

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: March 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 March 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 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 March 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
3/1/24	SD	0625	1035	51	61	85	100	0-1	1-3
3/7/24	TD	0730	1100	51	61	5	15	0-2	0-2
3/11/24	SD	0720	1100	46	55	20	45	0-1	0-1
3/20/24	CM	0645	1110	53	64	20	40	1-3	0-2
3/28/24	SD	0650	1100	48	66	0	10	0-1	0-1

CM = Carla Marriner, SD = Shelby Dunn, TD = Taylor Dee

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the March 2024 breeding season surveys. Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the March 2024 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in March 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 5, 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: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 03/01/2024 11:49 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:25	51°F	0-1 MPH	85 %
End of Day	10:35	61 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

March 1, 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

Observed an active CASJ nest and COHA nest marked in field maps

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO SPTO NUWO MODO CAKI CALT PUF1 AMCR ACWO EUCD NOFL ANHU BEWR SOSP CAQU RCPA
WREN AMRO YRWA CASJ COHA RTHA RCKI GREG HOFI HOWR WTSW AMCO MALL AMWI CITE NRWS
CATH BLPH BUSH California ground squirrel Coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor Dee
Submitted Time: 03/07/2024 12:03 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:30	51°F	0-2 MPH	5 %
End of Day	11:00	61 °F	0-2 MPH	15 %

Date Observed

March 7, 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

N/A

Additional Notes

Reservoir is very full with water flooding many of the restoration areas along the reservoir. Most willows lack foliage; however some are starting to bud.

Incidental Species Observed

ECDO, CALT, CASJ, SOSP, WREN, BUSH, HOWR, CAQU, BEWR, ACWO, ANHU, AMCR, NUWO, NOFL, RCKI, BGGN, YRWA, SPTO, desert cottontail, LEGO, HOFI, BLPH, CORA, NRWS, AMGO, KILL, COHA, ALHU, WTSW, EUST, CAKI, WEBL, California ground squirrel, MODO, NOMO, WCSP, western fence lizard, MALL, OATI, RSHA, DEJU, AMWI, HUVI, coyote, VGSW, MUDU

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 03/11/2024 11:49 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:20	46°F	0-1 MPH	20 %
End of Day	11:00	55 °F	0-1 MPH	45 %

Date Observed

March 11, 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

AMRO MODO SPTO NUWO EUCD RCPA CAKI ACWO CALT SOSP CASJ AMCR WREN ANHU NOFL NOMO
CAQU YRWA BEWR BUSH KILL WCSP BGGN CANG AGOL HOFI AMCO GREG RCKI MALL RNDU CITE DEJU
RTHA WTSW HOWR OATI CATH NRWS BLPH OCWA TOWA WIWA DOWO cotton tail Side blotched lizard Mole
California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Carla Marriner
Submitted Time: 03/20/2024 11:53 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	53°F	1-3 MPH	20 %
End of Day	11:10	64 °F	0-2 MPH	40 %

Date Observed

March 20, 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

BEWR NOMO MODO HOFI CATH AMCR SPTO SOSP CALT CASJ ACWO CAQU NOFL BGGG OCWA
ANHU OATI BHGR RTHA CORA Western toad Western fenced lizard Side blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 03/28/2024 11:15 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:50	48°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	66 °F	0-1 MPH	10 %

Date Observed

March 28, 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

ACWO ANHU CASJ CAKI HOFI SPTO NUWO NOFL RNDU GBHE SOSM MODO WCSP CAQU BUSH AMCR
CALT KILL RUDU BEWR RCPA CANG LEGO AMRO YRWA BGGN COHA MALL NRWS NOMO HOWR ALHU
OCWA RCKI WTSW BLPH RSHA DOWO OATI COYE BUFF WREN CATH western toad Western fenced lizard Side
blotched lizard Cotton tail California ground squirrel