



August 20, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Allen Xie
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: AXie@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: July 2025 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. Xie,

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 2025 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' 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."

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 1, 2025 and continued through June 27, 2025. Between July 3 and July 9, 2025, preconstruction LBV surveys were conducted to accommodate the initiation of sediment removal activities scheduled for July 10, 2025. The results of the 2025 preconstruction surveys were negative and are presented under a separate cover.

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on July 14 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated. Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys continued through the end of July 2025. The surveys are summarized below.

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 September 15). 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 2025. 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.

Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys									
Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
7/3/25	CLT	0545	1120	63	79	100	0	0	1-3
7/7/25	CLT	0539	1058	60	78	100	0	0-1	1-3
7/9/25	CLT	0544	1118	68	87	5	0	0-1	1-3
7/14/25	CMT	0542	1035	59	75	100	0	0-1	0
7/17/25	SD	0620	1055	66	78	5	6	0-1	1-3
7/22/25	TD	0655	1100	66	69	100	100	0	0-2
7/24/25	JC	0711	1000	61	63	0	0	1-3	1-3
7/28/25	CMT	0600	0957	57	71	0	0	0-1	0-1
7/30/25	JC	0715	1003	63	75	0	0	0	1-3
CLT = Christine L. Tischer, CMT = Carley M. Taylor, SD = Shelby Dunn, TD = Taylor Dee, JC = Jill Coumoutso									

No least Bell's vireos or brown-headed cowbirds were observed by Designated Biologists during the July 2025 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted between July 3 and 30, 2025 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Weekly focused

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.

breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo 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 (619) 455-1134 or cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

Caroline Garcia
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
111 Academy Way, Suite 210
Irvine, CA 92617

DATE: August 20, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer

Submitted Time: 07/03/2025 11:40 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:45	63°F	0 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:20	79 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 3, 2025

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

YBCH were heard both Monday and today. 1 CLSW struggling and stuck in mud of recently dewatered basin.

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, YEWA*, NUWO, MODO, BGGN, CAKI, AMCR, COHA, LEGO, NOMO, YBCH*, AMRO, SPTO, CAQU flock with multiple adults, subadults, and hatchlings, NRWS, SOSP, HOFI, western toad, WTSW, CSJA, HOOR, RSHA, BEWR, parrots, desert cottontail, CATH, BUSH, ANHU, ALHU, HUVI, PHAI, 1 coyote pup (~1 month old), BHGR, CA ground squirrel, western fence lizard, coastal whiptail*, side-blotched lizard, domestic horse, domestic dog, BLPH, cabbage white, OATI, CORA, red admiral, NRWS, common buckeye, gulf fritillary, checkered white, western tiger swallowtail

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 07/07/2025 11:02 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:39	60°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:58	78 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 7, 2025

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Added LEGO_04 nest to Field Maps. Observed a coyote harassing CALT_16 nest. Observed COHA fledglings at campground in SW portion of 500' buffer. Observed a domestic dog off leash along campground area.

Incidental Species Observed

NOMO, AMCR, BGGN CSJA, MODO, YEWA*, SOSF, HOOR, CALT, SPTO, NUWO, HOFI, CAKI, BEWR, CATH, YBCH*, western toad, LEGO, WTSW, ANHU, CAQU, HOWR, BUSH, RSHA, ALHU, MALL, CLSW, NRWS, BARS, KILL, COHA, BUOR, eastern ground squirrel, DEJU, CA ground squirrel, ACWO, HUVI, BHGR, western fence lizard, domestic horse (scat, tracks), domestic dog, cabbage white, Valley carpenter bee, coyote, side-blotched lizard, BLPH, monarch, RTHA, desert cottontail, coastal whiptail, ECDO

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 07/09/2025 11:18 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:44	68°F	0-1 MPH	5 %
End of Day	11:18	87 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 9, 2025

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Added BHGR_04 nest to Field Maps.

Incidental Species Observed

BGGN, AMRO, CALT, HOFI, MODO, NUWO, CAKI, ACWO, BRBL, BEWR, LEGO, CORA, AMCR, SPTO, ANHU, SPTO, CSJA, YEWA*, SOSP, WREN, CATH, NRWS, YBCH*, RSHA, CAQU, coyote, WTSW, ALHU, HOOR, BUSH, KILL, parrots, western toad, CA ground squirrel, BHGR, PHAI, western fence lizard, NOMO, COHA, desert cottontail, cabbage white, BLPH, RTHA, western honey bee, OATI, side-blotched lizard, monarch, mourning cloak, GREG, gulf fritillary, comma

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

Submitted By: Carly Taylor

Submitted Time: 07/14/2025 11:50 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:42	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:35	75 °F	0 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 14, 2025

Observer Name

Carly Taylor

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Observed two separate YEWA family groups during survey.

1. Female observed feeding mobile fledgling at 34.186753, -118.177115.

2. Female observed feeding mobile fledgling with male nearby at 34.188660, -118.177745.

Incidental Species Observed

CAKI, CALT, RSHA, WTSW, SPTO, parrot sp., YEWA, CORA, AMCR, LEGO, NOMO, MODO, ACWO, BLPH, BARS, KILL, TUVU, BUSH, CASJ, BEWR, WREN, ANHU, NUWO, WAVI, RTHA, ALHU, HOFI, SOSP, COHA, BGGN, HOOR, BTPI, OATI, CLSW, desert cottontail, western toad, coyote, California ground squirrel, western side-blotched lizard, coastal whiptail, western tiger swallowtail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 07/17/2025 11:12 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:20	66°F	0-1 MPH	5 %
End of Day	10:55	78 °F	1-3 MPH	6 %

Date Observed

July 17, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed a deceased Mexican free tailed bat underneath the Oak Grove Dr bridge located in the SW portion of the buffer between I-210 and the perimeter trail, just NW of the Flint Wash Bridge. Bat guano was also present and could hear bats chattering while underneath the bridge.

Incidental Species Observed

RCPA, BUSH, SPTO, ACWO, MODO, OATI, ATFL, CAKI, HOFI, CASJ, ANHU, CALT, BGGN, CASJ, BEWR, AMCR, NUWO, HOOR, CAQU, NUWO, NRWS, GREG, ALHU, KILL, LEGO, RSHA, NRWS, CLSW, WTSW, VGSW, BARS, BLPH, DEJU, BHGR, YEWA**, AMCR, BCHU, WEFL, Mexican free tailed bat, western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, fox squirrel, monarch butterfly**, western toad, western tiger swallowtail, coastal whiptail

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

Submitted By: Taylor Dee

Submitted Time: 07/22/2025 11:04 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:55	66°F	0 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	69 °F	0-2 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

July 22, 2025

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES OBSERVATIONS:

- 0745 heard 1 YEWA on west side of restoration area
- 0951 heard 1 YEWA singing south of reservoir
- 0957 singing in willows south of reservoir, SW of dam and NE of bridge

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY:

- Nature's Image restoration crew weed wracking nonnatives in western restoration area. Gothic restoration crew is removing nonnative vegetation in eastern restoration area with hand tools.
- Ames construction crew using skidsteer, blade, bulldozer, 2 water trucks, and an excavator in the reservoir. Crew appears to be installing scale house and grubbing. Also 2 laborers installing ESA snow fencing along northwestern Project boundary.

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, MODO, ACWO, HOFI, CAQU, BUSH, ANHU, ATFL, WREN, SPTO, AMCR, OATI, NUWO, RTHA, BEWR, CATH, KILL, coyote, California ground squirrel, CALT, CLSW, NRWS, desert cottontail, LEGO, BGGN, GHOW, NOMO, SOSP, HUVI, Virginia opossum (carcass), VGSW, YEWA, western toad, eastern fox squirrel, COHA, side-blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 07/24/2025 6:58 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:11	61°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:00	63 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 24, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, ANHU, OATI, ACWO, SPTO, HOFI, CALT, CASJ, HOOR, BUSH, BHGR, CORA, LEGO, CAQU, RSHA, YEWA, NUWO, BLPH, BEWR, SOSP, RTHA, parrots, desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, side-blotched lizard

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

Submitted By: Carly Taylor

Submitted Time: 07/28/2025 11:43 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	57°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	09:57	71 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 28, 2025

Observer Name

Carly Taylor

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

0724: 2 YEWA countersinging on north and south side of wooden bridge. One male observed at 34.188422, -118.178094. The other individual was calling from approximately 34. 187800, -118.177747. No visual observation for the second individual.

0813: One male YEWA observed singing from roadside eucalyptus trees at 34.186281, -118.176716.

0858: CASJ adult feeding fledgling on east side of reservoir at the southwest corner of the southernmost basin.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, HOFI, OATI, ANHU, BUSH, BGGN, AMCR, RSHA, WREN, MODO, CALT, RCPA, CASJ, SPTO, LEGO, BEWR, SOSP, DCCO, COHA, NUWO, WTSW, KILL, ALHU, YEWA, WBNU, CAKI, HOOR, BLPH, CAQU, AMGO, CATH, TUVU, desert cottontail, western toad, fox squirrel, California ground squirrel, western fence lizard, coastal whiptail, California king snake

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 07/31/2025 12:47 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	63°F	0 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:03	75 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 30, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, BEWR, ANHU, MODO, BUSH, HOOR, SOSP, CAQU, SPTO, BHGR, LEGO, GREG, HOFI, CALT, EUST, CORA, BGGN, YEWA, NUWO, OATI, ATFL, RSHA, BLPH, coyote, desert cottontail, western fence lizard, tiger swallowtail