

August 23, 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

Subject: July 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 July 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. Sediment removal activities were ongoing in July 2021.

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

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during July 2021. 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
07/02/21	SS	0550	1049	65	74	5	35	1-3	3-5
07/06/21	SS	0600	1100	63	76	30	0	1-3	3-5
07/09/21	SS	0602	1100	69	84	0	10	1-3	3-5
07/13/21	CT	0615	0915	70	82	85	85	0-1	0-1
07/16/21	SS	0601	1100	65	78	100	10	1-3	3-5
07/19/21	SS	0610	1100	72	80	0	10	0-1	3-5
0723/21	SS	0555	1100	68	80	90	20	1-3	4-7
07/27/21	SS	0610	1100	64	76	75	0	1-3	3-5
07/30/21	SS	0610	1100	67	81	40	20	1-3	3-5

CT = Christine Tischer, SS = Shannan Shaffer,

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

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

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in July 2021 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Twice-weekly focused breeding

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.

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.

SIGNED: 

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

DATE: August 23, 2021

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 2, 2021, 10:50:20 AM

Survey Date

Jul 2, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:50

Start Temperature

65

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

5

End Time

10:49

End Temperature

74

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

35

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CORA, CALT, BUSH, NUWO, coyote, WREN, ANHU, COYE, BGGN, parrots, RTHA, CAQU, LEGO, HOFI, ACWO, NOMO, CASJ, AMCR, western fence lizard, common side-blotched lizard, AMRO, MALL, CATH, WTSW, KILL, C OHA, TUVU

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 6, 2021, 11:57:02 AM

Survey Date

Jul 6, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:00

Start Temperature

63

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

30

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

76

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, CAQU, CORA, HOFI, CALT, BUSH, LEGO, NUWO, parrots, CASJ, HOOR, SPTO, EUST, MODO, SOSP, COHA, coyote, CAKI, AMCR, ANHU, RTHA, BLPH, BEWR, PSFL, CATH, NOMO, NRWS, WTSW, western fence lizard, ALHU, desert cottontail, TUVU

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 9, 2021, 11:07:08 AM

Survey Date

Jul 9, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:02

Start Temperature

69

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

84

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, ACWO, parrot, CORA, HOFI, LEGO, BUSH, AMRO, ANHU, coyote, BLPH, CAQU, MODO, desert cottontail, SPTO, NOMO, COHA, TUVU, RTHA, MALL, CASJ, CATH, AMCR, WTSW, SOSP, WREN, NUWO, western fence lizard, common side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 4, 2021, 3:07:36 PM

Survey Date

Jul 13, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:15

Start Temperature

70

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

85

End Time

09:15

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

0-1

End Cloud Cover

85

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH, HOFI, CALT, LEGO, ACWO, parrots, YWAR, coyote, COHA (at least 2 fledglings), OATI, PSFL, SPTO, WT SW, CA ground squirrel, SOSP, BEWR, CATH, ATFL, COYE, desert cottontail, ALHU, CORA, cabbage white, MO DO, WREN, BASW, BHGR, ANHU, NUWO, BTPI, BGGN, CAQU, CASJ, common white, western fence lizard, NO MO, carpenter bee, western tiger swallowtail, and side-blatched lizard (lots newly hatched),

Additional Notes

Humid!!! Low bird activity.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 16, 2021, 11:49:45 AM

Survey Date

Jul 16, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:01

Start Temperature

65

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

78

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, CORA, HOFI, BUSH, ACWO, NUWO, ANHU, coyote, LEGO, BLPH, CAQU, CASJ, NOMO, MODO, SOSP, WREN, AMCR, TUVU, RTHA, western fence lizard, SPTO

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 19, 2021, 1:08:22 PM

Survey Date

Jul 19, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:10

Start Temperature

72

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

80

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, parrot, desert cottontail, HOFI, WREN, SPTO, COYE, LEGO, CAQU, CASJ, NOMO, BUSH, SOSP, COHA, T UVU, western fence lizard, BLPH, NRWS, WTSW, ANHU, MODO, ACWO, eastern fox squirrel

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 23, 2021, 1:15:25 PM

Survey Date

Jul 23, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:55

Start Temperature

68

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

90

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

80

End Wind Speed

4-7

End Cloud Cover

20

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

SOSO, CALT, BEWR, ANHU, AMCR, NOMO, CAQU, EUST, WREN, ROPI, HOFI, BUSH, ACWI, LEGO, BLPH, coyote, NRWS, MODO, WTSW, ANHU, CORA, PSFL, BUOR, SPTO, COYE, PHAI, SOSP, NUWO

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 27, 2021, 12:03:55 PM

Survey Date

Jul 27, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:10

Start Temperature

64

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

75

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

76

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

ANHU, ACWO, CALT, CORA, AMCR, NOMO, HOFI, LEGO, BUSH, BLPH, CASJ, parrot, CA ground squirrel, desert cottontail, SPTO, TUVU, RTHA, BEWR, CAQU, western fence lizard, common side-blotched lizard, NUWO, ALHU, AMRO, SPSP, EUST, CATH, BGGN, MODO

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 30, 2021, 11:48:01 AM

Survey Date

Jul 30, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:10

Start Temperature

67

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

40

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

81

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

20

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, CALT, coyote, CORA, SPTO, HOFI, LEGO, BUSH, CAQU, ANHU, desert cottontail, ACWO, EUST, MODO, COHA, western fence lizard, BLPH, AMCR, BEWR, WREN, NOMO

Log Completed?

Yes