

May 7, 2024
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Keith Hala
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: KHALA@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: April 2024 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. Hala,

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 April 2024 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;"

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 1, 2024 and continued through April and are summarized below.

SURVEY METHODS

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in compliance with ITP Condition 7.3.4 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

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.

standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

RESULTS

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted during April 2024. 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
4/2/24	LS	0648	1100	48	68	0	0	0-1	0-1
4/10/24	CM	0640	1050	56	66	10	10	1-3	1-3
4/18/24	SD	0640	1115	59	76	98	95	0-1	0-1
4/25/24	TD	0730	1100	57	63	100	100	0-3	0-2
4/30/24	SD	0630	1100	60	80	100	0	0-1	0-1

CM = Carla Marriner, LS= Lauren Simpson, SD = Shelby Dunn, TD = Taylor Dee

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the April 2024 breeding season surveys. Two Brown-headed cowbirds were observed during the April 2024 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in April 2024 did not detect least Bell’s vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Weekly focused breeding 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
 Senior Biologist
 ECORP Consulting, Inc.
 2861 Pullman Street
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: May 7, 2024

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

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.

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Lauren Simpson
Submitted Time: 04/02/2024 11:25 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:48	48°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	68 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 2, 2024

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO, CAKI, AMCR, CANG, MODO, WCSP, BUSH, CASJ, SPTO, ACWO, SOSPO, CALT, BEWR, EUST, ANHU, parrot sp, CAQU, CATH, YRWA, WREN, KILL, RNDU, RUDU, BUFF, WEBL, TUVU, AMRO, NUWO, TOWA, OATI, NRWS, MALL, WTSW, CLSW, BGGN, ALHU, cottontail, western fence lizard, GREG, COYE, RTHA, western toad, CA ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Carla Marriner
Submitted Time: 04/10/2024 3:55 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:40	56°F	1-3 MPH	10 %
End of Day	10:50	66 °F	1-3 MPH	10 %

Date Observed

April 10, 2024

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO MODO NOMO CALT NUWO SOSP SPTO AMPI YRWA AMCR HOFI BEWR ANHU BGGN BUSH
KILL MALL BHGB CAQU Amazonia sp. Cottontail NRSW DOWO LEGO OATI OSPR DEJU CASC ROHU ROPI
California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 04/18/2024 11:43 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:40	59°F	0-1 MPH	98 %
End of Day	11:15	76 °F	0-1 MPH	95 %

Date Observed

April 18, 2024

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO AMCR CAKI SPTO NOMO MODO ANHU NRWS YBCH KILL WTSW RNDU CALT BGGN ACWO CANG
HOFI CASJ CAQU BHGR YRWA OATI YEWA CLSW AMGO BUSH WCSP WIWA ATFL BEWR COYE ALHU COHA
DEJU AMCO LEGO CATH RCPA HOWR MALL WEBL OCWA RTHA CITE NOFL RSHA BLPH EUST SAPH cotton
tail western toad California ground squirrel western fenced lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor Dee
Submitted Time: 04/25/2024 11:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:30	57°F	0-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	63 °F	0-2 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

April 25, 2024

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Only detected within cowbird trap

Additional Notes

YBCH and YEWA observed and heard in survey area

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, SOSP, CATH, CAQU, SPTO, CASJ, NUWO, WREN, CALT, BEWR, BHGR, BUSH, desert cottontail, ACWO, RTHA, AMCR, BGGN, OCWA, RSHA, HOFI, YBCH, LEGO, COYE, ALHU, YEWA, WTSW, NRSW, MALL, KILL, BARS, CLSW, gull sp., CAGO, CORA, GTGR, VGSW, California ground squirrel, RUDU, AMWI, RNDU, WEFL (PSFL), Eastern fox squirrel, WWPE, ATFL

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 04/30/2024 5:25 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	60°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	80 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 30, 2024

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

2

Locations

11S 392113 3784166 11S 391514 3783492

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

ANHU BGGN BUSH CATH ALHU YEWA SAPH WIWA NUWO HOWR COHA MALL RUDU ACWO MIDO SPTO CASJ NOMO WTSW WETA WEGR HOOR ATFL CAKI CAQU HOFI LEGO KILL WREN BHCO WEBL CANG CORA COYE CALT BHGR BEWR RCPA EUST NRWS WEFL CLSW OATI MOCH BUSH CATH ALHU YEWA SAPH WIWA NUWO HOWR COHA MALL RUDU ACWO MIDO SPTO CASJ NOMO WTSW WETA WEGR HOOR ATFL CAKI CAQU HOFI LEGO KILL WREN BHCO WEBL CANG CORA COYE CALT BHGR BEWR RCPA EUST NRWS WEFL CLSW OATI MOCH California ground squirrel Cotton tail Western toad Western fenced lizard Tiger whiptail Side-blotched lizard