



July 25, 2019

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

Subject: June 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 June 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

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted in June 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
6/3/19	TD	0700	1059	55	63	100	100	1-2	0-1
6/7/19	JC	0700	1015	62	66	100	65	1-3	0
6/10/19	TD	0711	1059	73	91	25	15	0-1	1-3
6/14/19	JC	0725	1030	62	64	100	100	3-5	1-3
6/18/19	CT	0528	0926	62	66	100	100	0-1	1-3
6/21/19	JC	0730	1030	60	62	100	100	1-3	1-3
6/26/19	CT	0630	1006	63	63	100	100	1-2	1-3
6/28/19	CT	0625	0930	56	72	0	0	0-2	1-3

CT=Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso, TD=Taylor Dee

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

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

DISCUSSION

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in June 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 EORP. 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 24, 2019, 9:16:26 AM

Survey Date

Jun 3, 2019

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

55

Start Wind Speed

1-2

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:59

End Temperature

63

End Wind Speed

0-1

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, BEWR, AMCR, YEWA, CALT, CAQU, ATFL, EUST, caki, Bush, SPTO, howr, SOSPO, CASJ, ca ground squirrel, parrot sp., ANHU, desert cottontail, MODO, NRWS, CATH, Coha, coyote, ROPI, hofi, cora, huvi, BLPH, NUW O, Coye, RTHA, ALHU, lego, wren, oati

Additional Notes

Multiple detections of YWAR in Collector app

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 14, 2019, 10:35:52 AM

Survey Date

Jun 7, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

66

End Wind Speed

0

End Cloud Cover

65

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

- OCWA**
- CALT**
- BUSH**
- SPTO**
- OATI**
- ATFL**
- HOWR**
- BEWR**
- ANHU**
- SOSP**
- BHGR**
- SWTH**
- CATH**
- BLPH**
- MODO**
- EUST**
- YWAR**
- WREN**
- CAQU**
- ACWO**
- PSFL**
- NUWO**
- CAJA**
- HOFI**
- LEGO**
- COHA**
- NRWS**
- RSAH**
- CA ground squirrel**
- Desert Cottontail**

Additional Notes

EUST cavity found outside survey area

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 24, 2019, 9:20:19 AM

Survey Date

Jun 10, 2019

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:11

Start Temperature

73

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

25

End Time

10:59

End Temperature

91

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

15

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

SPTO, ACWO, BEWR, CASJ, SOSP, YWAR, RTHA, CATH, cottontail, CALT, BHGB, ALHU, ANHU, MODO, EUST, fence lizard, NUWO, Coye, wren, lego, Bush, CAQU, coyote, howr, coastal whip tail, Cora, webI, oati, clsw, NRW S, parrot sp, dcco, side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 14, 2019, 10:35:51 AM

Survey Date

Jun 14, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:25

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

3-5

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:30

End Temperature

64

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

WREN

NUWO

HUVI

COHA

BHGR

HOWR

CALT

BUSH

SOSP

SPTO

EUST

AMCR

BEWR

OATI

CAJA

YWAR

PSFL

OCWA

CATH

NRWS

COYE

HOFI

CAQU

BLPH

DEJU

ANHU

Parrot spp.

Desert Cottontail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 18, 2019, 9:27:15 AM

Survey Date

Jun 18, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:28

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

09:26

End Temperature

66.8

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Just in traps

Incidental Species Observed

Cottontail, CALT, BHGR, BEWR, SPTO, HOWR, CAQU, BLPH, BUSH, coyote, CA gr squirrel, LEGO HOFI, CORA, Red crowned parrot, PSFL, HUVI, YEWA, CASJ, CATH, dom.horse (s), SOSP, WREN, NRWS, COHA, ANHU, ALH U, COYE, MALL, EUST, NOMO, RUHU, WTSW, RSHA, ACWO, BTPI

Additional Notes

Pedestrians on trails with dogs off leash, equipment started at 0700, weed removal in NW portion of disc golf course, 2 BHCO and 6 air quality monitors intact and functioning, busloads of campkids arrived at 9am.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 21, 2019, 2:44:28 PM

Survey Date

Jun 21, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:30

Start Temperature

60

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:30

End Temperature

62

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

- SPTO**
- CALT**
- WREN**
- CAQU**
- HOWR**
- BEWR**
- OCWA**
- OATI**
- YWAR**
- WBNU**
- ANHU (incubate)**
- CATH**
- CAJA**
- AMCR**
- SOSP**
- BHGR**
- PSFL**
- HUVI**
- MODO**
- BUSH**
- Parrot spp.**
- Desert Cottontail**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 26, 2019, 10:07:11 AM

Survey Date

Jun 26, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:30

Start Temperature

63

Start Wind Speed

1-2

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:06

End Temperature

63

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

CORA, BHGR, SPTO, NRWS, MODO, CALT, CAQU, LEGO, BEWR, CASJ, BLPH, YEWA, BUSH, HOFI, cottontail, P SFL, HUVI, parrot, OATI, ACWO, SOSP, WREN, NOMO, AMKE, CATH, ANHU, ALHU, BASW, WEBL, WTSW, HOO R, RSHA, potentially 2 bank swallows N of BSA (unconfirmed)

Additional Notes

0700 heavy construction equipment began

0930 summer camp kids on site

Several walkers accompanied by dogs off leash on trails, in wash, and within project limits.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jul 1, 2019, 9:14:39 AM

Survey Date

Jun 28, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:25

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

0-2

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:30

End Temperature

72

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

COHA, BLPH, CALT, ANHU, BEWR, SPTO, parrots, YEWA, PSFL, Spe ca., Syl aud, LEGO, CAQU, WREN, CORA, EUST, ACWO, BUSH, SOSP, OCWA, NRWS, ROPI, WTSW, BHGR, MODO, CASJ, DOWO, HOFI, HUVI, ALHU, CA TH, HOWR, AMCR NUWO Uta s, c. whiptail NOMO WEBL HOOR RSHA COYE

Additional Notes

SCE on site at 6:30, construction equipment at 0700, Tom Sawyer Camp at 0915, Audubon camp at 0930

Log Completed?

Yes