



May 24, 2019
(2018-047.012)

Ms. Veronica Mardis
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: Vmardis@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: April 2019 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California

Dear Ms. Mardis,

This letter report has been prepared to summarize the results of the twice weekly breeding season focused surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) conducted in April 2019 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' (LACDPW) Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project in the City of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. The twice weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted to comply with Condition 7.3.4 in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2016-031-05 that was issued for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project (Project) which states:

"The Designated Biologist(s) shall continue weekly focused surveys within 500 feet of Covered Activities in Covered Species habitat during the breeding season to determine the presence of Covered Species;"

In addition, the surveys were conducted to comply with Conservation Measure 11b of the Informal Section 7 Consultation (Section 7) No. FWS-LA-14B0081-15I0477 for the Project which states:

"Twice weekly surveys for the vireo will be conducted by the biological monitor in areas of suitable habitat within 500 feet of proposed construction activities to determine the presence of vireo nest building activities, egg incubation activities, or brood rearing activities."

SURVEY METHODS

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in compliance with ITP Condition 7.3.4 and Section 7 Conservation Measure CM 11b for Project activities that are to occur during the vireo's breeding season (March 1 to August 31). Surveys were conducted between dawn and 11 a.m. when weather conditions were favorable in accordance with USFWS

2001 protocol (nesting season) guidelines.¹ Meandering transects were walked throughout suitable least Bell’s vireo habitat areas within 500 feet of the Project boundaries to visually and audibly detect the presence of least Bell’s vireo. All bird and wildlife species detected during the survey were recorded on standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

RESULTS

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted in April 2019. Prior to the start of twice weekly focused breeding season surveys, seven preconstruction surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted (starting March 15, 2019 ending April 14, 2019). Each survey was conducted by a CDFW- and USFWS-approved Designated Biologist for least Bell’s vireo surveys. The dates, personnel, and weather conditions for each survey are presented in Table 1. Field survey datasheets are provided in Attachment A.

Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
4/14/19	ST	0630	0956	54	63	10	10	0	1-2
4/17/19	JC	0700	1010	48	60	0	0	0-1	0-1
4/25/19	JC	0700	1015	55	69	100	0	0-1	0-3
4/26/19	BS	0651	1033	56	69	90	0	0	3-5
4/30/19	LS	0700	1100	56	60	100	100	0-1	0-2

BS = Ben Smith, JC = Jill Coumoutso, LS = Lauren Simpson, ST = Scott Taylor

No least Bell’s vireo were identified during the April 2019 breeding season surveys.

Two brown-headed cowbird individuals were observed during April focused breeding season surveys, both observations were on April 26, 2019.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in April 2019 did not detect least Bell’s vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Twice weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (August 31).

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (714) 648-0630 or lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com.

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2001. Least Bell’s Vireo Survey Guidelines. U.S. Department of the Interior. Carlsbad, CA, USFWS, 3 pp.

² ECorp Consulting, Inc (ECORP). 2019. Nesting Bird Management Plan, Devil’s Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Water Resource Division. March 2019.

SIGNED: 

Lauren Simpson
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
1801 Park Court Place, Building B. Ste 103.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

DATE: May 24, 2019

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 14, 2019, 9:57:29 AM

Survey Date

Apr 14, 2019

Observer Name

Other

Other Observer

Scott Taylor

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:30

Start Temperature

54

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

10

End Time

09:56

End Temperature

63

End Wind Speed

1-2

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

Locations

House wren

Bewick's wren

Western bluebird

Ca thrasher

No mockingbird

Europ starling

House finch

Lesser goldfinch

White-crowned sparrow

So sparrow

Ca towhee

Sp towhee

OC warbler

Common yellowthroat

Yellow warbler

Ye-rumped warbler

Black-throated gray

BHGR

Incidental Species Observed

Orange-crowned warbler

Mallard

Ca quail

Mourning dove

Ca ground squirrel

Botta's pocket gopher

Coyote

Raccoon

Brush rabbit

Desert cottontail

Red admiral

Painted lady

Western fence lizard

Western tiger swallowtail

Side-blotched lizard

Common white

Additional Notes

Anna's h-bird

Killdeer

Red-shouldered hawk

Red-tailed hawk

Red-crowned parrot

Amazona sp.

Pacific-slope flycatcher

Ash-throated flycatcher

California scrub jay

American crow

Common raven

Northern rough-winged swallow

Cliff swallow

Bushtit

(Continued ...)

Log Completed?

Yes

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 17, 2019, 10:21:37 AM

Survey Date

Apr 17, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

48

Start Wind Speed

1

Start Cloud Cover

End Time

10:10

End Temperature

60

End Wind Speed

1

| End Cloud Cover

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

| Number of Individuals

Incidental Species Observed

- SPTO**
- AMRO**
- WREN**
- CAQU**
- CATH**
- RTHA**
- SOSP**
- CAJA**
- ALHU**
- ATFL**
- LEGO**
- OCWA**
- BEWR**
- CALT**
- HOFI**
- ACWO**
- ANHU**
- EUST**
- COHA**
- BGGN**
- BHGR**
- BUSH**
- COYE**
- HOWR**
- YWAR**
- PARROT SPP**
- Western fence lizard**
- Desert Cottontail**

Log Completed?

Yes

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 25, 2019, 10:32:31 AM

Survey Date

Apr 25, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

55

Start Wind Speed

1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

69

End Wind Speed

3

End Cloud Cover

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO

BHGR

SOSP

CATH

MODO

HOOR

BUSH

SPTO

HOWR

ANHU

WREN

BEWR

BGGN

HUVI

ACWO

LEGO

PSFL

CALT

COYE

CAQU

RTHA

HOFI

EUST

CAJA

Parrot sap.

Grey squirrel

Western fence lizard

Additional Notes

Found SPTO nest. Female incubating.

Log Completed?

Yes

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 26, 2019, 10:35:10 AM

Survey Date

Apr 26, 2019

Observer Name

Ben Smith

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:51

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

90

End Time

10:33

End Temperature

69

End Wind Speed

3-5

| End Cloud Cover

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

2

Locations

34.190979, 118.175880

34.190737, 118.175349

Incidental Species Observed

Lewo
Acwo
Casj
Caqu
Amro
Calt
Coye
Spto
Sosp
Bewr
Bhco
Howr
Eust
Bhgr
Oati
Nrws
Nuwo
Anhu
Bush
Amcr
Alhu
Cottontail
Cora
Modo
Ropi
Rtha
Coha
Hofi
Lego
Buor
Weta
Ywar
Pufi
Auwa
Cath
Fence liz
Psfl
Ocwa
Nomo
CA striped racer
Wiwa
Caki
Ssha
Lazb
Cang
Mall

Additional Notes

Wren

Atfl

Mgwa

Log Completed?

Yes

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 30, 2019, 11:22:43 AM

Survey Date

Apr 30, 2019

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

60

End Wind Speed

0-2

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

Incidental Species Observed

**AMRO, SOSP, SPTO, CALT, COYE, Cora, EUST, ANHU, ALHU, MODO, BHGB, HOfl, BEWR, LEGO, NRWS, Cotto
ntail, CAQU, CATH, NOMO, BUSH, CASJ, MALL, WREN, WAVI, YEWA, WCSP, KILL, CA ground squirrel, YRWA,
CAKI, NUWO, PSFL, WTSW, CAGO, LEWO, AMCR**

Additional Notes

**No LBVI observed. Several YEWA heard and observed, points taken in Collector map. 1 new ANHU nest observ
ed. Logged in Collector.**

Log Completed?

Yes