



*From about 8:30 to 10:00 or 10:30 is best in the warmer, inland areas. Where it is near the coast and perhaps foggy, a little later is OK.*

# Birding Sites in the Greater Cambria Area



**Parks, Recreation  
and Open Space  
Commission**

Citizen Commission to the  
Cambria Community Services District  
ESTABLISHED 1993

## Best Bets . . .

### 1. SAN SIMEON STATE PARK

*Creekmouth, campground area, on Hwy One just past Moonstone Gardens.*

- SHOREBIRDS
- WARBLERS
- RAPTORS

### 2. SAN SIMEON CREEK ROAD

*Turn off Hwy One north just past San Simeon Campground. Varied habitats – creekside, fields, forests. (Sometimes a Bobcat about one mile from Hwy One.)*

- VIREOS
- GROSBEAK
- BLUEBIRDS
- RAPTORS

### 3. SAN SIMEON POINT

*Eight miles north. Reach via beach by pier.*

- SURF SCOTERS
- CORMORANTS
- WHIMBREL
- WILLETS
- PIGEON GUILLEMOTS (north of cypress trees)

### 4. ELEPHANT SEAL HAUL-OUT AREA

*Sixteen miles north.*

- CORMORANTS
- PELICANS
- OYSTER CATCHERS
- SANDERLINGS
- PEREGRINE FALCON (nests on Piedras Blancas)

### 5. SANTA ROSA CREEKMOUTH

*Accessible from Shamel Park, Windsor Boulevard North. Similar birds to 1, above.*

### 6. SANTA ROSA CREEK ROAD

*Beyond Coast Union High School. Same type of habitat, terrain as 2, above.*

## More Distant . . .

### A. ESTERO BAY PROPERTIES

*Just north of Cayucos, west of Hwy One, all the way to Villa Creek. 328 acres of shoreline (nearly four miles) and bluff. Tolerated trespass.*

- MANY SHOREBIRDS
- OCCASIONAL GOLDEN EAGLES

### B. WHALE ROCK RESERVOIR

*Via Old Creek Road, Cayucos.*

- NESTING GREBES (at shallow end; May, June)
- WHITE PELICANS
- DUCKS

### C. CERRO ALTO CAMPGROUND

*About 10 miles north on Hwy 41 from Hwy One in Morro Bay. Best before 10:00 or 10:30.*

- VARIETY OF INLAND, MOUNTAIN BIRDS

### D. MARINA, BAYSIDE, MORRO BAY ESTUARY

- SHOREBIRDS (in pickleweed, high tide)
- LOONS, MERGANSERS, GREBES (in bay)
- NIGHT HERONS (in eucalyptus trees)

### E. SOUTH OF MORRO BAY INN

*Just south of the Morro Bay Inn, across from the golf course, there is a small parking area by a eucalyptus grove. There may be:*

- EGRETS (both snowy and great)
- GREAT BLUE HERONS
- CORMORANTS
- RAPTORS (in nesting area in the trees near the bay; binoculars are needed for best viewing)

### F. SWEET SPRINGS

*This is in Los Osos on the south side of Morro Bay, on a street called Ramona. Freshwater lagoon, near bay.*

### G. AUDUBON OVERLOOK

*In Baywood Park, off northern extension of 2nd St. Go to end, turn right for a block or so to a small parking area. Take short trail to the overlook. Best at ebb tide.*

### H. ELFIN FOREST

*Preserve on edge of Morro Bay Estuary, off Santa Isabel Road at 15th Street. Many different birds in grassland, miniature oak forest. Excellent boardwalk.*

### I. OSO FLACO LAKE

*Off Hwy One in Nipomo. About 60 miles south of Cambria. Freshwater lake, bridge and trail to beach. Many species.*

### J. DOWN IN OCEANO

*Off Hwy 1, turn right (west) on Pier Avenue. There is a good Mexican restaurant nearby, there is a bridge. Park there and walk north along the lagoon. It is about a 2-mile loop walk. This is a few miles north of Oso Flaco Lake south of Nipomo.*

### OTHER LAKE AREAS

*Lopez Lake, Santa Margarita Lake, Nacimiento Lake and San Antonio Lake – worth exploring. In winter, there will be bald eagles at San Antonio Lake.*

