



Bolsa Chica 'I Spy' Game

Winter edition

What do you spy on the trails at Bolsa Chica?

How to play:

1. Check off items as you find them.
2. Take a photo of the item if possible.
3. Stay on Trail!

Can you find: (Note: Clues on the back!)

Northern Shoveler



Aquatic animal (Shovel-nosed Guitarfish)



Canada Geese



Insect (Woolly Darkling beetle)



Snowy Egret



Toyon



Northern Harrier



CA Buckwheat



Desert Cottontail Rabbit



Deerweed



Once you have found all the items, send us your favorite photo to Erin@BCLandTrust.org and we will share it on our social media! You can also download our free Bolsa Chica Coloring book for more educational fun from our website www.BCLandTrust.org/Explore.

Optional: Send us a photo of your completed list with your name and address and we will send you a surprise!

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#BolsaChicaISpyGame

Bolsa Chica Land Trust | 5200 Warner Ave. #108, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 | www.BCLandTrust.org | Info@BCLandTrust.org

Clues and more info on each item:

<p>Northern Shoveler</p>	<p>Look for these large dabbling ducks in the shallows and close to the edges of the wetlands foraging for food with their oversized, shovel shaped bills. Males stand out more than females with a black bill, green head, white chest, and rust-colored sides. Females are a mottled brown with an orange bill.</p>	<p>Aquatic animal (Shovel-nosed guitarfish)</p>	<p>With a shovel-like nose and guitar shaped body they may look like a shark, but they are actually a ray. Their brown sandy color helps them blend in with the seafloor where they wait to ambush crabs or fish to eat. Look carefully in the water under the wooden walk bridge for these interesting creatures.</p>
<p>Canada Geese</p>	<p>Canada Geese are comfortable in many habitats from golf courses to wetlands, where they graze on grasses, seeds, sedges, and even berries. At Bolsa Chica you may see them flying over in their distinctive V formation, swimming in the bays, or grazing along the edges of the wetlands.</p>	<p>Insect (Woolly Darkling Beetle)</p>	<p>A member of the Stink Beetles, these flightless and slow moving beetles defend themselves by standing on their heads with their hind-ends in the air to secrete a smelly odor. The Woolly Darkling Beetle has reddish fuzz on its back. They eat dead plants and animal matter, helping to recycle these into the ecosystem.</p>
<p>Snowy Egret</p>	<p>These are a medium sized bird with white feathers, long slender black legs and bright yellow feet. In the late 1800s their long, showy breeding feathers were prized for decorating ladies' hats. They almost went extinction until they were protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918. They can be spied all around Bolsa Chica.</p>	<p>Toyon</p>	<p>Also known as Christmas Berry and California Holly for its holly like leaves and red winter berries it gave Hollywood its name. This large bush is an important part of the Coastal Sage Scrub community in California. There are several larger Toyons along the upper trail from the point along the pocket wetland.</p>
<p>Northern Harrier</p>	<p>This is a photo of a male Harrier Hawk; the females are brown in color and larger than the males. These hawks have an owlish face, which helps them hear prey while hunting. At Bolsa Chica they hunt for small rodents, reptiles, and birds. You can find them perching in the trees near the pocket wetland and hunting over the mesa.</p>	<p>CA Buckwheat</p>	<p>In winter the small dark leaves that cover the bushy part of the plant begin to sprout from the dormant branches. In summer they pink and white blooms attract bees and other insects. They can be found along the Mesa trails. These are an important food and medicinal plant for the Indigenous Peoples (Tongva and Acjachemen Nation).</p>
<p>Desert Cottontail Rabbit</p>	<p>Cottontails blend in well with the brown hues of the mesa. They enjoy eating the native grasses and plants. They are easiest to spot in the mornings, but watch for their little white tails disappearing under bushes at any time of the day.</p>	<p>Deerweed</p>	<p>This is an important plant in helping restore Bolsa Chica's Coastal Sage Scrub habitat. It helps improve the soil which then helps other plants grow. It stands out with green stems and leaves with small, and bright yellow flowers that change to red after they are pollinated.</p>

Other things you might see along the trails: **Egrets**, two of which are white, can be found fishing along the edges of the water. **Snowy Egrets**, the smaller of the two, the larger one is called a **Great Egret**. A lot of birds of prey, or raptors, call Bolsa Chica home. **Cooper Hawks** and **Kestrels** hunt small animals and birds, while larger **Red-tailed Hawks** can be seen using the thermals (hot air currents) to soar high in the sky. **Turkey Vultures**, big black birds, also soar in the sky looking for dead animals to eat. In the water you may see **Rays, Sharks, Sea Hares**, or schools of small fish called **Topsmelt**, also known as **Silversides**. Lots of insects and arachnids live here, including the larger, all black Darkling Beetle, and many different spiders whose webs are easy to spot jeweled with water drops on foggy mornings.