



September 16, 2019

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

Subject: August 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 August 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 August 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
8/2/2019	JC	0710	1000	62	77	0	10	1-3	1-3
8/5/2019	CT	0615	0922	63	82	0	0	1-2	1-5
8/9/2019	JC	0710	1000	58	75	0	0	1-3	1-3
8/13/2019	CT	0650	0950	61	75	0	0	0-1	1-3
8/15/2019	CT	0620	1025	57	86	0	0	0-1	1-2
8/19/2019	CT	0650	0935	67	72	100	0	0-1	1-2
8/22/2019	CT	0620	0935	65	73	0	0	0-1	1-2
8/26/2019	JC	0715	1000	68	80	40	30	1-3	1-3
8/30/2019	JC	0715	1015	68	80	0	0	1-3	3-5

*CT=Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

No least Bell's vireo were detected during the August 2019 breeding season surveys.

No brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) individuals were detected during the August 2019 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in August 2019 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. This concludes the focused breeding season survey effort for the 2019 breeding season. Twice-weekly breeding season surveys will resume at the start of the 2020 breeding season (March 1, 2020). No least Bell's vireo were detected in or within 500 feet of the Project site during 2019 breeding season surveys.

On September 2, 2019 a community resident reported an observation of a single individual least Bell's vireo foraging within habitat within 500 feet of the Project site. The Designated Biologists monitoring at the Project site on the following two days (September 3 and September 4) surveyed

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.

the observation area extensively but the vireo was not located. It is likely that this observation was of a migratory individual passing through the habitat.

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 Datasheet

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 5, 2019, 10:15:47 AM

Survey Date

Aug 2, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:10

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

77

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

10

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT CAJA OATI HOFI COHA BEWR ANHU LEGO WEKI BHGR SPTO

WREN BUSH RSHA HOWR NUWO

PSFL HUVI MODO CATH YWAR

BLPH BGGN CAQU parrot spp.

desert Cottontail

Western Whiptail

Side-blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 5, 2019, 9:28:37 AM

Survey Date

Aug 5, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:15

Start Temperature

63

Start Wind Speed

1-2

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:22

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

1-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO, WREN, ANHU, BLPH, BEWR, CALT, OATI, BUSH, NOFL, ROPI, MODO, HOFI, CASJ, BHGR, COYE, SPRO, YEWA, COHU, parrots, HUVI, CLSW, SBMU, SOSP, BTPI, NUWO, HOFI, CATH, HOOR, EUST, CAQU, BGGN, BCH U, BASW, CLSW, NOMO, PHAI, ATFL, ACWO

Additional Notes

Uta, Sceloporus, Sylvilagus, Spermophilus

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 9, 2019, 6:56:37 PM

Survey Date

Aug 9, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:10

Start Temperature

58

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

75

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

**BEWR ANHU CATH MODO SPTO
HOWR ACWO DEJU CALT BHGR
OATI NUWO COYE YWAR PSFL
WREN HOFI LEGO BLPH CAQU
AMRO PARROT SPP. Desert
Cottontail side-blotched lizard**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 13, 2019, 10:00:10 AM

Survey Date

Aug 13, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:50

Start Temperature

61

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:50

End Temperature

75

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

BRBL, AMCR, HUVI, HOOR, CALT. OATI, MODO, CASJ, ACWO, BLPH, ANHU, AMRO, EUST, BEWR, CORA, WRE N, BUSH, HOFI, SOSP, OCWA, ALHU, YEWA, SPTO, CAQU, CATH, ROPI, NOMO, LEGO, NUWO, CAKI, ATFL, BGN, parrots

Additional Notes

0700 construction crew began, 0740 Steady runoff flow from Oak Grove Road, 0900 TSC onsite. cottontail, raccoon (t), coyote (o), CA gr sq, fence liz, side-blotched liz, coastal whiptail, cabbage white also incidental observations.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 15, 2019, 10:35:37 AM

Survey Date

Aug 15, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:20

Start Temperature

57

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:25

End Temperature

86

End Wind Speed

1-2

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Incidental Species Observed

AMRO, BLPH, CALT, WREN, BUSH, BEWR, ANHU, MODO, BRBL, NUWO, LEGO, HOWR, CATH, WEBL, HOSP, A MCR, CASJ, YEWA, SPTO, HOOR, ALHU, PSLF, RSHA, HOFI, OCWA, SOSP, CAQU, OATI, CORA, BGGN, ACWO, ATFL, BTPI, parrots

Additional Notes

Coyote, Uta, coastal whiptail (same areas as noted in Collector), Ca gr squirrel, cottontail

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 19, 2019, 9:45:24 AM

Survey Date

Aug 19, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:50

Start Temperature

67

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

09:35

End Temperature

72

End Wind Speed

1-2

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, AMCR, WEBL, OATI, BLPH, ANHU, HOFI, ACWO, LEGO, BUSH, CATH, CAQU, WREN, CASJ, BEWR, SP TO, HOWR, CALT, BGGN, EUST, NOMO, DOWO, ROPI, AMRO, RSHA, YEWA, SOSP, HOOR, CORA, parrots, mul e deer, cottontail, fence liz, side-blotched liz, CAground squirrel

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 22, 2019, 9:45:13 AM

Survey Date

Aug 22, 2019

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:20

Start Temperature

65

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

09:35

End Temperature

73

End Wind Speed

1-2

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Incidental Species Observed

ANHU, MODO, BLPH, CALT, SPTO, CATH, OATI, HOWR, BUSH, COHA, BGGN, NUWO, parrots, BEWR, YEWA, H OOR, BHGR, AMCR, CASJ, DEJU, HOFI, RSHA, SOSP, ALHU, HUVI, RUHU, CAQU, AMKE, WEBL, LEGO, RTHA, ACWO, coyote, cottontail, fence liz, side-blotched liz, com white

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Aug 26, 2019, 5:09:29 PM

Survey Date

Aug 26, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:15

Start Temperature

68

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

40

End Time

10:00

End Temperature

80

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

30

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

**ACWO CALT CAJA WREN AMCR
EUST BLPH YWAR OCWA BGGN
ANHU BEWR OATI HOFI MODO
NUWO SPTO SOSP W.fence lizard,
Desert Cottontail, parrot spp.**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Sep 3, 2019, 2:16:20 PM

Survey Date

Aug 30, 2019

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:15

Start Temperature

68

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

80

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CALT WREN CAJA TOWA MODO

NUMA (nutmeg manikin) CAQU

HOFI BEWR DEJU WIWA EUST

YWAR NUWO SPTO BTGW

Parrot spp

CA Ground squirrel

Desert Cottontail

Side-blotched lizard

Log Completed?

Yes