



July 25, 2019

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

Subject: May 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 May 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 May 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
5/3/19	BS	0707	1038	52	68	100	25	0	1-3
5/10/19	BS	0722	1058	56	57	100	100	0	0
5/10/19	JC	0655	1000	55	55	100	100	0	0
5/13/19	GS	0546	1050	59	64	100	100	1-3	1-3
5/15/19	AD	0635	1044	57	65	100	100	1-3	3-5
5/23/19	BS	0704	1051	54	56	100	100	0	1-3
5/24/19	JC	0650	1000	43	66	0	0	0	0
5/30/19	BS	0737	1058	55	71	100	1	0-2	1-3
5/31/19	JC	0700	1015	57	64	95	0	1-3	3-5

AD = Adam DeLuna, BS = Ben Smith, GS = Gregory Stratton, JC = Jill Coumoutso, LS = Lauren Simpson

No least Bell’s vireo were identified during the May 2019 breeding season surveys.

Nine brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) individuals were observed during the May focused breeding season surveys. Three individuals were observed on May 10, five individuals were observed on May 13, and one individual was observed on May 15, 2019.

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in May 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: May 3, 2019, 10:39:27 AM

Survey Date

May 3, 2019

Observer Name

Ben Smith

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:07

Start Temperature

52

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:38

End Temperature

68

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

25

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

Eust
Sosp
Lego
Casj
Caqu
Bush
Weta
Bewr
Amcr
Coye
Buor
Calt
Wiwa
Bhgr
Wren
Spto
Wavi
Btyw
Amro
Nuwo
Cath
Nrws
Amcr
Atfl
Cavi
Hofi
Anhu
Cottontail
Cewa
Alhu
Nomo
Towa
Ywar
Caki
Weki
Howr
Webl
Rsha
Kill
Cora
Ocwa
Psfl
Huvi
Osfl
Sideblotched liz
Fence liz

Additional Notes

Lazb

Pufi

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 10, 2019, 11:11:15 AM

Survey Date

May 10, 2019

Observer Name

Ben Smith

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:22

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:58

End Temperature

57

End Wind Speed

0

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

3

Locations

34.188339, 118.176633

Incidental Species Observed

- Spto**
- Swth**
- Wewp**
- Coye**
- Cewa**
- Bewr**
- Acwo**
- Anhu**
- Sospplsfl**
- Year**
- Wiwa**
- Towa**
- Auwa**
- Bhgr**
- Wren**
- Weta**
- Bush**
- Rsha**
- Calt**
- Weki**
- Nrws**
- Ocwa**
- Blph**
- Wavi**
- Cath**
- Atfl**
- Rtha**
- Lego**
- Kill**
- Eust**
- Mall**
- Cavi**
- Hofi**
- Wifl**
- Amro**
- Cottontail**
- Blgr**
- Vgsw**
- Wester toad**
- Coha**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 10, 2019, 3:53:56 PM

Survey Date

May 10, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:55

Start Temperature

55

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

55

End Wind Speed

0

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

- OATI**
- CAJA**
- BUSH**
- CALT**
- MODO**
- SPTO**
- HOWR**
- BHGR**
- WREN**
- WIFL**
- COYE**
- BEWR**
- WIWA**
- MGWA**
- SWTH**
- WEWP**
- ATFL**
- PSFL**
- EUST**
- COHA**
- YWAR**
- HUVI**
- WAVI**
- CATH**
- CAQU**
- LEGO**
- ANHU**
- SOSP**
- ACWO**
- BARS**
- HOFI**
- MALL**
- KILL**
- Parrot spp**
- Desert Cottontail**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: DevilsGateGuest

Submitted time: May 13, 2019, 11:04:53 AM

Survey Date

May 13, 2019

Observer Name

Other

Other Observer

Gregory Stratton

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:46

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:50

End Temperature

64

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

5

Locations

On power line near the dam.

Incidental Species Observed

**calt, spto, bhgr, modo, casj, coye, cath, bewr, sosp, bush, caqu, alhu, eust, cora, hofi, caki, acwo, lego, webl, kil
l, anhu, atfl, wren, mall, hoor, phai, yewa, psfl, bhco, heth, clsw, sylv audu, otos beec**

Additional Notes

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: DevilsGateGuest

Submitted time: May 15, 2019, 10:45:13 AM

Survey Date

May 15, 2019

Observer Name

Other

Other Observer

Adam DeLuna

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:35

Start Temperature

57

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:44

End Temperature

65

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

1

Locations

One male observed 34.191266 118.175601

Incidental Species Observed

YEWA,SOSP,SPTO,BUSH,BEWR,CALT,ANHU,ALHU, PSFL(SOSPnest),OCWA,CORA,LEGO,NRWS,NUWO, EUST, MODO,NEOTFUSC,WTSW,BHGR,CASJ, SCIUNIGE(ANHUnest),COYE,BLPH,CAQU,RTHA,SYLVAUDU, BGGN,CA TH,HOFI,EUCD,ATFL,KILL,SPERBEEC,BHCO,WREN,HOOR,OATI,HOWR

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 23, 2019, 11:04:54 AM

Survey Date

May 23, 2019

Observer Name

Ben Smith

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:04

Start Temperature

54

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:51

End Temperature

56

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

Coha

Wewp

Bhgr

Nrws

Spto

Atfl

Bewr

Sosp

Casj

Lego

Calt

Acwo

Nuwo

Anhu

Alhu

Cottontail

Cath

Bush

Ywar

Modo

Hofi

Weta

Wavi

Rsha

Blph

Howr

Wren

Caqu

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 24, 2019, 1:43:37 PM

Survey Date

May 24, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:50

Start Temperature

43

Start Wind Speed

0

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

66

End Wind Speed

0

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

- CALT**
- CAQU**
- SOSP**
- YWAR**
- CAJA**
- COYE**
- HOFI**
- ACWO**
- LEGO**
- SPTO**
- PSFL**
- BHGR**
- NOMO**
- EUST**
- WREN**
- WEWP**
- BEWR**
- BLPH**
- HOWR**
- BUSH**
- NUWO**
- ANHU**
- AMCR**
- COHA**
- Desert Cottontail**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 30, 2019, 11:08:52 AM

Survey Date

May 30, 2019

Observer Name

Ben Smith

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:37

Start Temperature

55

Start Wind Speed

0-2

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:58

End Temperature

71

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

1

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

Bewr
Nuwo
Spto
Acwo
Casj
Lego
Amro
Bhgr
Howr
Coyote
Calt
Anhu
Hofi
Bush
Wren
Wtsw
Modo
Alhu
Nrws
Cath
Cottontail
Amcr
Fence liz
Eust
Sosp
Coha
Webl
Ywar
Atfl
Huvi
Ocwa
Psfl
Wewp
Bchu
Oati
Coye
Rtha
Side-blotched liz
Ca ground sqrl
Nomo
Blph
Cora
Rsha
Caqu

Additional Notes

Bars

Caki

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: May 31, 2019, 4:38:41 PM

Survey Date

May 31, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:00

Start Temperature

57

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

95

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

64

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

BHGR

WREN

SPTO

BEWR

CAJA

LEGO

YWAR

OCWA

BLPH

CALT

BUSH

COHA

ACWO

ATFL

HOFI

MODO

WEBL

ANHU

SOSP

NUWO

NRWS

HUVI

COYE

CORA

ALHU

Parrot spp.

Desert cottontail

Western whip tail

Western fence lizard

Side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes