



June 25, 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: May 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 May 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.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

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during May 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
5/4/2021	CT	0700	1100	54	79	0	0	0-1	0-1
5/7/2021	JC	0715	1000	59	61	100	100	1-3	1-3
5/11/2021	JC	0715	1003	61	63	100	100	1-3	1-3
5/14/2021	JC	0710	0955	59	61	100	100	1-3	1-3
5/18/2021	CT	0600	1115	58	70	100	70	1-3	1-3
5/21/2021	SS	0605	1045	52	64	0	15	3-5	5-7
5/25/2021	TB	0715	1047	65	81	5	10	1-3	3-5
5/28/2021	SS	0550	1055	56	66	100	0	1-3	3-5

CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso, SS = Shannan Schaefer, TB = Trevin Braun

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

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

DISCUSSION

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in May 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: June 25, 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: May 4, 2021, 1:50:33 PM

Survey Date

May 4, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

54

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

79

End Wind Speed

0-1

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, WIWA, BHGR, BEWR, YWAR, HOWR, CALT, CA gr. squirrel, MODO, SPTO, COYE, CASJ, coyote (v), WA VI, BUSH, cottontail, mourning cloak, HOFI, PUFI, NUWO, BGGN, SOSP, AMCR, OCWA, PSFL, DEJU, LEGO, EU ST, ANHU, COHU, carpenter bee, BLGR, w. fence lizard, ATFL, NRWS, BLPH, CLSW, CORA, MALL. WTSW, DOW O, HUVI, HETH, HOOR, CAQU, Bombus californicus. side-blotched lizard, BASW, CATH, coastal whiptail, WRE N, WETA, WEKI, black rast (carcass), western tiger swallowtail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 10, 2021, 1:43:37 PM

Survey Date

May 7, 2021

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:15

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

61

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

BHGR

CAQU

CORA

COHA

OCWA

BUSH

CALT

PSFL

MODO

LEGO

YWAR

BLPH

ACWO

SPTO

CASJ

DEJSOSP

BEWR

YRWA

NRWS

NUWO

Coyote

Desert Cottontail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 12, 2021, 10:35:25 PM

Survey Date

May 11, 2021

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:15

Start Temperature

61

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:03

End Temperature

63

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT

ANHU

EUCD

HUVI

BLPH

PSFL

CASJ

ACWO

SPTO

WEWP

RTHA

BHGR

BEWR

DEJU

DOWO

BUSH

NRWS

HOFI

MODO

CAQU

OATI

COYE

Red-crowned parrot

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 17, 2021, 7:20:19 AM

Survey Date

May 14, 2021

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:10

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

09:55

End Temperature

61

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO

BHGR

ANHU

BUSH

OATI

HOWR

SPTO

CORA

MODO

BEWR

LEGO

HOFI

CALT

ATFL

WEWP

PSFL

PUFI

DEJU

NUWO

CASJ

WEBL

WREN

BLPH

AMRO

OCWA

HUVI

CA Ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 18, 2021, 2:30:06 PM

Survey Date

May 18, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:00

Start Temperature

58

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

11:15

End Temperature

70

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

70

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH, BHGR, AMCR, SPTO, SOSP, CASJ, CAQU, MODO, ALHU, CATH, BEWR, parrots, CALT, NRWS, KILL, WA VI, BGGN, LEGO, YWAR, ANHU, CORA, WWPE, cottontail, OCWA, HOFI, COYE, PSFL, CEWA, BASW, OATI, WI WA, eastern fox squirrel, DEJU, HOWR, WETA, COHA, ATFL, NOMO, WEBL, CA ground squirrel, PHAI, CAKI, B UOR, carpenter bee, Apis spp., western fence lizard, cabbage white, WTSW, CLSW, side-blotched lizard, RTHA, WIFL

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 21, 2021, 10:48:52 AM

Survey Date

May 21, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:05

Start Temperature

52

Start Wind Speed

3-5

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:45

End Temperature

64

End Wind Speed

5-7

End Cloud Cover

15

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, CORA, BUSH, CALT, LEGO, SPTO, HOOR, coyote, NUWO, CAQU, AMCR, ANHU, WTSW, SOSP, CATH, MODO, RTHA, EUST, COHA, HOFI, BGGN, BEWR, western fence lizard, CA ground squirrel

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 25, 2021, 4:50:32 PM

Survey Date

May 25, 2021

Observer Name

Other

Other Observer

Trevin Braun

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:15

Start Temperature

65

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

5

End Time

10:47

End Temperature

81

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

House finch, song sparrow, yellow warbler, warbling vireo, California scrub Jay, mourning dove, bullocks oriole, California towhee, western kingbird, bewicks wren, acorn woodpecker, phainopepla, California quail, spotted towhee

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 28, 2021, 11:04:52 AM

Survey Date

May 28, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:50

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:55

End Temperature

66

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, CORA, CASJ, BUSH, NUWO, HOOR, coyote, CAQU, MODO, RTHA, LEGO, HOFI, WTSW, NRWS, AMRO, CA ground squirrel, ANHU, COHA, SPTO, AMCR, western fence lizard, NOFL, BGGN, western toad, BLPH, CAL T

Log Completed?

Yes