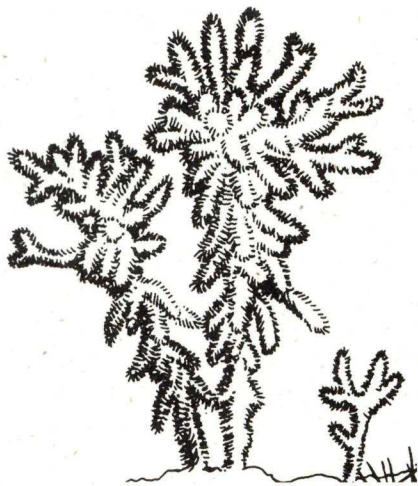


SPANISH CORRAL TRAIL

PLANTS AND PLANT COMMUNITIES



This trail leads through a forest of pinyon pines, junipers, cottonwoods, and willows. Shrubs and cacti are also abundant. The area has changed over the years as people have used the timber for firewood and altered the course of the small stream. It was probably stripped of trees because of constant need.

plants produce fruit and were eaten fresh or dried for winter use. The fibers of leaves were used for making cordage for sandals, rope, and clothing. Soap was made from the roots of several plants.

Many of the plants you see along this trail were used for food and medicinal purposes. Some of the

SPANISH CORRAL

The only architectural features on this hill are stone walls and this foundation called the "Spanish Corral." There has been little archaeological study of these features. Historians feel that this area may have been used by settlers in the 1800's as a holding pen for sheep or for sheepsheering.

Mexico in 1540. Sheep were used for food on the journey, but some were also brought for breeding purposes. They provided mutton, but the primary demand changed to wool. Income from the sale of sheep had its ups and downs, and a few people monopolized the trade. The peak years were from 1821 through 1846.

Spanish Conquistadores introduced sheep into New

THE ESTANCIA VALLEY

As you look east, into the distance beyond the small village of Punta de Agua, which dates to the 1800's, you will see the Estancia Valley. You may also see the large salt lakes which are the

namesake of the monument. Salt was a major trade item in prehistoric and historic times. Don Juan de Onate declared it, "one of the riches of the new world."

BIRDS AND THE RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM

Quarai is home to over 100 species of birds. They take advantage of the water and food sources of the riparian environment.

Bird checklists are available at the visitor center.

