

Common name: Least Bell's Vireo

Scientific name: *Vireo bellii pusillus*



DESCRIPTION

- Small bird, about 4.5 to 5 inches long.
- Faint white eye ring which are small feathers that grow around the eye and help to identify this bird.
- Short rounded wings that helps the bird hover or flutter its wings, and a short, straight beak to pick insects off of leaves and branches.

HABITAT

- They prefer healthy riparian areas where there are both trees and shrubs for them to build nests and find food.
- They build their nests in shrubs and bushes such as California wild rose, mulefat, and willows which are some of the species we plant at Gonzales ranch.

FOOD

- Insects, like grasshoppers, beetles, and caterpillars.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Point Blue Conservation Science.

MATING

- Males sing in the top of a tall tree and flick their wings and bob their tails to attract a female.
- These birds migrate, and when they come back they like to build their nest as close to the spot where they built their nest the year before.

PREDATORS

- Cats and hawks. Raccoons, snakes, and coyotes like to eat their eggs.

STATUS

- Least Bell's Vireos are endangered, which means that biologists are worried that this bird may go extinct, or die out. Planting trees and shrubs may help build habitat.