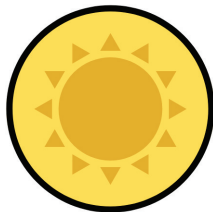
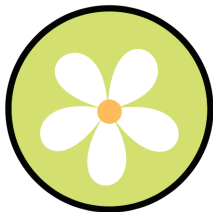


Ernie & Carmen's Animal Observation Guide

You will see a lot of wildlife and evidence of wildlife at the Rio Bosque Wetland Park. Ernie and Carmen have provided you with wildlife cards to help you to identify the life in the Rio Bosque food web as it changes throughout the year. These symbols will tell you more about this wildlife. While you are reading about the meaning of these symbols, if you know a Latin-based language like Spanish, you may see similarities between Latin Science words and everyday Spanish or English words.

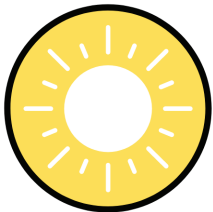
Seasons at the Rio Bosque

If you see these symbols on your card, you will know what time of year that these animals are present and active at the Rio Bosque.



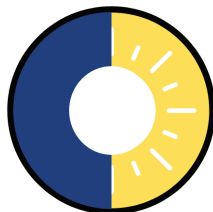
Activity and Foraging

If you see these symbols on your card, you will know what time of day or night a creature is most active.



Diurnal

Diurnal is a Latin-based science word, Di = Day, urnal = Time. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that are most active during the daytime hours. Example: Harris's Hawk



Nocturnal

Nocturnal is another Latin-based science word, Noct = Night, urnal = Time. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that are most active during the nighttime hours. Example: Coyotes



Crepuscular

Crepuscular is a Latin-based science word, Crepusc = Twilight, ular = Pertaining to. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that are most active in the morning when the sun is dawning or in the afternoon as the sun is setting, "dusk" or "twilight". This is very common for desert animals that wait to become active when the temperatures are bearable. Example: Spotted Ground Squirrel

Ernie & Carmen's Animal Observation Guide (cont.)

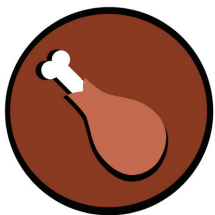
Types of Consumers

If you see these symbols on your card, you will know what type of food your creature eats.



Herbivore

Herbivore is a Latin-based science word, Herbi = Plant, vore = One who eats. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that forage and eat plant-based foods, including seeds, leaves, bark, wood, stems, roots and bulbs. *Note: Some species of birds may be herbivores most of the time; however, all birds will eat insects during mating season so that they can produce eggs. Herbivore Example: Beavers



Carnivore

Carnivore is a Latin-based science word, Carni = Meat or flesh, vore = One who eats. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that capture and eat other animals. Carnivore Example: Bobcats



Omnivore

Omni is a Latin-based science word, Omni = all, vore = One who eats. Cards that show this symbol feature animals that don't necessarily eat everything in a food web, but they are more versatile because they will eat both plants and animals. All animals in the dog family, such as wolves, coyotes and foxes, are considered omnivorous. There are many animals that do both, but usually they sway more towards one type of food than the other when food is plenty. Omnivore Example: Raccoons

Animal Behavior

If you see these symbols on your card, you will know what type of behavior the animal has that stops them from being present and active at the Rio Bosque year-round.



Brumation

Brumation is a Latin-based science word, Brumate = winter, ation = State. Reptiles, amphibians and other cold-blooded animals may slow down their bodies during winter because of lack of heat. Brumation Example: King snake



Hibernation

Hibernation is a Latin-based science word, Hibern = winter sleep, ation = State. Mammals may slow down their bodies during winter in a den and enter a sleeping state until spring. Since the Rio Bosque is in the desert, it is rare for mammals to completely go into hibernation and may only do so for very short periods. Hibernation Example: spotted ground squirrel

Ernie & Carmen's Animal Observation Guide (cont.)



Estivation

Estivation is a Latin-based science word, Estiv = spend the summer, ation = State. One way desert animals survive harsh summer heat is to burrow during hot temperatures and slow down their body activity. During estivation amphibians can stay alive during dry summer months until the next rain. Estivation examples: the Woodhouse and Spadefoot toads.



Migration

Migration is a Latin-based science word, Migr = to move to a new place, ation = action. You may have noticed that there is a certain type of animal that has members that migrate in and out of the Rio Bosque and these are BIRDS. Our desert may seem cold to us in the wintertime, but to a northern bird, like a Heron or Egret, our winter temperatures may be paradise! However, our summer may be way too hot, so in the spring as temperatures begin to rise, many birds will pick up and go home. Migration Example: Great Egrets

Other Observation Terms

While at the Rio Bosque you may see other clues that let you know what animals have been active.



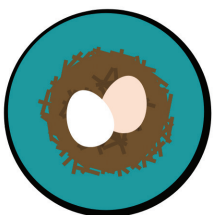
SCAT

Scat is animal poop. You may see it along the trails at the park. The shape, size and what seems to be in it will give you a clue as to who left it. For example, some scat is comprised of seeds and plant material. Others may contain fur or pieces of bone.



PELLETS

Pellets are packets of animal bones, fur and feathers regurgitated by birds of prey such as owls and hawks. Sometimes mistaken for scat, pellets can be dissected to find out what type of animal was eaten by a bird.



Nests and Burrows

Be on the lookout for nests and burrows around the park. Nests can be in trees and bushes or even on the ground. Burrows come in all shapes and sizes. Never put your hand inside a burrow!

Ernie & Carmen's Animal Observation Guide (cont.)



Sights and Sounds

Other types of clues are there at the park if you use your senses. Listen for bird calls, warning signals from animals, rustling in the bush, bubbling at the water surface, and other signs of life. Look for scratches on tree trunks and animal tracks of all shapes and sizes.

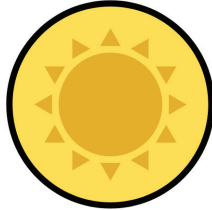
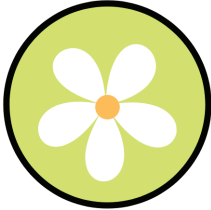
No matter where you go to explore, remember to be safe and respect nature.



Rio Bosque Card Key

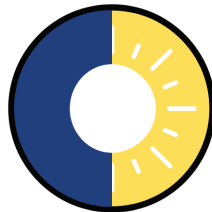
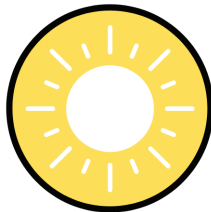
Seasons at the Rio Bosque

These symbols indicate what time of year that these animals are present and active at the Rio Bosque.



Activity at the Rio Bosque

These symbols indicate what time of day that these animals are present and active at the Rio Bosque.



Animal Behavior

These symbols indicate what type of behavior the animal has that stops them from being present and active at the Rio Bosque year-round.

