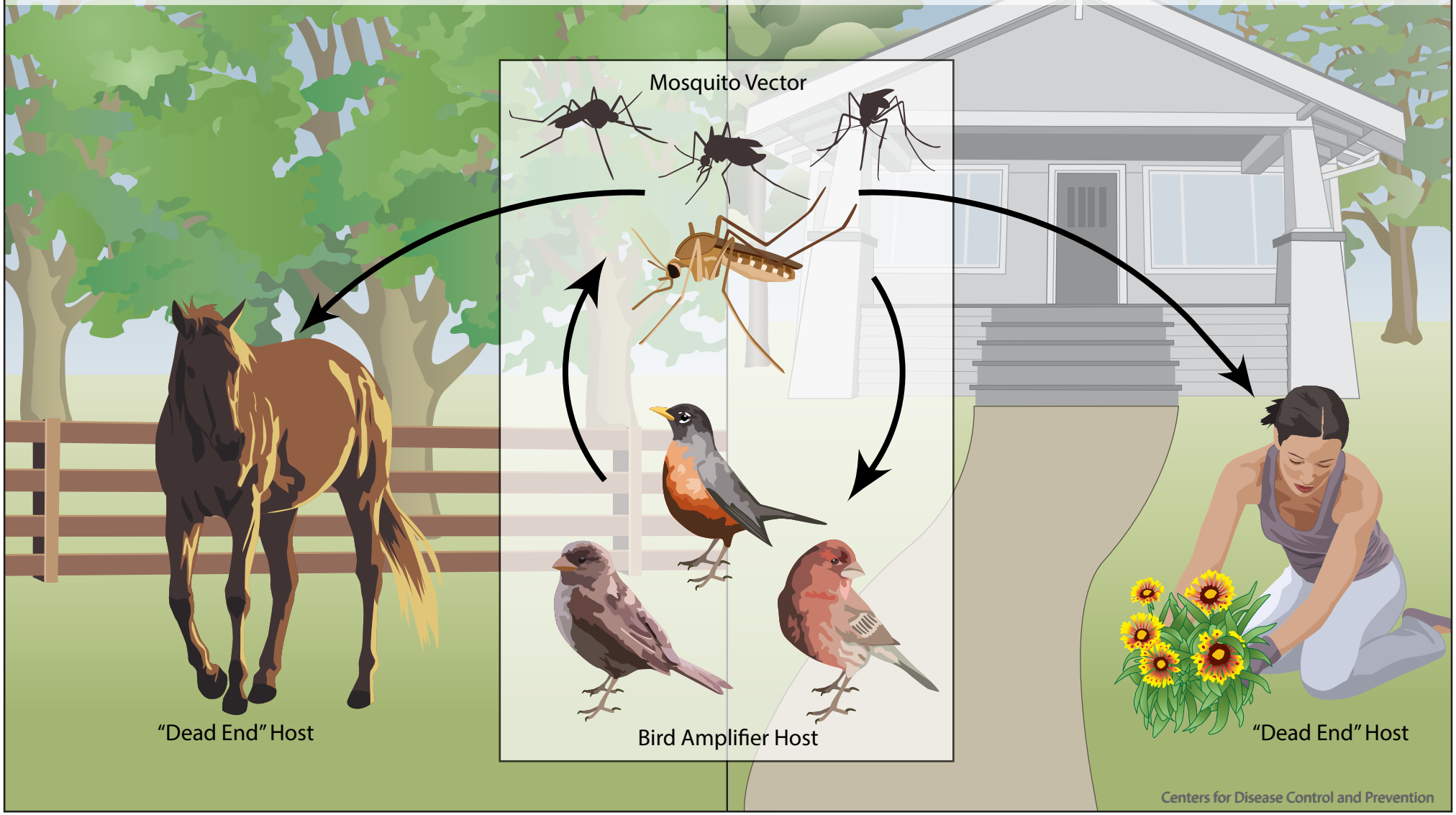
West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle

In nature, West Nile virus cycles between mosquitoes (especially *Culex* species) and birds. Some infected birds, can develop high levels of the virus in their bloodstream and mosquitoes can become infected by biting these infected birds. After about a week, infected mosquitoes can pass the virus to more birds when they bite.

Mosquitoes with West Nile virus also bite and infect people, horses and other mammals. However, humans, horses and other mammals are 'dead end' hosts. This means that they do not develop high levels of virus in their bloodstream, and cannot pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes.