During the winter, the quick-moving Killdeer and small shorebirds can be seen walking or running on the mudflats and beaches.

The flight feeders birds include a number of species of terns. Terns, usually white with black caps, can be seen hovering and then plunging for fish. The endangered California Least Tern is resident only in the late spring and summer.

Common waterfowl (remaining categories: swimming divers and surface swimmers) include ducks like Mallards (identified by the drake’s iridescent green head and white neck ring) and Green-winged Teal (with emerald green flashes in their wings).

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DO NOT DIG OR REMOVE SHELLS—remember it is an ecological preserve!

This introduced and invasive plant has been removed from near the trail here and further back on the other side of the trail. However, there are other examples down the trail to the left. These large plants, with shiny leaves and clumps of fruits (enclosing the beans), have adapted very well to this area. Even though there are some commercial and medicinal uses of the plant, all parts are very poisonous.

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shrimp. All can be food for birds and other animals and are part of an intricate food web.

**Signpost 14 - Mojave Yucca**
The Mojave Yucca up the steep hill is an example of the kind of plant that was highly regarded by early Native Americans because they could eat the fruit and also use the strong fibers for ropes and weaving and the roots for soap. Its only pollinator is a small white moth.

**Signpost 15 - Coastal Saltmarsh**
Between the trail and the water's edge is an example of a southern coastal saltmarsh community. The dominant salt-tolerant plant found at the lagoon is pickleweed. Native Americans valued the seeds as a food, and early settlers ate the foliage and likened it to pickles. The plant has a high alkaline salt content so it has been used for making soap and glass.

Pickleweed is easily identified by its fleshy leaves which look like a string of pickles. The dense low growth provides nesting habitat for the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow.

**Signpost 16 - Lagoon Fishes**
The lagoon serves as a breeding and nursery area for a wide variety of coastal fishes. Tidal creeks and channels provide surge-free refuges for small fishes and for the eggs and larvae of larger fishes. The places with sandy bottoms provide habitat for rays, sharks, and flatfishes. Submerged vegetation such as eelgrass shelters the staghorn sculpin and the pipefish and goby families. Shallow water species include the halibut, turbot, sardines, and croakers. Open water species include mullet, bass, anchovies, sardines and top smelt.

**Signpost 17 - Lemonadeberry**
This bush is a drought-resistant plant. Feel the leaves, which are thick and waxy to resist dehydration during the hot, dry summer months. The ripe red berries are coated with a sticky sweet substance that, when stirred into water, makes a refreshing lemonade-like drink.

**Signpost 18 - Wildlife**
Steep hillsides offer habitats for rabbits and ground squirrels so that they can set up their extensive warrens. Look for tracks along the path: most common are dogs, but you might spot raccoon or coyote tracks.

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Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation

For more information call:
(760) 931-0800
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 130491
Carlsbad, CA 92013
Web Site:
www.batiquitosfoundation.org

Preserve, Protect, and Enhance Batiquitos Lagoon

Find out more about what happens at the lagoon by becoming a member and/or volunteering.

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