



PUBLIC NOTICE

February 26, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has initiated a status review of the Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.6, and is providing this notice pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.4 to solicit data and comments on the petitioned action from interested and affected parties.

The Department has initiated this status review following related action by the Fish and Game Commission. Having provided notice, the Tricolored Blackbird is now a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (Cal. Reg. Notice Reg. 2013, No. 52-Z, pp. 2085-2092; see also Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2, 2085).

The Department has 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether or not the petitioned action is warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6). The Department's recommendation must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department.

Therefore, **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that anyone with data or comments on the taxonomic status, ecology, biology, life history, management recommendations, distribution, abundance, threats, habitat that may be essential for the species, or other factors related to the status of the above species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to the Department.

Comments may be submitted via email to: wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov. If submitting by email, please include "Tricolored Blackbird" in the subject heading. Comments may also be submitted by surface mail. If submitting by mail, please submit two hard copies or include comments in a digital/electronic format and send to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nongame Wildlife Program
Attn: Neil Clipperton
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Responses and information received by **June 1, 2016** will be evaluated for possible incorporation in the Department's final report to the Fish and Game Commission. The Department's written report will indicate, based on the best scientific information available, whether the Department concludes that the petitioned action is warranted or not warranted. Receipt of the report will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery. The report will be made available to the public at that time. Following receipt of the Department's report, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on the Department's recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Neil Clipperton at (916) 445-9753 or the Department via email at wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov or at the address above.

As a candidate species, the Tricolored Blackbird receives the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, § 2085). Research on Tricolored Blackbird requires appropriate permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a). Interested researchers should contact Esther Burkett at Esther.Burkett@wildlife.ca.gov for more information.