

## Thursday, September 3, 2015: Samantha Arthur - Tricolored Blackbirds

**Birding Information:** A short video highlighting an all-day celebration of birds with more than 30 sponsored events around Los Angeles, dubbed “Bird LA”, will be shown.

**Main program:** Samantha Arthur: Tricolored Blackbirds



The Tricolored Blackbird is a colonial breeder that is nearly endemic to California. Historically, Tricolored Blackbirds bred on wetlands in the Central Valley with dense cattails and bulrush. As a result of the loss of 90 percent of the wetlands in the Central Valley, Tricolors increasingly nest in agricultural fields during the spring. When nesting schedules and farmers’ harvest schedules conflict high proportions of the Tricolor population are put at risk. Approximately 145,000 individuals were counted in the 2014 statewide survey, down from an estimated 2-3 million in the 1930s. In this presentation Conservation Project Manager, Samantha Arthur, will discuss Audubon California’s multi-pronged approach to save the Tricolored Blackbird. This approach includes creating new wetland habitat and working with dairy farmers to delay harvest until after chicks have fledged from nests.



Samantha Arthur is a Conservation Project Manager for Audubon California, focusing on improving wetlands management for the benefit of bird species in the Central Valley. Samantha has a Masters of Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Prior to Audubon, Samantha worked with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to support private lands stewardship across the state. She was also previously a Land Protection Specialist for the Big Sur Land Trust where she worked with landowners in Monterey County on conservation easements and land management.

More detailed information about the September program is available in our September 2015 Quail newsletter.