



June 24, 2021  
(2018-047.026/004)

Mr. Mark Gim  
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Stormwater Engineering Division  
Via Email: [Tgim@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:Tgim@dpw.lacounty.gov)

**Subject: April 2021 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California**

Dear Mr. Gim,

This letter report has been prepared to summarize the results of the breeding season focused surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) conducted in April 2021 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' (LACPW) Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project in the City of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. The 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 that if Covered Activities are proposed during the least Bell's vireo breeding season (defined as March 1 to September 15):

"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;"

Per Conservation Measure 11b of the USFWS Informal Section 7 Consultation, if sediment removal is conducted between March 15 and August 31 "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."

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on April 20, 2021 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated.

## **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

## **RESULTS**

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during the last two weeks of April 2021. Prior to the twice weekly focused breeding season surveys, preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were initiated March 1, 2021 and continued through April 18, 2021 (results presented separately in the Preconstruction Least Bell's Vireo Survey Report). 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
4/20/21	JC	0710	1026	54	64	100	0	1-3	1-3
4/22/21	JC	0720	1035	54	57	100	100	1-3	1-3
4/28/21	CT	0630	1120	48	77	0	0	0-1	4-7
4/30/21	JC	0715	1005	63	82	15	10	0	1-3

CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

No least Bell's vireos were detected during the April 2021 breeding season surveys.

Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the April 2021 breeding season surveys.

## **DISCUSSION**

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in April 2021 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. During the 2020 breeding season, the first observation of the territorial male that would form the breeding pair for the 2020 season was in early May. It is possible that the breeding pair or their offspring from 2020

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

will return to the Project site to breed during the 2021 season. Twice-weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15).

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

SIGNED: 

Lauren Simpson  
Staff Biologist  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.  
2861 Pullman Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: June 24, 2021

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

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**ATTACHMENT A**

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted by: SoCal\_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 20, 2021, 5:42:53 PM

Survey Date

**Apr 20, 2021**

Observer Name

**Jill Coumoutso**

Survey Conditions

Start Time

**07:10**

Start Temperature

**54**

Start Wind Speed

**1-3**

Start Cloud Cover

**100**

End Time

**10:26**

End Temperature

**64**

End Wind Speed

**1-3**

End Cloud Cover

**0**

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

**No**

Incidental Species Observed

**BHGR**

**ACWO**

**SPTO**

**WIWA**

**HOWR**

**BUSH**

**MODO**

**CASJ**

**COYE**

**NUWO**

**CALT**

**HOFI**

**CAQU**

**CATH**

**ANHU**

**YRWA**

**BEWR**

**PSFL**

**YWAR**

**ALHU**

**COHA**

**HOOR**

**Red-crowned parrot**

**Western fence lizard**

**Side blotched lizard**

**Desert cottontail**

**CA Ground squirrel**

Additional Notes

**Foggy on arrival on-site**

Log Completed?

**Yes**

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

Submitted by: SoCal\_Bio

Submitted time: Apr 22, 2021, 6:32:57 PM

Survey Date

**Apr 22, 2021**

Observer Name

**Jill Coumoutso**

Survey Conditions

Start Time

**07:20**

Start Temperature

**54**

Start Wind Speed

**1-3**

Start Cloud Cover

**100**

End Time

**10:35**

End Temperature

**57**

End Wind Speed

**1-3**

End Cloud Cover

**100**

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

**No**

Incidental Species Observed

**MODO**

**HOWR**

**WEKI**

**CALT**

**NUWO**

**SPTO**

**BEWR**

**HOFI**

**RSHA**

**ACWO**

**ANHU**

**CATH**

**BLPH**

**California ground squirrel**

**Desert cottontail**

Additional Notes

**Drizzling on and off all morning**

Log Completed?

**Yes**

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

Submitted by: SoCal\_Bio

Submitted time: May 1, 2021, 8:25:50 AM

Survey Date

**Apr 28, 2021**

Observer Name

**Christine Tischer**

Survey Conditions

Start Time

**06:30**

Start Temperature

**48**

Start Wind Speed

**0-1**

Start Cloud Cover

**0**

End Time

**11:20**

End Temperature

**77**

End Wind Speed

**4-7**

End Cloud Cover

**0**

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

**No**

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

**0**

Incidental Species Observed

**BEWR, BUSH, CASJ, OATI, HOOR, MODO, BHGR, WCSP, parrots, ACWO, CAQU, HOWR. SOSP, CATH, COYE, WEBL, woodrat, Sceloporus, NRWS, ANHU, YRWA, CAKI, LAGO, EUST, CLSW, Uta, SPTO, CALT, NUWO, YWA R, WAVI, CORA, LEGO, WIWA, BLPH, PSFL, BGGN, STJA, NAWA, HOFI, ATFL, AMCR, WETA, AMRO, VASW, WT SW, CHSP, COHA, WWPE, RSHA, cottontail, carpenter bee, common buckeye, CA ground squirrel, cabbage white, wandering skipper, MALL, Crotch bumble bee, fritillary**

Log Completed?

**Yes**

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

Submitted by: SoCal\_Bio

Submitted time: May 1, 2021, 12:54:37 PM

Survey Date

**Apr 30, 2021**

Observer Name

**Jill Coumoutso**

Survey Conditions

Start Time

**07:15**

Start Temperature

**63**

Start Wind Speed

**0**

Start Cloud Cover

**15**

End Time

**10:05**

End Temperature

**82**

End Wind Speed

**1-3**

End Cloud Cover

**10**

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

**No**

Incidental Species Observed

**BHGR**

**WETA**

**CALT**

**DEJU**

**SPTO**

**BEWR**

**ACWO**

**DOWO**

**MODO**

**OCWA**

**PSFL**

**CASJ**

**YWAR**

**CORA**

**SOSP**

**HOWR**

**COYE**

**ANHU**

**coyote**

**Desert cottontail**

**CA ground squirrel**

**Western fence lizard**

Log Completed?

**Yes**