



April 7, 2026  
(2023-005.13/006)

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

**Subject: March 2026 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 March 2026 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 6, 2026 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.<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>

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<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.

## RESULTS

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during March 2026. 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
3/6/26	CLT	0622	1100	58	65.2	0	65	5-7	1-3
3/9/26	CMT	0655	1040	60	65	0	0	0-1	0-1
3/20/26	TD	0700	1100	62	88	0	0	0-1	0-1
3/27/26	CLT	0705	1114	58	76	15	75	0-1	0-1
3/31/26	CLT	0700	1130	56	65	100	100	0-1	0-1

CLT= Christine Tischer, CMT = Carly Taylor, TD = Taylor Dee

Least Bell's vireo was not observed by Designated Biologists during the March 2026 breeding season surveys. Two brown-headed cowbirds were observed flying along the utility lines between the disc golf park and riparian habitat on March 27, 2026. On March 31, 2026, six brown-headed cowbirds were observed in the parking lot for the disc golf park and along the utility lines. GPS points were recorded for their locations and Designated Biologists will monitor their presence throughout the breeding season.

## DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in March 2026. There were no observations of least Bell's vireo during the focused breeding season surveys. Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15) to support ongoing habitat restoration activities occurring at the Project site.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (619) 455-1134 or [cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com](mailto:cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com).

SIGNED: 

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

DATE: April 7, 2026

### Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

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**ATTACHMENT A**

Survey Datasheets

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

**Submitted By: Christine Tischer**

**Submitted Time: 03/06/2026 3:06 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:22	58°F	5-7 MPH	0 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:00	65.2 °F	1-3 MPH	65 %

**Date Observed**

March 6, 2026

**Observer Name**

Christine Tischer

**Other Observers (if present):**

N/A

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

0

**Additional Notes**

Reached car at 11:40.

**Incidental Species Observed**

CALT, CAKI, OATI, ACWO, NUWO, ECDO, MODO, AMCR, DEJU, BUSH, WBNU, DEJU, CSJA, ANHU, CANG, parrots, SOSP, SPTO, WCSP, YRWA, HOFI, LEGO, PUFU, CATH, HOFI, BLPH, CAQU, NRWS, MALL, WEBL, BEWR, TUVU, EUST, CEWA, CA ground squirrel, NOMO, RCKI, CORA, BGGN, AMRO, GREG, RUDU, RSHA, AMCO, KILL, HUVI, OCWA, DOWO, ALHU, desert cottontail, RNDU, RTHA

Perplexing hairstreak

Painted lady

Western tiger swallowtail

Cabbage white

Monarch\*

Buckeye

Yellow-faced bumble bee

Side-blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

**Submitted By: Carly Taylor**

**Submitted Time: 03/09/2026 11:05 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:55	60°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:40	65 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

March 9, 2026

**Observer Name**

Carly Taylor

**Other Observers (if present):**

N/A

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

0

**Additional Notes**

High bird activity observed including nesting CASJ, HOFI, and ANHU. No spring or summer migrants observed.

**Incidental Species Observed**

CALT, CASJ, SOSP, AMCR, SPTO, ALHU, DEJU, RNDU, NOMO, CAKI, CATH, BEWR, CORA, CAQU, HOFI, RCKI, AMCO, WCSP, CANG, RSHA, COHA, ACWO, LEGO, NRWS, VGSW, ANHU, RCPA, MALL, COYE, YRWA, BGGN, WTSW, MODO, OCWA, AMGO, BUSH, NOFL, EUST, OATI, TUVU, NUWO, BLPH, KILL

Western fence lizard

Treefrog sp.

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Coyote

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

**Submitted By: Taylor Dee**

**Submitted Time: 03/20/2026 11:37 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	07:00	62°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:00	88 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

**Date Observed**

March 20, 2026

**Observer Name**

Taylor Dee

**Other Observers (if present):**

N/A

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

0

**Additional Notes**

Nature's Image and Gothic crews conducting nonnative weed abatement in restoration area on east side of reservoir with biological monitors present.

**Incidental Species Observed**

HOFI, OATI, CAKI, CALT, SPTO, RCKI, SOSP, parrot sp., BUSH, BEWR, CATH, CAQU, CASJ, NOFL, CAGO, AMCR, ANHU, BGGN, YRWA, EUCD, KILL, MODO, NUWO, NRWS, WCSP, AMWI, RUDU, OCWA, RNDU, MALL, WTSW, CLSW, BARS, BLPH, TUVU, AMCO, COHA, ALHU, COYE

Western tiger swallowtail

Carpenter bee

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

**Submitted By: Christine Tischer**  
**Submitted Time: 03/27/2026 11:16 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	07:05	58°F	0-1 MPH	15 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:14	76 °F	0-1 MPH	75 %

**Date Observed**

March 27, 2026

**Observer Name**

Christine Tischer

**Other Observers (if present):**

N/A

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

2

**Locations**

2 males flying N to S along utility lines between disc golf park and riparian.

**Additional Notes**

1st YEWA heard for the season

**Incidental Species Observed**

ACWO, LEGO, CALT, YRWA, EUST, WCSP, CAKI, BUSH, BEWR, MODO, HOFI, OATI, AMRO, SPTO, BHCO\*\*, AMCR, BHGR, ANHU, CAQU, SOSP, NRWS, AMGO, CASJ, parrot, KILL, NUWO, CANG, RSHA, CATH, BGGN, RUDU, RNDU, YEWA\*, WTSW, COHA, WTSW, PUF1, BLPH, AMCO, MALL, RTHA, OCWA

Cabbage white

Mourning cloak

Checkered white

Funereal duskywing

Gray buckeye

Red admiral

Western tiger swallowtail

Coastal whiptail\*

Western fence lizard

CA ground squirrel

Fox squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

**Submitted By: Christine Tischer**  
**Submitted Time: 03/31/2026 11:34 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	07:00	56°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:30	65 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

**Date Observed**

March 31, 2026

**Observer Name**

Christine Tischer

**Other Observers (if present):**

N/A

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations**

6

**Locations**

2 female 4 male in parking lot of disc golf park and along powerlines.

**Additional Notes**

N/A

**Incidental Species Observed**

OATI, EUST, OCWA, CANG, MODO, HOFI, ACWO, WCSP, CEWA, TOWA, BHCO\*\*, CAKI, CASJ, SOSP, CALT, CAQU, SPTO, BHGR, AMRO, BUSH, BGGN, COYE, CATH HOOR, AMCR, LEGO, RCKI, BEWR, BLPH, YEWA\*, ALHU, PUFU, DOWO, NRWS WTSW, PBGR, COHU, YRWA, parrot, BARS, ANHU, BLPH, RTHA, NOMO, CAKI, CORA, WEBL, WIWA, CLSW, VGSW, AMCO, COHA

Black-tailed bumble bee

Mourning cloak

Red admiral

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Fox squirrel

Desert cottontail