

Least Bell's Vireo Minimum Qualifications
Vireo bellii pusillus

A permit is not required for presence/absence surveys as long as current protocol is followed and tapes are not used.

A permit is required when conducting nest monitoring, using taped vocalizations to illicit responses during presence/absence surveys, or handling individuals. An individual must provide documentation of experience observing least Bell's vireos in the wild (40 hours minimum), in a variety of localities (5 minimum), while performing protocol surveys under the supervision of permitted individuals.

The hours of *actual observation of the species in the wild* must be substantial and preferably a minimum of 40 hours. This level of experience ensures that individuals have a broad range of vireo experience, and 1) teaches them how to conduct focused protocol surveys, 2) provides an understanding of the species and its behaviors, 3) familiarizes them with the calls and behavior of similar sympatric species, and 4) provides them with the knowledge to minimize their potential impacts to the vireo while conducting surveys (e.g., recognizing nesting behavior in order to avoid disturbance of the nest). Experience with other similar species may be counted toward the 40 hours, but will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Equivalent experience with other willow-riparian species along with demonstrated knowledge of least Bell's vireo biology and life history can be counted toward some of the minimum number of hours.

Refer to January 19, 2001, Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines.