



September 9, 2019

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

Subject: July 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 July 2019 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project (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, 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 am when weather conditions were favorable in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2001 protocol (nesting season) guidelines.¹ Meandering transects

¹ USFWS. 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. U.S. Department of the Interior. Carlsbad, CA, USFWS, 3 pp.

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

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted in July 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
7/1/2019	CT	0540	0914	54	77	0	0	0-1	1-3
7/5/2019	JC	0700	1000	60	69	100	65	0-1	1-3
7/9/2019	CT	0540	0945	69	73	100	50	0-1	1-3
7/12/2019	CT	0535	0924	59	81	0	0	1-2	1-3
7/18/2019	LS	0616	1050	62	82	80	0	0-1	0-2
7/19/2019	JC	0705	1000	64	66	100	40	1-3	1-3
7/22/2019	CT	0540	0859	60	75	10	100	0-2	3-5
7/26/2019	JC	0710	1000	70	82	0	0	1-3	1-3
7/29/2019	CT	0600	0935	67	77	2	0	0-1	1-4

*CT=Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso, LS=Lauren Simpson

No least Bell’s vireo were detected during the July 2019 breeding season surveys.

No brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) individuals were detected outside of brown-headed cowbird traps during the July 2019 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in July 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).

² ECORP. 2019. Nesting Bird Management Plan, Devil’s Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles County Public Works, Water Resources Division. March 2019.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Simpson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lauren Simpson
Staff Biologist

LIST OF 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: Jul 1, 2019, 9:22:29 AM

Survey Date

Jul 1, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:40

Start Temperature

54

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:14

End Temperature

77

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

OATI, BEWR, AMCR, BUSH, AMRO, CALT, SPTO, COYE, NUWO, CASJ, CAQU, cottontail, parrots, ALHU, HOFI, YEWA, PSFL, WTSW, SOSP, ANHU, SBMU, NRWS, MODO, BLPH, HUVI, OCWA, CATH, HOWR, COHA, RTHA, BH GR, Sceloporus occ, PHAI, ACWO, WEBL, WREN, NOMO, CA gr sq, RSHA

Additional Notes

Dom. Dog and horse, coyote (s, t), construction began at 0700, Tom Sawyer Camp 0900

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 5, 2019, 1:13:08 PM

Survey Date

Jul 5, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

60

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

69

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

65

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

BEWR
COYE
ACWO
BUSH
SPTO
MODO
BHGR
CALT
LEGO
WREN
YWAR
RSAH
ANHU
CAJA
OATI
PSFL
OCWA
HOFI
NUWO
BLPH
CA ground squirrel
Coyote
Western whiptail
Side-blotched lizard
Western Fence lizard
Desert Cottontail
Parrot spp.

Additional Notes

No activity at ANHU nest

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 9, 2019, 9:54:52 AM

Survey Date

Jul 9, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:40

Start Temperature

69

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

09:45

End Temperature

73

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

50

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, COHA, AMCR, SPTO, CALT, CASJ, NRWS, BEWR, MODO, NUWO, LEGO, COYE, BLPH, CAQU, BUSH, B HGR, DEJU, falcon sp, RSHA, HOWR, YEWA, parrots, HUVI, PSFL, HOFI, ANHU, OATI, SBMU, ALHU, SOSP, CO RA, WREN, RTHA, EUST, AMRO, CAKI, CATH, ROPI, WEBL WEKI NOMO HOOR

Additional Notes

Ca gr sq. Horse, cottontail, dog, coyote, side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 12, 2019, 9:32:03 AM

Survey Date

Jul 12, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:35

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

1-2

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:24

End Temperature

81

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

BHGR, SPTO, AMCR, BEWR, MODO, CALT, WREN, BUSH, COHA, NUWO, ACWO, RSHA, LEGO, BGGN, ANHU, HOWR, CASJ, HUVI, COYE, PSFL, BLPH, HOFI, WTSW, CAQU ROPI, COHU, RTHA, CATH, HOOR, ALHU, WEBL, CORA, BTPI, NOMO, EUST

Additional Notes

cottontail, gopher, bat, woodrat, fence liz, side-blotched liz, coastal whiptail, cabbage white, Ca gr sq, w. tiger s wallowtail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 18, 2019, 11:10:16 AM

Survey Date

Jul 18, 2019

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:16

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

80

End Time

10:50

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

0-2

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, lego, CASJ, oati, MODO, CALT, SOSP, webl, wren, BEWR, Cohan, EUST, hofi, clsw, caki, Cora, ANHU, S PTO, CAQU, ALHU, Coye, BLPH, NUWO, Bush, ywar, BHGB, parrot sp. howr, hoor, psfl, GHOW, CATH, bars, bg gn, weki

Additional Notes

Several YWAR detected

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 19, 2019, 1:21:15 PM

Survey Date

Jul 19, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:05

Start Temperature

64

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

66

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

40

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Locations

0

Incidental Species Observed

**CALT MODO PSFL
BHGR YWAR CATH
SPTO COHA WEKI
COYE BLPH NRWS
WAVI LEGO CA ground squirrel
WREN OATI Western Whiptail
RSHA BUSH Side-blotched lizard
NOMO BEWR Parrot
ACWO OCWA
CAJA BGGN
HOWR ANHU**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 22, 2019, 9:11:09 AM

Survey Date

Jul 22, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:40

Start Temperature

60

Start Wind Speed

0-2

Start Cloud Cover

10

End Time

08:59

End Temperature

75

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

AMRO, BEWR, CATH, RSHA, HOWR, AMCR, ACWO, BUSH, BLPH, CALT, NUWO, SPTO, YEWA, PSFL, ANHU, DEJU, HUVI, BHGR, CASJ, MODO, HOFI, BTPI, ROPI, WTSW, ALHU, CLSW, LEGO, RTHA, OCWA, OATI, CAQU, COYE,, BGGN, HOOR, SAPH, EUST, NOMO, CAKI, WREN, SBMU, WEBL, CORA

Additional Notes

Common white, Ca gr squirrel, w fence lizard, side-blotched lizard parrots, desert cottontail. BHCO traps gone from site. DEJU, BGGN, HOFI. YEWA seen with fledglings. 1 active WEBL cavity next to new homeless encampment in siltation basin NE of reservoir.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 31, 2019, 11:36:34 AM

Survey Date

Jul 26, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:10

Start Temperature

70

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH CALT HOFI BEWR CATH

HOOR SPTO YWAR WREN NUWO

OATI CORA PSFL DEJU BHGR CAJA

HUVI WAVI ANHU BGGN COYOTE

W. Fence lizard, CA ground squirrel, parrot spp. Side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 29, 2019, 9:44:39 AM

Survey Date

Jul 29, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:00

Start Temperature

67

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

2

End Time

09:35

End Temperature

77

End Wind Speed

1-4

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

OATI, BLPH, AMCR, BEWR, ACWO, MODO, RSHA, BUSH, COHA, CASJ, CALT, NUWO, LEGO, SPTO, OCWA, HU VI, YEWA, PSFL, CORA, DEJU, ANHU, HOFI, CLSW, CATH, ROPI, SBMU, COYE, EUST, AMRO, CAQU, NOMO, W EBL, AMKE, HOOR, WREN, BGGN RUHU, NRWS, BHGR, MALL (flyover), parrot

Additional Notes

**Cottontail, Ca gr squirrel, side-blatched lizard, coastal whiptail, w fence lizard, w. Tiger swallowtail
0700 constr; 0900 TS Camp
Homeless tents, clothes, and occupants are gone, but trash, portable grill, and wood "teepees" remain.**

Log Completed?

Yes