

# WILDLIFE of FORT FLAGLER STATE PARK

From cougars, to ants, all wildlife is protected in Washington State Parks.

## 1. BLACK-TAILED DEER

These large mammals can be seen here throughout the year. They may be used to seeing people in the park, but they are still wild. Remember to keep your distance and do not feed them.



## 2. AMERICAN ROBIN

Robins, pulling large worms out of the moist ground, are common sightings for most of the year. In the summer they retreat to the forest to nest and raise their chicks.

## 3. COYOTE

Just like dogs, coyotes are opportunistic and will eat almost anything. They can be seen in small groups, or alone, throughout the day. Coyotes are not generally aggressive, but always keep your distance.



## 4. NORTHERN FLICKER

These woodpeckers are occasionally seen pecking trees for beetles, but are often seen digging on the ground for ants and other food. They have also been seen sitting on ant piles. Ants secrete formic acid which repels parasites from their feathers.

## 5. HARBOR SEALS

Commonly spotted from the lower campground, these marine mammals enjoy fishing in the calm waters between Fort Flagler and Indian Island. They can sleep underwater, only coming up for air every 30 minutes.





## 6. BARRED OWL

The most common owl in the park. Barred owls have a very recognizable call that sounds like, "Who cooks for you?" They are active at night, but can be seen quietly sleeping in the forest during the day.

## 7. DOUGLAS'S SQUIRREL

Smaller than gray squirrels, these rusty colored rodents like to eat conifer seeds and mushrooms. They collect large quantities of seeds and store them in tree cavities or underground.



## 8. AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

These large raptors are often seen flying along the coast or perched overlooking the water for fish or crabs. Bald Eagles fly around 30 mph in normal flight and dive at speeds of 100mph!

## 9. BANANA SLUG

Named because of their similarity to a ripe or overripe banana. Slugs decompose, or break down, plant material. Banana slugs change color depending on their diet and moisture.



Photo: Myasuda at English Wikipedia

## 10. WESTERN THATCH ANTS

These ants create large mounds from twigs, leaves, fir needles. The thatched roof over their nest helps control the temperature. Thatch ants are farmers! They collect herd aphids and collect the honeydew they produce.



## 11. COUGAR

Fort Flagler is known to be in the range of one female cougar. Female cougars have a territory of up to 75 square miles. Since they are nocturnal, and always on the move, cougars are rarely seen.



## 12. DARK-EYED JUNCO

These ground foraging sparrows are seen throughout the year. They can be found in fields, forests, or around the gun emplacements. They are about the size of a pinecone, and sometimes look like bouncing pinecones!



## 13. BEES

Several species of bees can be seen fluttering about dandelions and other wildflowers during spring and summer. Bees are important pollinators for our forests, farms, and gardens.



## 14. HUMMINGBIRDS

You might hear the hum of these birds before you see them. In the spring and summer they are seen buzzing around flowering plants. Anna's hummingbirds are present year round, but Rufous hummingbirds migrate thousands of miles in the winter.



Anna's Hummingbird



Rufous Hummingbird

## 15. TOWNSEND'S CHIPMUNK

This cute, little rodent is smaller than a squirrel. Found in dense forests, they eat a variety of foods: berries in spring and summer, seeds in fall, and mushrooms during winter.



## 16. COMMON RAVEN

Perhaps the most intelligent species of bird, ravens can solve puzzles, remember the faces of humans, and have a complex form of communication. They use body language and 33 unique sounds to communicate.



## 17. RACCOON

Sometimes referred to as nature's bandits, raccoons are opportunistic omnivores. Meaning, they will eat almost anything. They learn by touching objects with their highly sensitive hands.





## 18. CANADA GOOSE

Geese can be seen here all year, but they congregate in larger numbers during the winter. Canada geese tend to mate for life, with low "divorce rates", and couples remain together year round.

## 19. BATS

Bats can be seen at dusk eating insects, and throughout the day sleeping inside of the batteries (gun emplacements). If you see them in the batteries, do not shine a light on them. Please allow them to rest undisturbed.



## 20. ROUGH-SKINNED NEWT

This salamander prefers slow moving water, but can be found crossing grassy areas, on logs, or under rocks. Make sure to leave them alone, as they are poisonous.

## 21. SWALLOWS

These two species of swallows frequent the fields of Fort Flagler during spring and summer. Like aerial acrobats, they swiftly change direction to catch insects in mid-flight. Nests can be observed in the batteries and gutters of buildings.



Violet-green Swallow

Barn Swallow



## 22. RIVER OTTER

Though called river otters, they are often seen in the salty estuary around the park. (Sea otters are found closer to the Pacific.) River otters have webbed toes that help them glide through the water to fish.



## 23. GREAT BLUE HERON

These birds are "great" because they are the largest in the heron family. This wading bird uses its long legs to slowly stalk fish in shallow water. Its pointed beak is used for quickly stabbing prey.

