



June 19, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

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

Subject: May 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 May 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

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during May 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
5/5/25	SD	0700	1100	54	58	100	100	0-1	0-1
5/15/25	SD	0650	1100	51	67	0	0	0-1	0-1
5/23/25	JC	0705	1009	61	71	100	5	1-3	3-5
5/28/25	SD	0700	1100	59	67	100	40	0-1	0-1

SD = Shelby Dunn, JC = Jill Courmoutso

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

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in May 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: June 19, 2025

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: 05/05/2025 1:17 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	54°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	58 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 5, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

2

Locations

Heard vocalizing in BHCO traps

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CAKI SOSP OATI BEWR HOFI BGGN ACWO BUSH BHGR CAQU CALT WIWA ANHU YEWA BHCO SPTO WEFL
ATFL GTGR NUWO OCWA HOWR HUVI AMGO KILL NRWS AMRO DEJU AMCR WEWP CLSW EUST WTSW

CANG RSHA BUOR WCSP TUVU

Parrot sp.

Desert cottontail

Fox squirrel

California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 05/15/2025 7:25 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:50	51°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	67 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

May 15, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

Observed in BHCO traps, but not within the habitat

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed/documented two CLSW nests

Incidental Species Observed

AMRO BGGN BUSH WETA CASJ ACWO BUOR HOFI CAQU MODO LEGO ANHU BEWR NOMO EUCD SPTO
KILL OCWA RCPA ATFL WTSW LABU SOSP AMCR BUSH CALT CLSW DEJU NRWS COYE WAVI YEWA BCHU
CATH RTHA HOOR
Desert cottontail
California ground squirrel
Coastal whiptail
Western fence lizard

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

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 05/23/2025 4:18 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:05	61°F	1-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:09	71 °F	3-5 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

May 23, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Willow Flycatcher seen and heard.

Incidental Species Observed

NOMO CALT CASJ ACWO SOSP NUWO SPTO BHGR YEWA BUSH BEWR HOOR EUST HOFI CAQU DEJU

BGGN HUVI OCWA LEGO ANHU WIFL

Red-crowned parrot

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Side-blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 05/28/2025 1:48 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	67 °F	0-1 MPH	40 %

Date Observed

May 28, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO MODO HOFI ACWO AMRO NUWO OATI BGGN BTYW BHGR CAKI CALT BEWR SPTO SOSP CAQU
BUSH RTHA PHAI CASJ NRWS WTSW ATFL YEWA COYE AMGO ANHU HREG MALL KILL OCWA RSHA AMCR
EUST CANG VGSW BARS CLSW NOMO BLPH SAPH COHA WEBL
California ground squirrel
Western toad
Western fence lizard
Side-blotched lizard
Desert cottontail