



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.

