

August 4, 2021
(2018-047.026/004)

Mr. Mark Gim
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: Tgim@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: June 2021 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. Gim,

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 June 2021 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' (LACPW) 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."

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on April 20, 2021 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated and were ongoing in June 2021.

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 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 June 2021. 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
06/01/21	SS	0600	1100	56	69	90	5	1-3	3-5
06/04/21	SS	0554	1100	59	72	0	0	0-1	1-3
06/08/21	SS	0601	1050	59	68	100	30	0-1	3-5
06/11/21	SS	0616	1047	59	71	0	0	1-3	3-5
06/15/21	CT	0615	1015	62	90	15	100	0-1	0-1
06/18/21	CT	0605	1035	65	82	50	90	0-1	1-2
06/22/21	SS	0601	1100	61	75	0	0	1-3	1-3
06/25/21	CT	0605	1015	58	78	0	0	0-1	1-2
06/29/21	SS	0730	1046	69	82	60	90	0-1	2-4

CT = Christine Tischer, SS = Shannan Shaffer,

No least Bell's vireos were detected during the June 2021 breeding season surveys.

Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the June 2021 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Nine focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in June 2021 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Twice-weekly focused breeding

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.

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
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
2861 Pullman Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: August 04, 2021

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: Jun 1, 2021, 11:17:28 AM

Survey Date

Jun 1, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:00

Start Temperature

56

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

90

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

69

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

5

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, NUWO, BUSH, coyote, BLPH, MODJ, ACWO, CAQU, CALT, SPTO, AMCR, RTHA, WTSW, LEGO, ANHU, AMRO, ALHU, BGGN, western fence lizard, HOOR, CORA, EUST, MALL

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 4, 2021, 11:18:41 AM

Survey Date

Jun 4, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

05:54

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

72

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO, COHA, CALT, SPTO, ACWO, NUWO, BUSH, CAQU, CASJ, SOSP, HODI, BEWR, ANHU, common side-blotched lizard, western fence lizard alligator lizard, COYE, CORA, MODO, BLPH, drsert cotyontail, NRWS, WTSW

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 8, 2021, 12:07:17 PM

Survey Date

Jun 8, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:01

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

100

End Time

10:50

End Temperature

68

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

30

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

**HOFI, ACWO, CALT, CASJ, BUSH, NUWO, LEGO, SPTO, EUST, MODO, ANHU, COHA, CORA, RTHA, SOSP, BLP
H, AMCR, coyote, AMRO, desert cottontail, eastern fox squirrel, COYE, western fence lizard, common side-blot
ched lizard, WTSW, NOMO, PHAI, BEWR, western toad, NRWS, MALL, HOOR**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 11, 2021, 10:48:04 AM

Survey Date

Jun 11, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:16

Start Temperature

59

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:47

End Temperature

71

End Wind Speed

3-5

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, CORA, BUSH, CALT, HOFI, LEGO, ANHU, TUVU, MALL, CAQU, SPTO, BEWR, AMCR, common side-blotched lizard, eastern fox squirrel, coyote, HOOR, PHAI, EUST, MODO

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 15, 2021, 12:50:56 PM

Survey Date

Jun 15, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:15

Start Temperature

62

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

15

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

90

End Wind Speed

0-1

End Cloud Cover

100

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

BHGR, ACWO, BEWR, SPTO, LEGO, parrots, WWPE, NUWO, CALT, SOSP, ANHU, CASJ, HOWR, MODO, BGGN, HOFI, CAQU, COYE, EUST, CAKI, CA ground squirrel, Eastern fox squirrel, cottontail, CORA, yellow-faced bumble bee, carpenter bee, NRWS, KILL, gulf fritillary, SNEG, 1 female mallard with 7 5-week old ducklings, BUSH, YWAR, WTSW, western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, coastal whiptail, DOWO, PSFL, cabbage white, HUVI, BTPI

Additional Notes

Summer daycamps and cross country training at Hahamongna Watershed Park.

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 18, 2021, 6:36:16 PM

Survey Date

Jun 18, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:05

Start Temperature

65

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

50

End Time

10:35

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

1-2

End Cloud Cover

90

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

**NUWO, CA ground squirrel, BEWR, BHGR, ACWO, MODO, COYE, YWAR, CASJ, LEGO, CALT, parrots, SPTO, C
ORA, BUSH, RTHA, ANHU, cottontail, NRWS, CLSW, CATH. BGGN, RSHA, COHA, SOSP, WTSW, HOFI, PSFL, A
LHU, EUST, carpenter bee, cabbage white, owl sp., western fence lizard, WEBL, CAKI, PHAI, acmon blue. side-b
lotched lizard, HOWR, honeybees**

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 22, 2021, 11:12:05 AM

Survey Date

Jun 22, 2021

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:01

Start Temperature

61

Start Wind Speed

1-3

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

11:00

End Temperature

75

End Wind Speed

1-3

End Cloud Cover

0

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, CALT, HOFI, WREN, SPTO, COYE, LEGO, CAQU, ACWO, CASJ, NOMO, BUSH, SOSP, NUWO, western fence lizard, BLPH, NRWS, ANHU, western tiger swallowtail, eastern fox squirrel, WTSW, TUVU, RTHA, MALL, KILL

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 25, 2021, 11:48:38 AM

Survey Date

Jun 25, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

06:05

Start Temperature

58

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

0

End Time

10:15

End Temperature

78

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

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

YWAR, CALT, parrots, SPTO, COYE, ACWO, MODO, AMRO, CAQU, CORA, RSHA, HOWR, BGGN, BEWR, WREN, HOFI, OATI, HUVI, PSFL, Eastern fox squirrel, BUSH, CLSW, HOOR, BHGR, NRWS, ANHU, SOSP, LEGO, cottontail, KILL, SBMU, WTSW, western toad, CATH, NOMO, ALHU, CAKI, RTHA, w. fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, NUWO, BASW, DOWO, common white, gulf fritillary, carpenter bee, coastal whiptail, coyote

Log Completed?

Yes

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

Submitted by: SoCal_Bio

Submitted time: Jun 29, 2021, 10:47:12 AM

Survey Date

Jun 29, 2021

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Survey Conditions

Start Time

07:30

Start Temperature

69

Start Wind Speed

0-1

Start Cloud Cover

60

End Time

10:46

End Temperature

82

End Wind Speed

2-4

End Cloud Cover

90

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Brown-Headed CowBird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, DEJU, LEGO, COYE, HOFI, CATH, ANHU, ATFL, SPTO, NRWS, BHGR, CASJ, BGGN, cottontail, western carpenter bee, BUSH, MODO, CLSW, CAQU, western fence lizard, BEWR, SOSP, CALT, NUWO, checkered white, WREN, cabbage white, YWAR, PUFU, RSHA, ECDO, OATI, HUVI, RTHA, CORA, KILL, BLPH, valley carpenter bee, painted lady, CA ground squirrel, acorn blue. NOMO, PHAI, side-blotched lizard, coastal whiptail, CAKI, gulf fritillary, PSFL, funereal duskywing, marine blue, western tiger swallowtail

Log Completed?

Yes