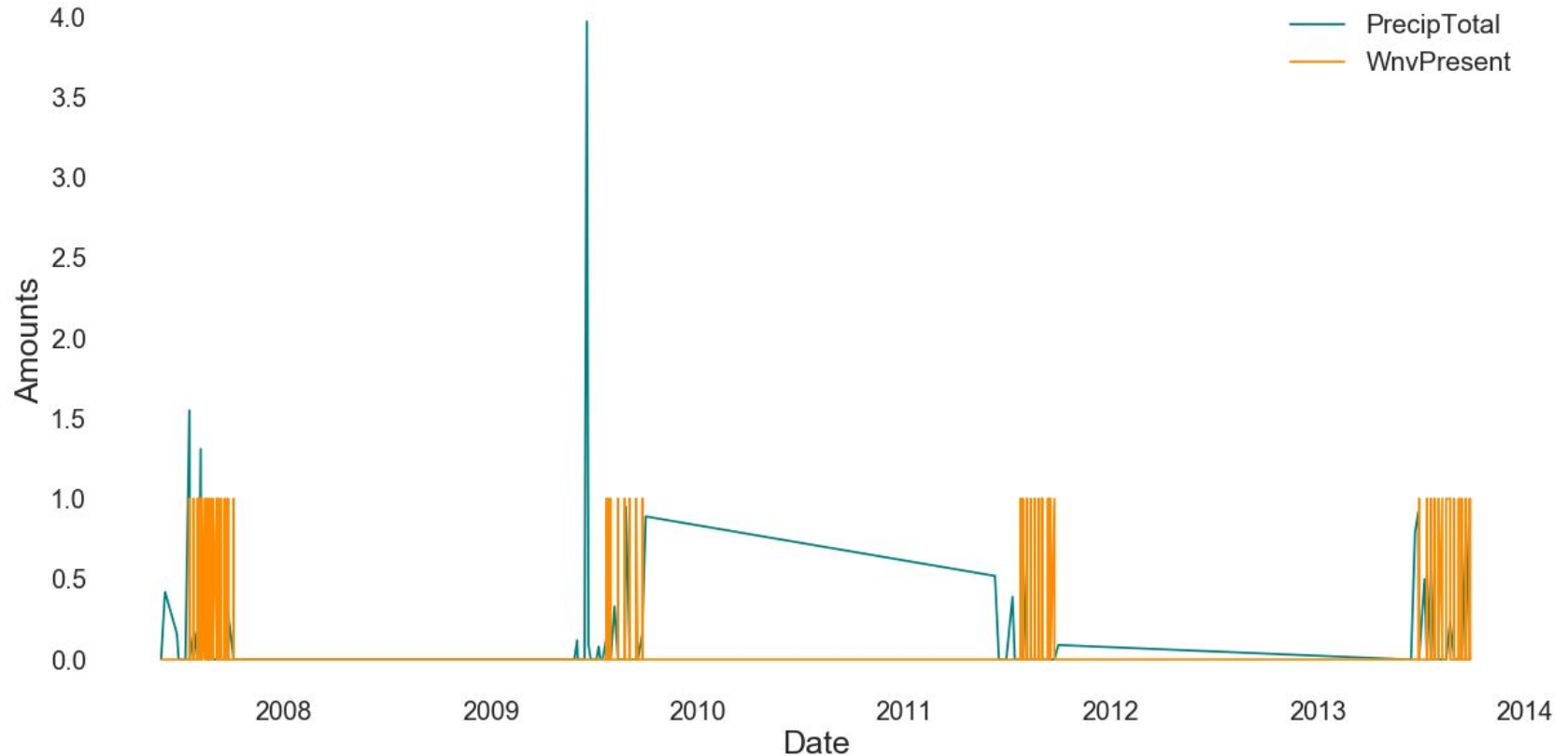
# NumMosquitos by Date



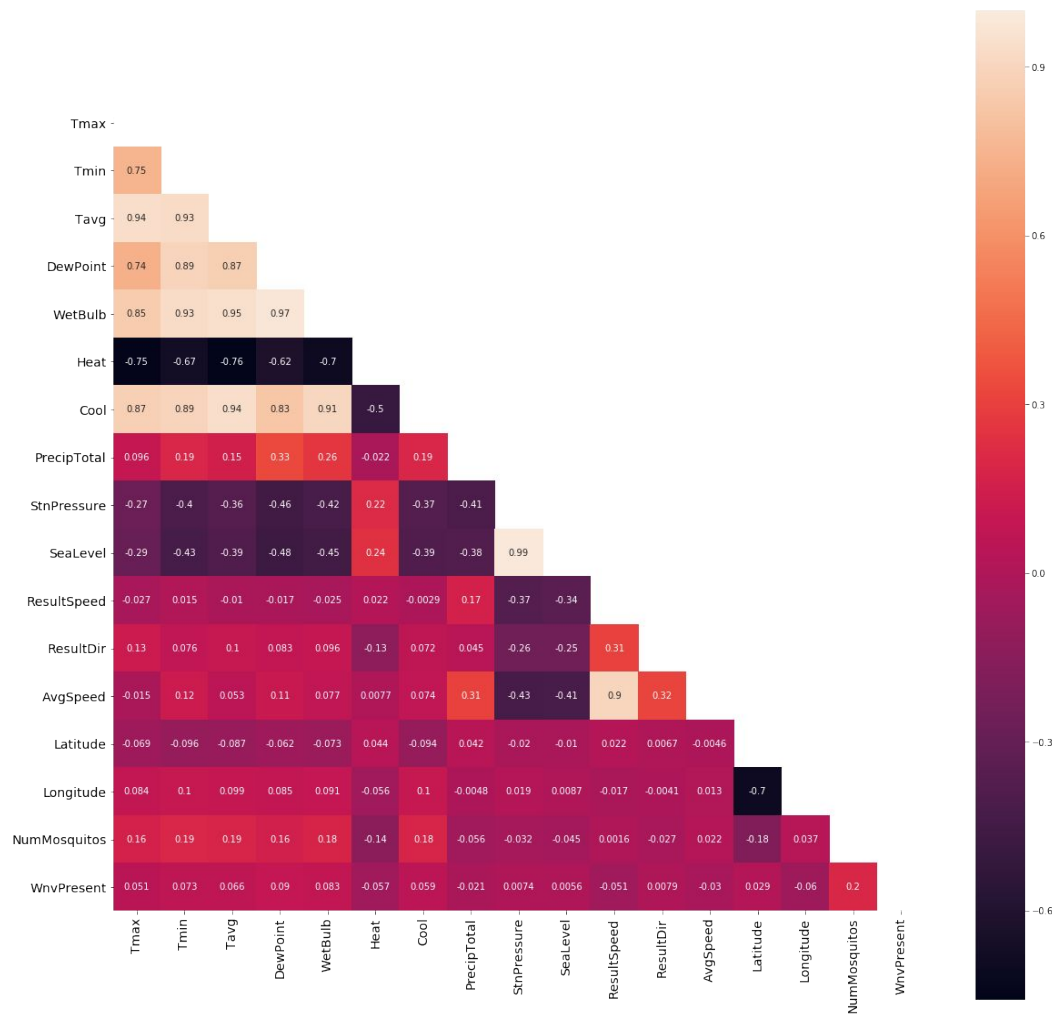
# Presence of West Nile by Date



# How does rain correlate to West Nile?



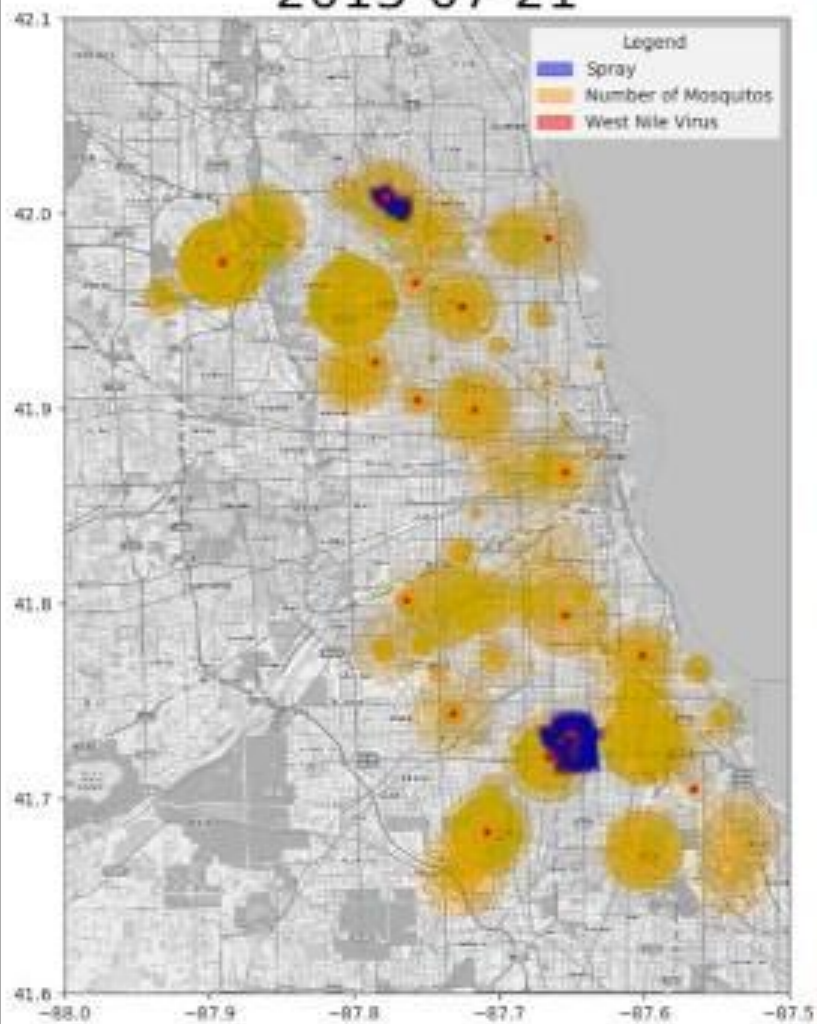
# How do different parts of the weather data relate?



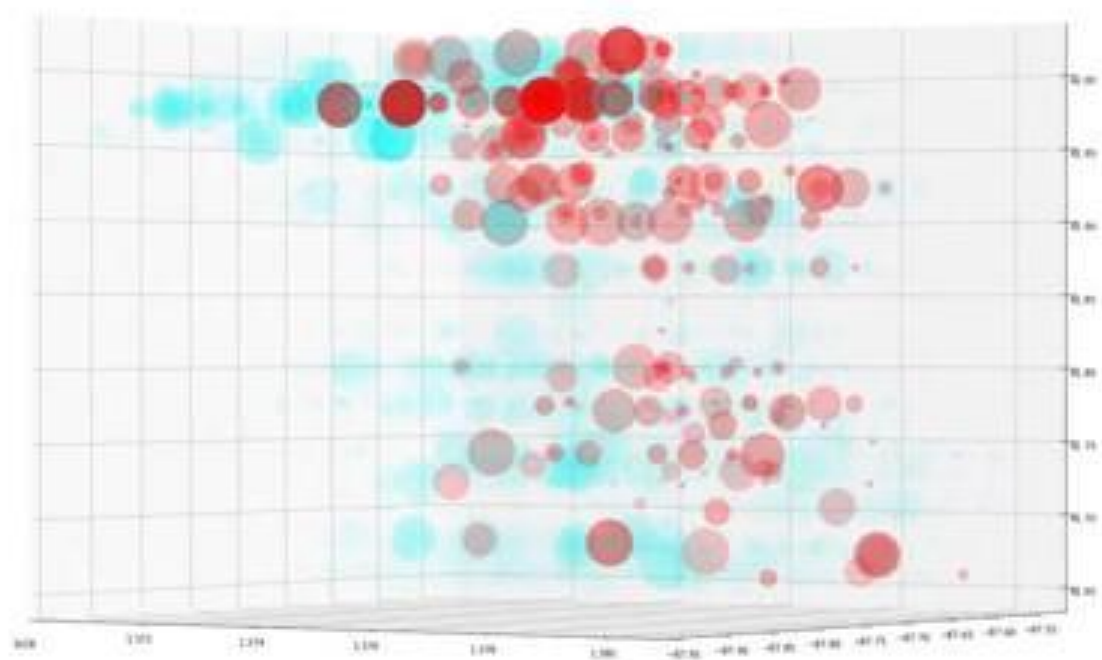
# Simulating Mosquito Population Growth in Chicago



2013-07-21



2013



# EDA Takeaways

1. Only 3 observed species carry West Nile.
2. July–September have the highest rate of the virus.
3. Spraying has little to no effect on the number of mosquitoes.

# Our Process

1. Question ✓
2. Data ✓
3. Explore ✓
4. Model
5. Communicate

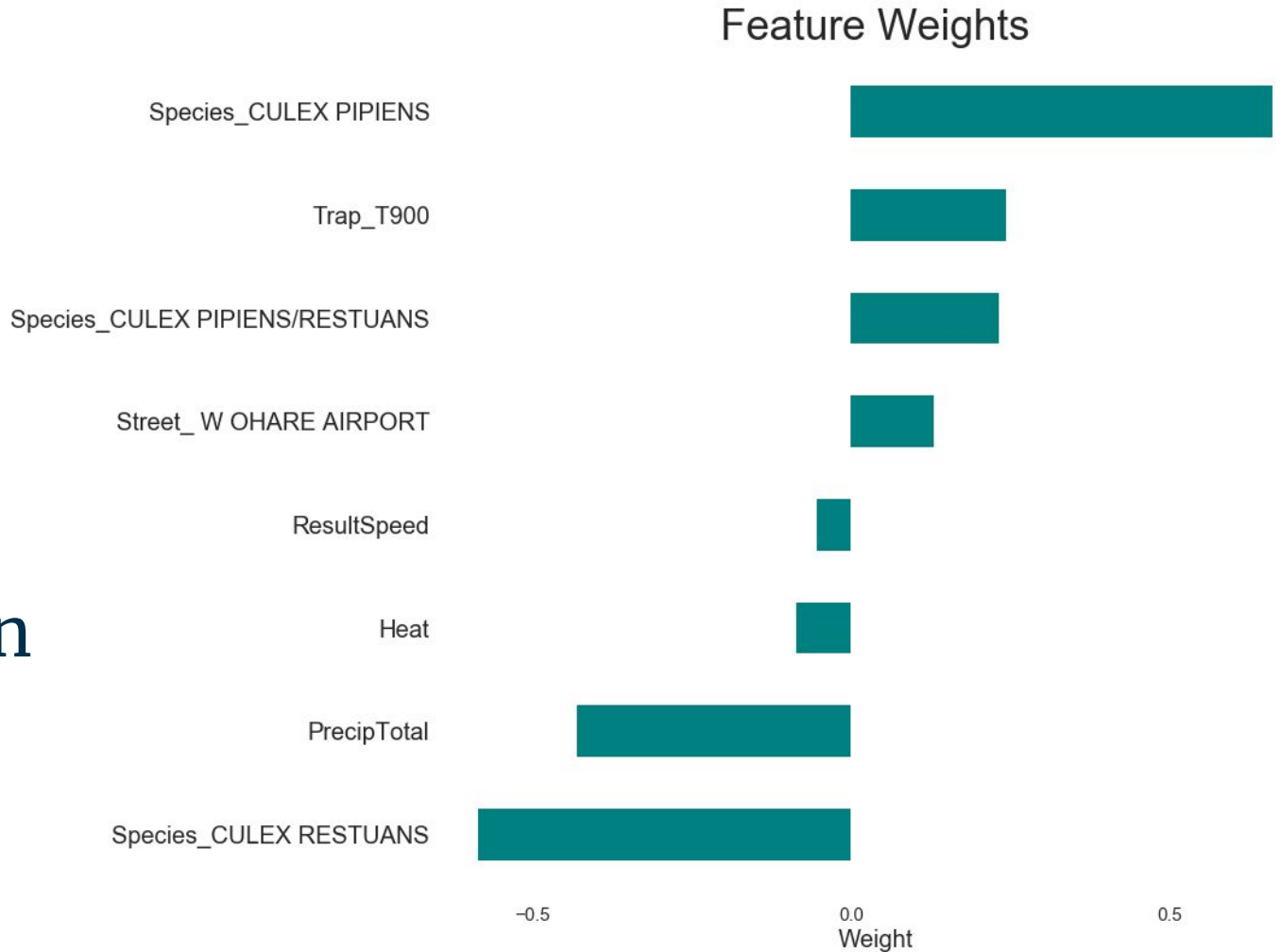
# Modelling Time – Round 1 & 2

- No Spray Data
- Test set doesn't have Num Mosquitoes
- Round 1: Let the computer weight features

Extra Trees ROC AUC Score: 53%

Logistic Regression ROC AUC Score: 65%

# Round 2: Logistic Regression



# Modelling Time – Round 3

- Group Areas Together
- Group by Dates, Months
- Label Encode Species, Streets, Traps

Random Forest ROC AUC Score: 71.9%

Heavy Weights: Labelled, Block, Area

# Modelling Time – Round 4

- Maximize Weather: *It's Cyclical!*
  - Let the **MEANS** *ROLL*
- Binary Species!
- Feature Extraction [PCA]

... And?



# Modelling Time – Round 4

Random Forest ROC AUC Score: 72%

Rolling Means:

- ResultSpeed: 21 (3 wks) - AvgSpeed: 19 (3 wks)
- PrecipTotal: 15 (2 wks) - Heat: 28 (4 wks)
- DewPoint: 16 (2 wks) - Tmax: 4 & Tmin: 8

# Modelling Time – Round 5

- **Bootstrap?**
  - *Didn't Help*
- **Predict the Number of Mosquitoes?**
  - Didn't Help

# Our Process

1. Question ✓
2. Data ✓
3. Explore ✓
4. Model ✓
5. Communicate

# Recommendations

We need to rethink our approach to spraying:

- Begin spraying earlier in the season
- Focus on O'Hare area
- Impact of Birds [Crows & Sparrows]
  - If they're dead, collect and test them

# Recommendations

## Public Awareness Campaigns in Early Spring

- Report dead birds
- Know the dangers
- **NO STANDING WATER**

# Bioengineering

Imperial College of London research:

Complete eradication of a subspecies within 8 generations

\$100m budget

Production model in 5-10 years

# Alternative Solution

- Time is running out
- Resources are depleting
- West Nile is **NOT** being prevented

Look at previous attempts...? **Malaria**

- \$100M dealt with mosquitoes before
- Chicago is smaller scale

**EASIER. FASTER. SAFER.**