

# OHMVR COMMISSION TOUR

## Oceano Dunes SVRA

October 13, 2011

















### State Vehicular Recreation Area Ocean Dunes

















CONCESSION  
STAGING AREA  
NO CAMPING  
NO PARKING  
Between Staging Area  
and Waterline  
Vehicles Will Be Towed  
Authority CVC 22659(a), CCR 114-4355







STEVE'S ATV & HUMMER TOURS

Annie's  
ATV RENTALS  
805-473-1610  
805-473-6868

805-473-1610





























































**AREA CLOSED  
FOR PLANT  
REHABILITATION**



















## BIRDS OF OSO FLACO LAKE



### American Kestrel

The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon found in North America. This little bird of prey lives year-round and feeds on small rodents, reptiles, and larger insects. Females are mostly brown, while males tend to have red, brown, and blue coloration. While young kestrels are learning to hunt, the birds can often be seen hunting as a family unit.



### Cliff Swallow

The Cliff Swallow is similar in size to the Barn Swallow; however, its coloration is more muted. The most way to distinguish between the two birds is by the tail feathers. While the Barn Swallow tail is forked, the Cliff Swallow has a shorter tail that is more rounded. These birds can be found March to September and they have very similar nesting patterns to the Barn Swallow.



### Barn Swallow

The Barn Swallow is identified by its dark blue wings, orange throat, and rump colored chest. Its most defining feature, however, is its long forked tail. This bird can be found year-round and is commonly seen flying near the Oro Flaco Lake and boardwalk. This bird, like most swallows, feeds on small flying insects. The birds catch insects while flying and also create quite a spectacular display of acrobatic abilities. The Barn Swallow community nests during the spring of the year, and nests are usually found under the eaves of buildings and against the support beams of the boardwalk.



### Ruddy Duck

The Ruddy Duck is part of the "stiff tail" family for their long tail feathers which are held straight up. These birds have very distinguishing features due to the breeding males with their bright blue bills and cinnamon red feathers. The females and juveniles look similar, with mottled brownish, grey body feathers and blue-grey bills. This small bodied duck can be found year-round on Oro Flaco Lake feeding on a variety of insects.



### Double-Crested Cormorant

The Double-Crested Cormorant can be found year-round at Oro Flaco Lake. These birds typically feed on fish in the ocean. However, they are commonly found perched all year in the lake. When these birds will have their wings spread out while they are perched so that they can sun themselves. The Double-Crested Cormorant gets its name from the two white tufts of feathers it grows in its head during nesting season. This bird can be distinguished by its all black body and long shaggy neck.

### California Least Tern

The California Least Tern is an endangered species that is protected by California State Parks. This bird is mostly all white and contains a silver of black along the tips of its wings. Its most defining feature is its "mask," a cap of black feathers that covers the head and eyes. This bird nests along the shore, however, it feeds in Oro Flaco Lake on small fish. The breeding habits of this bird are extremely interesting. While hunting, the Least Tern will glide over the water, keeping its head tilted so that it can watch for fish. Once the prey has been spotted, the bird will dive at nearly a ninety degree angle into the water to retrieve its meal. The sight is incredible and these birds have recently been returned to an "open house." The Least Tern can be seen at Oro Flaco from April to late July during times of nesting and raising.



### Osprey

The Osprey is one of many aerial predators found at Oro Flaco Lake. These voracious hunters feed mostly on fish and they capture their prey by hovering, then plunging feet first into the water. Found here year-round, it is noted for its dark grey-blue and white underwing feather pattern.



### Brown Pelican

The Brown Pelican is also found at Oro Flaco year-round. Juveniles tend to be a muted light brown to grey color, while mature adults exhibit lighter grey feathers on their wings and dark grey and brown feathers on their chest. During the month of December to August, adults may be seen with vibrant yellow caps on their heads and bright orange throats. This change in color signifies the pelican's breeding season. These birds feed on fish and are typically seen feeding in the ocean. However, one may occasionally find a Brown Pelican resting on a post in Oro Flaco Lake.



### Cinnamon Teal Duck

The Cinnamon Teal Duck can be found at Oro Flaco Lake year-round. Females tend to be a muted brown or grey color and have black bills. The males are significantly more colorful, as the feathers on their heads and chests are a deep red to burgundy color. Many males contain light blue feathers on the tips of their wings and all have distinctive red eyes. These ducks tend to nest amongst the foliage surrounding the lake and usually lay eggs in clusters of eight to ten.



### Northern Mallard Duck

Mallards are some of the most commonly found birds at Oro Flaco. They can typically be seen floating in the lake and feeding on aquatic plants and some terrestrial insects. The females are a brownish color and will sometimes contain some blue coloration on the tips of their wings. The males sport a vibrant green head and equally impressive orange bill. These ducks are found here year-round and will commonly nest in the plants surrounding the lake during the spring season. Visitors can normally spot a mother Mallard and her ducklings swimming in the lake during spring and summer months.

Oso Flaco Lake (Oceano Dunes SVRA)































70C2074  
70C2074

CALIFORNIA

A! 1112?

















TO  
SAN FRANCISCO  
265 9/10 MILES

**OCEANO**  
ELEVATION 18' FEET

TO  
NEW ORLEANS  
2213 9/10 MILES









CROSSING  
RAILROAD



CROSSING  
RAILROAD





OCEANO