

For Future Reference



This female Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) is denying food to her fledgling. Parental Tricolors stop provisioning nestlings at some colonies and lure the fledglings to sites away from the colony, then resume provisioning. These crèches, up to five or more kilometers from colonies may give the false impression that they are nesting sites. Crèches may account for all reports of Tricolors nesting in spineless or otherwise unarmed vegetation not over water. Oleanders, California walnuts (*Juglans californica*) and many other shrubby plants are bases for crèches but not nests. Photo taken at Sag Pond, Wind Wolves Preserve, Kern County, California.

photo and text by William Hamilton III (wjhamilton@ucdavis.edu)