



August 29, 2024  
(2023-005.07/006)

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

**Subject: July 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. 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 July 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;"

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."

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 1, 2024 and continued through May 28, 2024. Between June 4 and July 9, 2024, preconstruction LBV surveys were conducted to accommodate the initiation of sediment removal activities scheduled for July 10, 2024. The results of the 2024 preconstruction surveys were negative and are presented under a separate cover.

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on July 15 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated. Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys continued through the end of July 2024.

## **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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

## **RESULTS**

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted between July 15 and 31, 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
07/15/24	LS	0645	1059	67	85	5	0	0-1	0-1
07/19/24	CLT	0622	1058	63	88	0	0	0-1	3-5
07/22/24	LS	0615	1037	73	85	5	0	0-3	1-4
07/24/24	CM	0640	1025	72	87	30	0	1-3	1-3
07/29/24	SD	0655	1100	63	86	0	0	0-1	0-2

CLT= Christine Tischer, CM= Carla Marriner, LS= Lauren Simpson, SD = Shelby Dunn

On July 19, 2024, an individual least Bell's vireo was heard singing during the breeding season survey. The individual was heard in the riparian habitat along the DG-W-2 mining pit outlet onsite restoration area during the beginning of the survey. The least Bell's vireo appeared to be passing through the area as the vocalization was not heard again for the remainder of the survey. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is provided in Attachment B.

On July 31, 2024, an individual least Bell's vireo was incidentally documented by the ECORP onsite restoration monitor. The least Bell's vireo was observed singing from a mulefat thicket within the onsite mitigation area. The individual was heard periodically for approximately 40 minutes but was not detected again for the rest of the day. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is also provided in Attachment B.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the July 2024 breeding season surveys.

## **DISCUSSION**

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted between July 15 and 31 2024. One least Bell's vireo was detected during the focused breeding season survey on July 19, 2024, and one least Bell's vireo was observed on July 31, 2024, while restoration monitoring was taking place. During both observations, one vireo was heard singing, but was not observed exhibiting any nesting behaviors. Weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15) and Designated Biologists will closely monitor the presence of vireos onsite for evidence of breeding.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (714) 648-0630 or [lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com](mailto:lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com).

SIGNED: 

Lauren Simpson  
Senior Biologist  
ECORP Consulting, Inc.  
2861 Pullman Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: August 29, 2024

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

Attachment B: Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDDB Submittals

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**ATTACHMENT A**

Survey Datasheets

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Lauren Simpson**  
**Submitted Time: 07/15/2024 10:59 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:45	67°F	0-1 MPH	5 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:59	85 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

July 15, 2024

**Observer Name**

Lauren Simpson

**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**

CALT, AMCR, CAQU, LEGO, CORA, SPTO, ANHU, BEWR, CASJ, HOFI, MODO, ACWO, BUSH, WREN, ALHU, NUWO, RTHA, NOMO, BLPH, CA ground squirrel, WEFL, SOSP, WTSW, COHA, SNEG, MALL, GBHE, CAKI, HOOR, OATI, AMRO, cottontail, CLSW, BARS, KILL, coastal whiptail, Western fence lizard, BGGN, BHGB, EUCD

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Christine Tischer**  
**Submitted Time: 07/19/2024 11:00 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:22	63°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:58	88 °F	3-5 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

July 19, 2024

**Observer Name**

Christine Tischer

**Other Observers (if present):**

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

yes

**Note:**

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

0

**Locations**

N/A

**Additional Notes**

0650 possibly heard from distance tail end of 1 LBVI song at DG-4A but nothing further heard after doubling back to listen. Heard 2 LBVI songs to north at 0715 as I passed restoration crew weeding in DG-W-2 outlet, marked spot in Field Maps. Seemed to be passing through to north but nothing further heard and nothing heard at completion of survey when I returned to same area.

**Incidental Species Observed**

ACWO, MODO, HOFI, WREN, NUWO, BEWR, CALT, desert cottontail, SPTO, HOOR, CAQU, ANHU, BHGR, LEGO, SOSP, ALHU, BGGN, LBVI\*, COHA (and juvie calls heard near mining pit), BUSH, DOWO, RSHA, western carpenter bee in Jimsonweed flower, B. vos on phacelia, YBCH\*, CA ground squirrel, monarch, cabbage white, dead brown rat in middle of trail (no trauma noted), OATI, western tiger swallowtail, Lorquin's admiral, KILL, WTSW, checkered skipper, NRWS, CLSW, western fence lizard, GBHE, YEWA, checkered white, gulf fritillary, mourning cloak, huge yellow garden spider

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

**Submitted By: Lauren Simpson**  
**Submitted Time: 07/22/2024 10:39 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:15	73°F	0-3 MPH	5 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:37	85 °F	1-4 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

July 22, 2024

**Observer Name**

Lauren Simpson

**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**

Cora, CALT, CAQU, bewr, CASJ, SPTO, WREN, RTHA, NUWO, RCPA, ANHU, WEFL, BUSH, YEWA, ACWO, CAKI, COHA, western toad, MODO, EUCD, western fence lizard, SAPH, BLPH, CA ground squirrel, HOFI, Cottontail, AMRO, coastal whiptail, BARS, WTSW, TUVU

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Carla Marriner**  
**Submitted Time: 07/24/2024 12:18 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:40	72°F	1-3 MPH	30 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:25	87 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

July 24, 2024

**Observer Name**

Carla Marriner

**Other Observers (if present):**

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

no

**Note:**

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

0

**Locations**

NA

**Additional Notes**

**Incidental Species Observed**

CALT BEWR SOSP MODO CATH SPTO CASJ MODO ALHU HOFI CAQU NOMO RCPA COHA RTHA ACWO  
HOWR BHGR WREN YEWA KILL BLPH BUSH NUWO HUVI OATI Western swallowtail Gulf fritillary Western  
fence lizard Cottontail California ground squirrel Coastal whiptail



**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Shelby Dunn**  
**Submitted Time: 07/30/2024 6:11 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:55	63°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:00	86 °F	0-2 MPH	%

**Date Observed**

July 29, 2024

**Observer Name**

Shelby Dunn

**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**

ACWO BUSH NUWO CALT OATI ANHU BEWR CASJ SPTO AMCR DOWO RCPA MODO CAQU BHGR LEGO  
HOFI SOSP BGGN HOWR NOMO WEBL BLPH ATFL CAKI HUVI YEWA WEFL KILL NRWS ALHU fenced lizard  
Side blotched lizard Coyote Coastal whiptail

**ATTACHMENT B**

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Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDDB Submittal

Mail to:  
California Natural Diversity Database  
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov

*For Office Use Only*

Source Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Quad Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elm Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Occ No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
EO Index: \_\_\_\_\_ Map Index: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**California Native Species Field Survey Form**

**Scientific Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Common Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Species Found?**

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_ If not found, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. Individuals: \_\_\_\_\_ Subsequent Visit? Yes No

Is this an existing NDDDB occurrence? \_\_\_\_\_ No Unk.

Yes, Occ. # \_\_\_\_\_

Collection? If yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Museum / Herbarium \_\_\_\_\_

**Reporter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant Information**

Phenology:

% vegetative % flowering % fruiting

**Animal Information**

# adults # juveniles # larvae # egg masses # unknown  
wintering breeding nesting rookery burrow site lek other

**Location Description (please attach map AND/OR fill out your choice of coordinates, below)**

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner / Mgr: \_\_\_\_\_

Quad Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4, Meridian: H M S Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4, Meridian: H M S GPS Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

**DATUM:** NAD27 NAD83 WGS84 Horizontal Accuracy: \_\_\_\_\_ meters/feet

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 UTM Zone 11 OR Geographic (Latitude & Longitude)

Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat Description (plants & animals)** plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:

**Animal Behavior** (Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

**Site Information** Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): Excellent Good Fair Poor

Immediate AND surrounding land use: \_\_\_\_\_

Visible disturbances: \_\_\_\_\_

Threats: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Determination:** (check one or more, and fill in blanks)

Keyed (cite reference): \_\_\_\_\_

Compared with specimen housed at: \_\_\_\_\_

Compared with photo / drawing in: \_\_\_\_\_

By another person (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographs:** (check one or more)

Slide Print Digital

Plant / animal

Habitat

Diagnostic feature

May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes no

Mail to:  
California Natural Diversity Database  
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov

*For Office Use Only*

Source Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Quad Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elm Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Occ No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
EO Index: \_\_\_\_\_ Map Index: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**California Native Species Field Survey Form**

**Scientific Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Common Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Species Found?**

Yes No \_\_\_\_\_ If not found, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Total No. Individuals: \_\_\_\_\_ Subsequent Visit? Yes No

Is this an existing NDDDB occurrence? \_\_\_\_\_ No Unk.  
Yes, Occ. # \_\_\_\_\_

Collection? If yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_ Museum / Herbarium \_\_\_\_\_

**Reporter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant Information**

Phenology:

% vegetative % flowering % fruiting

**Animal Information**

# adults # juveniles # larvae # egg masses # unknown  
wintering breeding nesting rookery burrow site lek other

**Location Description (please attach map AND/OR fill out your choice of coordinates, below)**

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner / Mgr: \_\_\_\_\_

Quad Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4, Meridian: H M S Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 of \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4, Meridian: H M S GPS Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_

**DATUM:** NAD27 NAD83 WGS84 Horizontal Accuracy: \_\_\_\_\_ meters/feet

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 UTM Zone 11 **OR** Geographic (Latitude & Longitude)

Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat Description (plants & animals)** plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:

**Animal Behavior** (Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

**Site Information** Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): Excellent Good Fair Poor

Immediate AND surrounding land use: \_\_\_\_\_

Visible disturbances: \_\_\_\_\_

Threats: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Determination:** (check one or more, and fill in blanks)

Keyed (cite reference): \_\_\_\_\_  
Compared with specimen housed at: \_\_\_\_\_  
Compared with photo / drawing in: \_\_\_\_\_  
By another person (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographs:** (check one or more)

Slide Print Digital  
Plant / animal  
Habitat  
Diagnostic feature  
May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes no