



May 16, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Allen Xie
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: AXie@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: April 2025 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. Xie,

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 2025 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 4, 2025 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 and Section 7 Conservation Measure CM 11b 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

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.

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

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during April 2025. 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.

Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys									
Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
4/2/25	SD	0700	1000	49	60	0	0	0-1	3-5
4/7/25	TD	0715	1100	52	74	0	0	0	0-1
4/17/25	CM	0625	1040	52	55	100	100	1-3	1-3
4/25/25	SD	0630	1100	51	54	100	100	0-1	1-3
4/30/25	TD	0630	1100	61	63	100	100	0-2	0-2


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

No least Bell's vireos were observed by Designated Biologists during the April 2025 breeding season surveys. Two brown-headed cowbirds (BHCO) within BHCO traps located on the site were observed by Designated Biologists during the April 2025 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in April 2025 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo 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 (619) 455-1134 or cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 
Caroline Garcia
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
111 Academy Way, Suite 210
Irvine, CA 92617

DATE: May 16, 2025

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.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted By: Shelby Dunn

Submitted Time: 04/02/2025 1:29 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	49°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	60 °F	3-5 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 2, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

0

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed one CANG nest. Documented in field maps as CANG-1

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH BEWR HOFI CAKI ACWO PUF1 OCWA DEJU SOSP parrot sp CALT CASJ WCSP SPTO YRWA EUST
NRWS AMCR ANHU CATH ALHU KILL CANG MALL RNDU RUDU OATI CAQU NOFL NUWO RTHA MODO
GREG BGGN RSHA YEWA SNEG BLPH AMCO NOMO Desert cotton tail Western fenced liz Coyote Side blotched
lizard California ground squirrel

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

Submitted By: Taylor Dee

Submitted Time: 04/08/2025 6:58 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	52°F	0 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	74 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 7, 2025

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/a

Additional Notes

Two yellow warblers heard counter singing in restoration area southwest of reservoir.

Incidental Species Observed

SOSP, MODO, ACWO, NOMO, AMCR, SPTO, ANHU, NUWO, LEGO, NUWO, CASJ, California ground squirrel, BEWR, CALT, CATH, NRWS, Western side-blotched lizard, RCKI, Nashville warbler, WIWA, YRWA, desert cottontail, Western fence lizard, BUSH, MALL, CAGO, KILL, RUDU, HOFI, CORA, WCSP, EUST, YEWA, RSHA, OATI, CAQU, parrot, SSHA

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

Submitted By: Carla Marriner

Submitted Time: 04/17/2025 11:58 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:25	52°F	1-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:40	55 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

April 17, 2025

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CALT NOMO LASP SOSP MODO BEWR WREN YRWA EUCD ATFL DEJU OCWR BUSH AMRO CATH CASJ
NUWO CAQU MALL BLPH HOFI YEWA ACWO ANHU California squirrel Cottontail Western fence lizard

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

Submitted By: Shelby Dunn

Submitted Time: 04/25/2025 2:35 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	51°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	54 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

April 25, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

2

Locations

In BHCO traps

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed two active nests (YEWA-1 and LEGO-2).

Incidental Species Observed

OCWA BUSH BGGN SPTO BEWR BHGR ANHU BUOR HOFI DEJU AMRO EUST BLPH BUOR WIWA SOSP
ACWO WETA MODO ANHU LEGO CASJ NOMO CALT CAQU HOWR ATFL WEFL GREG YEWA WEBL COYE
MALL WTSW CANG NOFL MALL OATI WAVI CATH Desert cotton tail Fox squirrel Gray squirrel Parrot sp

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

Submitted By: Taylor Dee

Submitted Time: 04/30/2025 10:58 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	61°F	0-2 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	63 °F	0-2 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

April 30, 2025

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/a

Additional Notes

6 YEWA were heard singing in the restoration areas. 2 Allen's hummingbird nests, determined to be in incubating stage, were incidentally observed (ALHU-2 and ALHU-3) were recorded in Field Maps.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, HOFI, BUSH, MODO, CAKI, SPTO, CASJ, CALT, CAQU, Canada goose, CATH, BHGR, WIWA, ECDO, AMCR, SOSP, KILL, ANHU, YRWA, EUST, SOSP, OCWA, OATI, BEWR, YEWA, DOWO, NRWS, parrot sp., ALHU, NUWO, BUOR, California ground squirrel, Eastern fox squirrel, Baja California treefrog, MALL, AMCO, WTSW, BLGN, desert cottontail, WREN, PHAI, TUVU, ATFL, coyote