

## Point Molate - Comments and Recommendations

**From Louis Cheng** on the location for photographing the ospreys

*It's just a little west of Stenmark and Drowly (on maps, it shows up as Petrolite Street). There's a nest in the picture below (attached), and one behind the picture along the road near Drowly. One can pull over to the side of the road to the right here, and to the left behind the picture. Have fun!*

- *Bring the longest lens in your possession to get the full experience (300-400mm ideal). Set the exposure to 1/1000 - 1/2000s to capture the action.*
- ***Meal time (fish) is about 7PM, so be there at 6PM or so.*** *The parent dropping off the fish comes from nowhere, so everything happens fast.*
- *Be sure for people to go in groups. It is not unsafe, but there's hardly anyone around*

**From Sonia Dunning**

*I've done a route on Google maps to where main osprey nest is just before Point San Pablo Marine Road. **The best time to be there is about 4 pm with the intention of sticking around until, perhaps, 6pm.** The feeding, and the best light, usually happens within those hours.*

Google Map with markers of key areas

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Point+Molate+Beach,+Richmond,+CA/37.9604553,-122.4257636/@37.954027,-122.4226397,16.25z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m5!1m1!1s0x80859ce81f82239d:0xc31b8ec29bef8290!2m2!1d-122.414139!2d37.945202!1m0!3e0?hl=en>

## Point Molate Beach Park

Once you take that final exit before the Richmond bridge, go straight onto Stenmark Drive. Eventually, on the left, you will be passing Point Molate Beach (where there are picnic tables in case you want to picnic). There is a parking area on the right of the road opposite the entrance to the beach parking lot. There was an osprey nest there in early 2020, but I have not heard anything about it from birders this year so don't know if it is inhabited this year.

## On the ospreys

The more active and popular nest is a lot further down the road. Continue down Stenmark Drive, past the old winery (castle) on the left and the abandoned military housing on the right. Keep going until you see the sign for the Rod and Gun Club. Immediately start looking slightly ahead and up to your right for a telephone pole with nest platform. There is parking along the old railroad track and across the way (watch for broken glass!).

If you keep going straight ahead, the road curves. There is a second nest right at the curve. You can't miss it. It has always been less active than the other and the lighting for it is all wrong in the afternoon. Look along the pier that goes out on the left and you may spot another one or two depending on how many osprey returned this year. There are at least two more nests that I know of, but they are on Chevron property behind the

cyclone fencing and too far away to photograph, but they add to the flight population. We've had up to 7 osprey circling overhead at any given time.

### **Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor**

For another POI, you can turn down Point San Pablo Marine Road (ignore the no trespassing sign; that does not apply to the road) and it will take you to the marina where there may be other types of photo ops. The road is very rough, so take it easy.

### **Brothers Lighthouse**

And don't forget, Stenmark Drive takes you past Brothers Lighthouse and an abandoned pier on the left. I've taken numerous sunset shots from the road.

If you are interested, here are two of my osprey shots from there:

<https://flic.kr/p/2jfCeDF>

<https://flic.kr/p/2g76w8H>

Brothers Lighthouse

<https://flic.kr/p/RysiPj>