

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement of Tricolored Blackbird Habitat on Agricultural Lands

Report to the Natural Resources Conservation Service
May 19, 2015 to September 30, 2015
Agreement No: 68-9104-5-261



Tricolored Blackbird Background

The Tricolored Blackbird is a near endemic species with at least 90 percent of the population restricted to California and smaller breeding colonies occurring in Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Baja California, Mexico. Tricolored Blackbirds are also the most colonial terrestrial bird in North America. This combination of narrow geographic range and highly colonial breeding make Tricolored Blackbirds particularly susceptible to disturbance and habitat loss. Historically, Tricolored Blackbirds bred on wetlands in the Central Valley with dense cattails and bulrush. However, as a result of the loss of 90 percent of the wetlands in the Central Valley, Tricolored Blackbirds have increasingly nested in agricultural fields during the spring with up to 40 percent of the population found on agricultural fields in any given year. When nesting and farmers' harvest schedules conflict, high proportions of the Tricolored Blackbird population can be put at risk and the reproductive success of colonies of hundreds, thousands or even tens of thousands of birds can be lost.

Because of failed colonies and the overall lack of adequate natural habitat, the population has declined dramatically over the last 80 years, from an estimated 2-3 million in the 1930s to approximately 145,000

in the 2014 statewide survey. Tricolored Blackbirds are a California state Species of Special Concern and a federal Bird of Conservation Concern due to sharp, ongoing population declines. The species has been proposed for state and federal listing several times with current listing petitions under review by the California Fish and Game Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Grant Overview

Partners

Audubon California, California Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Cares, Sustainable Conservation, Western United Dairymen, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Geographic Area

California Bay Delta Critical Conservation Area (Bay Delta CCA)

Timeline

The full grant length is May 19, 2015 to September 30, 2019. This grant reporting period is from May 19, 2015 to September 30, 2015. The award announcement was made in January 2015, so the partners on this grant commenced work then, even though a signed cooperative agreement did not take place until May 19, 2015. This grant report includes outcomes towards the grant objectives from January 2015 – May 2015, but does not include any financial billing or match from this time period outside the signed agreement.

Grant Objectives

1. Implement the existing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) harvest management practice to protect Tricolored Blackbird colonies on dairy farms and forage operations in the Central Valley of California.
2. Establish an innovative working group with industry partners to develop, vet and pilot potential long-term solutions that could substitute for federal harvest management practices when farmers have Tricolored Blackbird colonies on their fields and avoid situations leading to the destruction of colonies on forage fields.
3. Implement an industry-led, promotional campaign highlighting farmers' role in saving this species, changing perception among farmers, particularly dairy farmers, regarding this issue and educating the public on the importance of Tricolored Blackbirds, dairy and forage farms and the role of NRCS.
4. Complement the harvest management practice with habitat restoration and enhancement projects, increasing Tricolored Blackbird management practices on current or future Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) properties and on private agricultural lands to provide additional safe places for colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds to successfully nest.

Objective 1 Outcomes: Protect silage colonies through NRCS harvest management practice

A majority of the work to protect silage colonies in the 2015 Tricolored Blackbird breeding season took place prior to the execution of this grant on May 19, 2015. We report here on the work of our partnership towards this grant objective, including time prior to the execution of the cooperative agreement. Of course, no TRBL RCPP funds were used prior to the execution of this grant, but work was conducted to advance the grant objectives.

Colony protection outcomes

- 5 producers enrolled in harvest management practice at dairies in Tulare, Kern, and Merced Counties

- 65,000 adult birds visually estimated in the 5 silage colonies
- 367 acres were enrolled
- Total assistance of \$223,000
- Acreage deferred ranged from 17 to 150 acres
- Silage was primarily triticale and a forage blend (rye, oats, barley)
- Nesting initiation began on March 9, 2015 with the final silage colony initiating on April 28, 2015.

Surveys to locate Tricolored Blackbird colonies on agricultural lands

- A field technician from Audubon California conducted road surveys 2.5 days per week from March 1st to June 15, 2015 to locate Tricolored Blackbird colonies. These surveys covered Tricolored Blackbird range within Merced County, Madera County, Fresno County, Kern County, Kings County, and Tulare County. Driving routes primarily focused on known nesting hotspots, but was limited by time and capacity.
- Audubon developed ESRI's ArcCollector iPhone application with Tricolored Blackbird colony information to create an in-the-field digital map for navigating Central Valley roads and locating past colony locations. The field technician also created road survey routes to be used in 2016 to systematically survey for Tricolored Blackbirds.
- Our partnership implemented the first ever colony identification response plan to immediately outreach to dairy producers with Tricolored Blackbird colonies sighted on their property. The response plan was developed with the oversight of the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group. It required field sightings of Tricolored Blackbirds on dairies to be reported immediately to Western United Dairymen (Paul Sousa), California Farm Bureau (Noelle Cremers), Natural Resources Conservation Service (Jesse Bahm), and Audubon California (Samantha Arthur). This group then coordinated direct contact to the landowner or land manager through the appropriate county farm bureau or dairy association. This outreach process was a tremendous success because farmers always heard initially from their trusted agricultural representatives.

Farmer education and outreach

- Presentation by Audubon California to county farm bureau leaders at California Farm Bureau Federation's annual conference in Orange County. A lively discussion ensued about the needs of dairies and Tricolored Blackbirds.
- Pre-breeding season dairy outreach workshops in Chowchilla and Tulare with Western United Dairymen, California Farm Bureau, Audubon California, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Tricolored Blackbird outreach brochure created for a dairy audience to inform them of Tricolored Blackbird biology, identification, and the NRCS RCPP program offerings (attached to this report). This brochure was distributed to Western United Dairymen, Fresno NRCS, Visalia NRCS, NRCS Area Biologist, Kern Audubon Chapter, Merced National Wildlife Refuge, and Kern National Wildlife Refuge, as well as individual dairymen in the field.

Objective 2 Outcomes: Develop long-term solutions to silage conflict and pilot project

To advance this objective Audubon California drafted a list of potential long-term solutions, attached to this report below. The long-term solutions list summarizes each proposed solution and identifies its benefits, enabling conditions, challenges, and resource needs. This list was reviewed by the agricultural subcommittee of the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group on April 22, 2015 to get additional solutions proposals and populate the matrix.

Western United Dairymen has organized a small meeting of dairymen to serve as a "think tank" for developing long-term solutions and assessing their on-the-ground feasibility. The next grant report will

detail the outcomes of this meeting. The ultimate goal of this process is to find a more permanent solution to the farm and nesting colony conflict. Potential solutions on this list and identified through the farmer “think tank” will be vetted and tested.

Objective 3 Outcomes: Promotional campaign with dairy industry

Our partnership had significant success in gaining media coverage for Tricolored Blackbirds and the efforts of dairymen to save colonies on their fields. See the attached list of press coverage. We held a joint press conference with NRCS, Audubon, Western United Dairymen, Dairy Cares, and California Farm Bureau at the Sacramento Zoo to announce NRCS’s awarding of the RCPP. The Zoo featured Tricolored Blackbirds in its Quarters for Conservation program, where visitors learn about the species and vote to support its conservation.



Tulare Dairyman, Frank Mendonsa, with Western United Dairymen, Dairy Cares, Audubon California, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For the first time ever a dairyman publicly shared his story of partnering to save Tricolored Blackbirds in his silage fields. Frank Mendonsa, President of Western United Dairymen, saved 15,000 breeding Tricolored Blackbirds by delaying harvest at his Tulare dairy. This event received widespread coverage, including the Fresno Bee, NBC Los Angeles, Visalia Times, Mercury News, and CBS Sacramento. A full list of media coverage is included below.

In addition to the public media, Dairy Cares spearheaded a campaign aimed at educating an industry audience. They produced a short documentary that details the resource issue and

highlights the role of dairies in saving Tricolored Blackbirds. Two dairymen participated in the filming at their farms, and the documentary included Western United Dairymen, Audubon California, and NRCS. Dairy Cares and Western United Dairymen both produced columns during the breeding season to inform their members about the bird’s breeding activities and the NRCS program available to them for technical assistance and financial assistance.

Objective 4 Outcomes: Habitat restoration and enhancement

Audubon California is working closely with the NRCS Area Biologist, Jesse Bahm, to assess potential habitat restoration and enhancement sites on Wetland Reserve Easement lands. Audubon California created a GIS model that ranks WRE properties according to their proximity to Tricolored Blackbird colonies over 1,000 birds in the last 15 years. The model schematic is attached here. NRCS is working to outreach to WRE landowners to identify project opportunities.

Conclusion

Audubon California is grateful to NRCS for the opportunity to partner across different sectors to save Tricolored Blackbirds and support California farmers. Through NRCS technical and financial assistance and matching investments, our partnership achieved many successes in this first reporting period. We will continue to inform Central Valley dairies about Tricolored Blackbirds and the role they can play in protecting the last large colonies. We will build upon our successes to locate and protect colonies in 2016, as well as initiate habitat enhancements on a WRE property. We look forward to continuing to work together to advance the goals of this RCPP grant.

QUICK FACTS

- Tricolored Blackbirds nest in large colonies in the Central Valley
- Nesting occurs from March to July
- Tricolored Blackbirds are black with a red shoulder patch and bright white bar
- The population is low and in danger of dropping further

Help is available for farmers who have Tricolored Blackbirds nesting in their silage fields. Reimbursements through NRCS are available to farmers who delay harvest for the young birds to leave their nests. Contact your NRCS field office to enroll in assistance programs.

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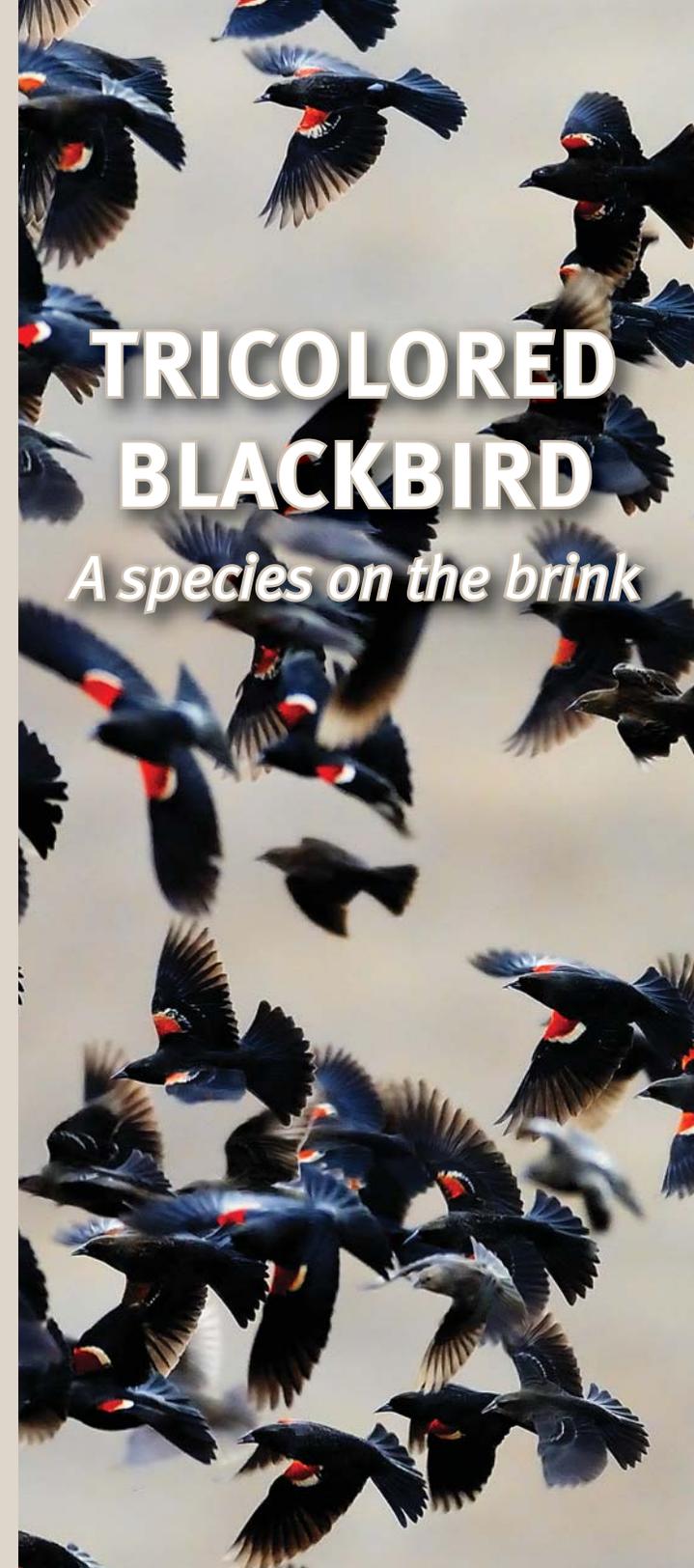
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TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

A species on the brink



Tricolored Blackbird, male



Redwinged Blackbird, male



Cover photo by Jerry Ting, drawings by David Sibley, inside photos by Teddy Llovet, Martin Meyers /USFWS, Kelly Weintraub, and Glen Tepke/USFWS.



Tricolored Blackbird, male.

Tricolored Blackbirds were among the most numerous birds in California during the 19th Century. Sadly, the population has declined from somewhere in the millions to less than 150,000 today. Because the global population of Tricolored Blackbirds lives almost entirely in California, what we do in this state will determine its survival.

Recognizing the Species

The Tricolored Blackbird is North America's most colonial landbird. Its breeding colonies can teem with more than 50,000 birds, sometimes all settled into a single 10-acre field or wetland to raise their young. While similar to the more widespread Red-winged Blackbird, the Tricolored Blackbird can be distinguished by the bright white bar below its crimson red shoulder patch and its colonial breeding behavior.

Tricolored Blackbirds nest in the Central Valley from March to July. Because of California's loss

of natural wetlands, the species depends on agricultural lands with most of the remaining large colonies nesting in grain fields near dairies. A conflict develops when Tricolored Blackbird young have not yet left the nest before harvest time, and then harvesting destroys the nests and young. Because the global population of Tricolored Blackbirds is so low, any nesting failure can have catastrophic effects on the population.

Saving the Tricolored Blackbird

Agencies, researchers, conservation groups, and agricultural and dairy organizations are working to provide safe nesting sites on public lands, to protect Tricolored Blackbirds and reduce their impacts on farming operations. Large Tricolored Blackbird colonies will likely continue to nest in silage during this long-term effort to provide natural habitat. The birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Endangered Species Act and any take is prohibited by law.



Tricolored Blackbird nest.



Tricolored Blackbird, female.

Help is available for farmers who have Tricolored Blackbirds nesting in their silage fields. Reimbursements through NRCS are available to farmers who delay harvest for the young birds to leave their nests. Contact your NRCS field office to enroll in assistance programs.



Tricolored Blackbird, male.

Summary						Benefits			Enabling Conditions		
ID Number	Solution Name	Description	Issue Addressed/Benefit	Perceived Constraint	Potential Partners	Potential benefit <i>Outcomes for TRBL and farmers</i>	Region <i>Pilot project location and full implementation location</i>	Scalability <i>Can be scaled up and/or repeated throughout TRBL range?</i>	Amenable partners <i>Are key partners willing and available to help?</i>	Politically acceptable <i>An acceptable solution to agencies, conservation and dairy interests?</i>	Funding available <i>Is funding likely available to pay for or leverage implementation cost? If so, from where?</i>
1	Silage Bank (Public Lands)	Grow silage on public lands to provide habitat for Tricolored Blackbird. If any of the crop is unused by TRBL, harvest the crop as local replacement crop for dairies that cannot be harvested as a result of TRBL nesting.	Lack of feed for cows due to delayed harvest of fields with nesting TRBL	Too expensive to transport. Can't transport far.	USFWS (Refuges), DFW (State Wildlife Areas), Audubon, Farm Bureau, Dairy Cooperatives	Allows TRBL to nest in dairy silage fields undisturbed. Ag fields are where approximately 40% of the population and the largest remaining colonies are nesting. Double benefit of creating alternative "safe" habitat on public lands that could lure birds off private lands.	Pilot project at Merced NWR. Full implementation could include sites across federal and state refuges and private lands.	To scale it would need to be repeated in many locations across the southern SJ Valley. Only applicable where location of replacement crop is near impacted dairy.	Yes. USFWS.	TBD	Potential for revolving fund where a portion of the sale of unused (by nesting TRBL or for replacement forage) triticale go back into the subsequent years planting and costs.
2	Silage Bank (Private Market)	Reserve an option to purchase silage from various farms and let them know by a certain date if we exercise option. If needed, exercise option and provide alternative silage to impacted farmers.	Lack of feed for cows due to delayed harvest of fields with nesting TRBL	Too expensive to transport. Can't transport far.	Private growers, Dairy Cooperatives, Farm Bureau, Audubon	Allows TRBL to nest in dairy silage fields undisturbed.	No pilot project identified yet. Additional scoping needed to find pilot project and locate private silage available for purchase.	Potentially. May only be applicable where location of replacement crop is near impacted dairy.	TBD	TBD - More research needed on whether farmers are willing to take replacement silage to delay harvest.	Research on costs and likely supporters needed. Is there a potential for a revolving fund with this option? Could we get one big investment that sustains the practice for 5-10 years?
3	Agricultural Easements	Purchase agricultural easements (temporary or permanent) in known TRBL silage nesting hotspots.	Potentially addresses farmer's lost income from harvest delay (by providing advance payment)	Transient nature of colonies. Willingness of landowners.	USFWS, NRCS, WCB, ag land trusts	Allows TRBL to nest in dairy silage fields undisturbed. Provides farmer up-front cash payment to help compensate for impacts of nesting TRBL	Southern San Joaquin - Tulare, Merced, Kern? Would need to do a really thorough analysis of past colony areas, repeat colony sites, and willing landowners.	Yes.	Yes. More research needed on applicable funding programs.	Yes.	Yes. Although, more detail needed on current programs and potential for TRBL focused easements.
4	Silage Insurance	Two potential types of insurance 1) to cover the full cost of the lost crop (without government programs) 2) cover the cost of the crop not reimbursed by government programs.	Potentially addresses farmer's lost income from harvest delay	Is there enough of a market to pursue?	Insurance industry, equity firm?, dairy industry, Farm Bureau, Audubon	Reduced pressure to harvest since farmer's would be made "whole" for any lost income.	TBD. San Joaquin Valley?	Yes but would likely only be applicable to small regional areas impacted by TRBL nesting.	Need to confirm that farmers would be willing to enroll in this type of insurance.	TBD.	Self supporting model since farmers pay into the insurance and then the insurance covers the cost.
5	Market Mechanism	Pay farmers for habitat provided for TRBL through private funding or mitigation funding.	Potentially addresses farmer's lost income from harvest delay	Who funds? What is the mechanism?	EDF (Central Valley Habitat Exchange), mitigation banks, etc.	Reduced pressure to harvest since farmer's would be made "whole" for any lost income.	TBD	Yes.	TBD - Need to start with conversation with CVHE	Potentially	TBD. Additional funding will be available if species is listed.
6	Hazing	Prevent TRBL from nesting in triticale by taking actions to get birds to abandon nesting attempts on active fields.	Harvest delay requirements although hazing could just push the birds to another farm.	Moves TRBL to neighboring fields. Hazing may violate species protections?	DFW	Birds don't nest on a specific farm (perhaps one that doesn't want to or isn't able to participate in other programs)	Already being done to some extent in select locations.	Yes but would need heavy consideration of the ramifications.	DFW?	Potentially not. May violate species protections.	TBD
7	WWF and Dairy Innovation Center Program	Work with WWF to insert TRBL into their farming program.	TBD		Audubon, DairyCares, WWF	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Challenges				Resource Needs			Outstanding Questions	Next Steps	Overall Priority
Physical/Technical barriers	Funding barriers	Implementation risk	Policy barriers	Skills	Implementation Costs	Timeframe			
<i>Are there technical or physical barriers that prevent implementation?</i>	<i>Are the costs prohibitive? Other funding limitations or hurdles.</i>	<i>Is solution likely to work? And within budget? Is this overly complex technically or legally?</i>		<i>Expertise required for full implementation</i>		<i>How long to complete?</i>			
Potentially limited public land locations. Limited ability to transport silage to needed area. Potential costs associated with silage transfer. Constraints on timing of harvest.	Transportation costs of moving silage from field to replacement site	Low implementation risk for pilot. Broader applicability limited by delivery constraints.	Cooperative farming agreements under USFWS may have policy constraints. May not be able to trade silage off of refuge.	1) Public land manager and policy decision-makers. 2) Willing leasee's on public lands. 3) Impacted farmers willing to take alternative feed as supplement.	TBD	Pilot: 1 growing season Broader program: 2-3 years for full roll-out if possible.	1) Cost of transport. 2) Ability to transport. 3) Policy relating to use of public lands. 4) Will farmers want replacement crop? 5) What is annual cost of effort and how much can the revolving fund offset?	1) Scope out revolving fund possibility. 2) Confirm silage delivery costs and feasible radius. 3) Pilot program on UCMerced in 2015. 4) Pending pilot success, identify public lands with active agricultural easements or cooperative farming agreements within close proximity of TRBL silage colony hotspots. 5) Confirm with broader group of at-risk farmers that this solution would be acceptable to them.	High
Delivery of silage to impacted farmers would need to occur in narrow geographic area. Need to confirm timing to determine if we could hold onto option long enough to know where potential TRBL silage colonies are located.	Who would be willing to purchase silage options on an annual basis? Could we sell those options and put money in a revolving fund for the next year?	TBD	None	1) Farming/market expert. 2) Impacted farmers willing to take alternative feed. 3) Silage growers	TBD. Staff time to fully scope idea and potential costs/risks. Cost to enter into option contracts? Costs to purchase and deliver triticales.	1 growing season to document background research. Need to execute potential options in December?	More background research and documentation needed. 1) Location of potential options 2) Will farmers want replacement crop? 3) What is the annual cost of effort? 4) Where could investment come from?	Person to take lead on fully vetting this option - costs, timing, delivery, farmer willingness to accept trades, etc.	Medium - may lack double benefit of providing "safe" habitat that public lands silage bank offers.
Need to research probability of birds returning to one site - i.e.: what is the risk that we will purchase an easement and then the birds don't return to that site? Would require farmers to grow TRBL friendly crop.	TBD.	This could be a great short-term solution (20 year) while additional efforts are made to restore natural habitat. Challenge with birds not necessarily nesting in the same location.	None?	1)Easement expert 2) Funding program knowledge 3) Direct outreach to potential landowners.	Staff time to fully scope idea and potential costs/risks. Costs for easements.	Could have easements on the ground (pending resolving outstanding questions and issues) in 2+ years.	1) What are available easement programs? 2) How much would these easement programs be willing to pay? 3) Would farmers be willing to enroll in this type of easement program? 4) Is it reasonable to require long-term growing of TRBL nesting crops? 5) How do we ensure that we are only purchasing easements on properties that are likely to have TRBL nesting conflicts.	Discuss with ag working group. Assign lead to start answering background questions. Conversations with potential funders.	High
TBD	TBD.	TBD	None.	Insurance expert - potentially hire a consultant to scope this option.	TBD.	1 year?	1) Can we hire a consultant to scope this out - costs, interests, feasibility, etc. 2) Would there be enough participating landowners to make this viable? 3) Could we increase the number of participants? (Potentially fold into other existing insurance programs?)	Hire expert to analyze feasibility	High (at least the initial scoping to get answers on these outstanding questions)
Unknown	Unknown	CVHE is still in pilot phase so potential overlap is unknown at this point. Mitigation banks are much more developed and with potential listing could be a viable option for funding.	Some general barriers to CVHE concept but broader group is working to resolve those.	1) Economist 2) mitigation banking 3) regulatory 4) CVHE participants.	TBD	~2 years	1) Could the CVHE use TRBL as a pilot project or could the model for CVHE be applied to tricolored blackbirds. 2) Would mitigation banking be relevant if the species is listed? 1) what do we already know about acceptable practices 2) Can you have a listed bird? 3) What is biological impact? 4) Are you just moving the bird to a new farm? 5) Political and public perception ramifications?	Discuss unknowns. See if group wants to scope out some basic questions around concept.	Medium/low given high number of unknowns.
1) Lack of clear method 2) Lack of clear understanding of biological impact 3) Potential conflict with regulations.	TBD.	Potentially a short term solution in select locations where the landowner is unwilling or unable to delay harvest.	MBTA or CESA implications?	1) Biologist 2) Regulatory input	TBD	Immediate		Discuss as group	TBD
TBD	TBD.	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Intro meeting with WWF to be set up by JP	TBD

Tricolored Blackbird RCPP Media and Outreach Campaign

Announcement of RCPP Award

1/21/2015 New Partnership Gets Grant to Support Imperiled Tricolored Blackbird USDA NRCS
2/9/2015 Compensation for Delayed Silage Harvest Due to Endangered Tri-Colored Blackbird California Dairy Magazine

Dairyman Delays Harvest

May 2015 California dairy farmer chooses harvest delay to protect 15,000 nesting Tricolored Blackbirds Dairy Cares - Milestones in Sustainability
5/20/2015 South Valley dairy farmer halts harvest to save imperiled tricolored blackbird Fresno Bee
5/20/2015 Video: Working together to save the endangered tricolored blackbird Fresno Bee
5/20/2015 Video: State Offers Incentives to Farmers Who Save Tricolored Blackbirds CBS Fresno
5/25/2015 Farmer Delays Harvesting Crops to Save Baby Blackbirds, Earning Flock of Praise NBC Los Angeles
5/23/2015 Saving the songbird Visalia Times
5/20/2015 WUD's Mendonsa provides habitat for 15,000 Tricolored Blackbirds Dairy Herd Management
5/21/2015 Farmer halts harvest to save baby tricolored blackbirds Capital Press
5/21/2015 Farmer halts harvest to save baby tricolored blackbirds Mercury News
5/21/2015 Central California Farmer Halts Harvest To Save Baby Tricolored Blackbirds CBS Sacramento
5/26/2015 Dairy Farmer Recognized for Helping Endangered Bird Ag Net West
5/26/2015 AgNeTVideo: Frank Mendonsa on the Tricolored Blackbird in his fields Ag Net West
Saving a Species: California Dairies Go to Bat for the Birds Ag Web

Outreach to Dairymen

4/24/2015 Resources for WUD members ease the process to managing Tricolored Blackbirds Western United Dairymen - Weekly Update
April 2015 Tricolored Blackbird nesting season underway; Dairy families work to help threatened bird Dairy Cares - Milestones in Sustainability
Sep-15 Dairies' efforts to save tricolored blackbirds featured in new online video documentary Dairy Cares - Milestones in Sustainability

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/home/?cid=STELPRDB1268494>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6kGtNiTEUs&feature=youtu.be>

<http://dairycares.com/monthly-report/20155/california-dairy-farmer-chooses-harvest-delay-protect-15000-nesting-tricolored->

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article21499413.html>

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/article21523854.html>

http://www.yourcentralvalley.com/story/d/story/state-offers-incentives-to-farmers-who-save-tricol/24669/IOkb05G6LEagV_rMu47yAg

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/baby-tricolored-blackbird-farmer-harvest-304588231.html>

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/news/local/2015/05/22/savingsongbird/27813717/>

<http://www.dairyherd.com/news/wud%E2%80%99s-mendonsa-provides-habitat-15000-tricolored-blackbirds>

<http://www.capitalpress.com/California/20150521/farmer-halts-harvest-to-save-baby-tricolored-blackbirds>

http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_28161475/farmer-halts-harvest-save-baby-tricolored-blackbirds

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2015/05/21/central-california-farmer-halts-harvest-to-save-baby-tricolored-blackbirds/>

<http://agnetwest.com/2015/05/26/dairy-farmer-recognized-for-helping-endangered-bird/>

<http://agnetwest.com/2015/05/21/agnetvideo-frank-mendonsa-on-the-tricolored-blackbird-in-his-fields/>

<http://www.agweb.com/article/saving-a-species-california-dairies-go-to-bat-for-the-birds-NAA-catherine-merlo/>

<http://dairycares.com/monthly-report/20154/tricolored-blackbird-nesting-season-underway-dairy-families-work-help-threatene>

<http://dairycares.com/monthly-report/20159/dairies%E2%80%99-efforts-save-tricolored-blackbirds-featured-new-online-video-documenta>

