



### American Tree Sparrow

*Spizelloides arborea*  
**Size:** L: 5.5 - 6.3 in., WS: 9.4 in.  
**Description:** Streaky brown back, pale gray chest with single dark spot. Rusty cap and eye streak and bicolored bill.  
**Diet:** Seeds  
**Habitat:** Open woodlands  
**Viewing:** Fall-spring, statewide



### Eastern Whip-poor-will

*Antrostomus vociferus*  
**Size:** L: 8.7 - 10 in., WS: 17.7 - 19 in.  
**Description:** Mottled brown and top heavy appearance, long pointed wings, large dark eye, seemingly small, whiskered beak.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Open woodlands  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, east



### Bald Eagle

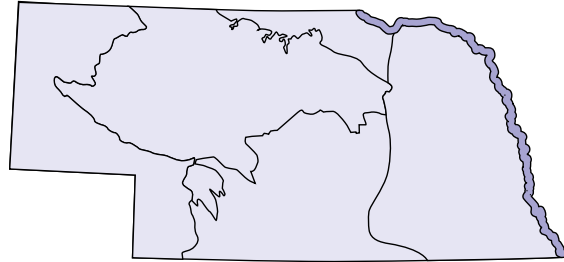
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*  
**Size:** L: 27.9 - 37.8 in., WS: 80.3 in.  
**Description:** Dark body, white head and tail, yellow legs and hooked beak.  
**Diet:** Fish and other prey  
**Habitat:** Grasslands  
**Viewing:** Winter, statewide; spring/fall, statewide except southwest



### Barred Owl

*Strix varia*  
**Size:** L: 17 - 20 in., WS: 40 - 46.5 in.  
**Description:** Round head, large eyes, mottled brown back and neck. White chest with vertical brown streaks.  
**Diet:** Small animals  
**Habitat:** Wooded areas, usually near water  
**Viewing:** Year-round, eastern quarter

## Missouri River Corridor



The Missouri River corridor includes the river channel, the associated floodplain, wetlands, and bluffs. This region consists of a mixture of riparian and upland deciduous forests, and tall- and mixedgrass prairies. The Missouri River runs approximately 2,320 miles from the headwaters in Montana to where it converges with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri. A 400-mile stretch of the Missouri River borders eastern Nebraska, running from the South Dakota border to the Kansas border, separating the state of Nebraska from Iowa.

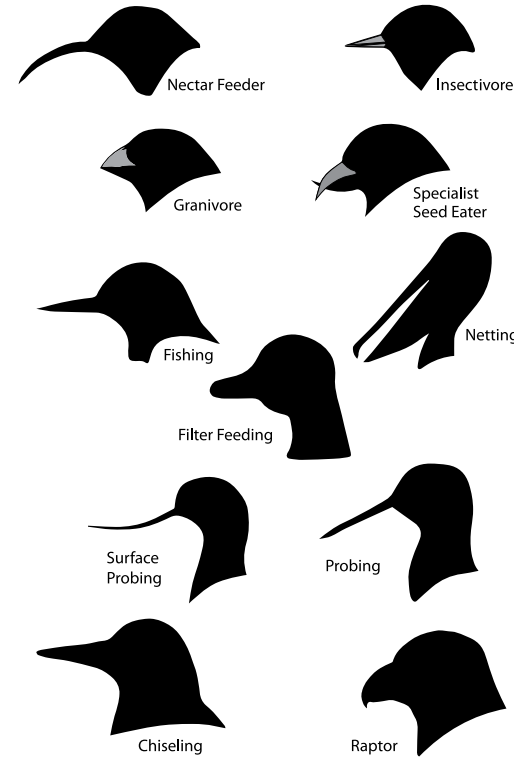
The Missouri River has undergone many changes throughout the 20th century. Where the river once freely meandered across a vast floodplain, channelization, dams, conversion of wetlands, and development of structures and agriculture fields have transformed this region. Even so, the Missouri River corridor provides habitat not readily found throughout the rest of the state and allows for the success of some species in Nebraska whose geographic ranges are limited to this region.



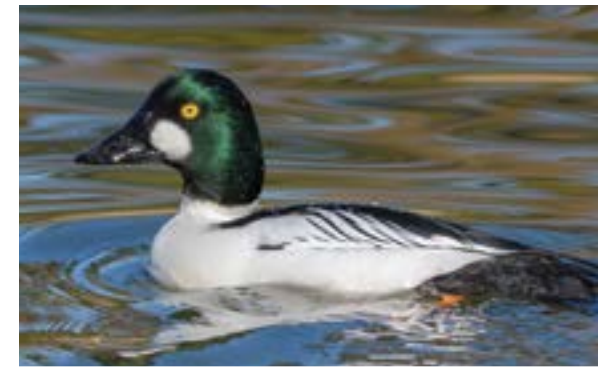
## Bird Viewing Tips

1. **Stay quiet and calm.**
2. **Be discreet** — wear muted clothing and limit fragrances.
3. **Use your ears!** Listen for bird songs and calls.
4. **Use binoculars** to get a closer look, always keep a respectful distance from wildlife.
5. **Be patient.**
6. **Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public lands.
7. **Do your homework** — learn what species of birds live in the area.

### Beaks as Tools



NOT TO SCALE



# Birds of the Missouri River Corridor



## Identification Guide



OutdoorNebraska.org



### Northern Pintail

*Anas acuta*

**Size:** L: 20.0 - 29.9 in., WS: 34 in.  
**Description:** Duck with long neck and tail. Males: brown head, white chest and stripe on neck, and gray back. Females: mottled brown.  
**Diet:** Seeds and aquatic insects  
**Habitat:** Wetlands  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide



### Great Blue Heron

*Ardea herodias*

**Size:** L: 38 - 54 in., WS: 65.8 - 79 in.  
**Description:** Tall with long legs and neck, dagger-like bill, gray body, lighter face with black stripe above eye.  
**Diet:** Fish, frogs, small birds  
**Habitat:** Wetlands  
**Viewing:** Spring/fall, statewide; summer, northeast



### Baltimore Oriole

*Icterus galbula*

**Size:** L: 6.7 - 7.5 in., WS: 9 - 11.8 in.  
**Description:** Pointed bill and two white wing bars. Males: bright orange and black, females: dull yellow/orange and brown.  
**Diet:** Insects and fruit  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide though uncommon in west



### Red-eyed Vireo

*Vireo olivaceus*

**Size:** L: 4.7 - 5 in., WS: 9 - 9.8 in.  
**Description:** Olive above, pale below. Long, thin bill. Adults: red eye, pale brow lined in darker gray.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Forests  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide though uncommon in east



### Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*

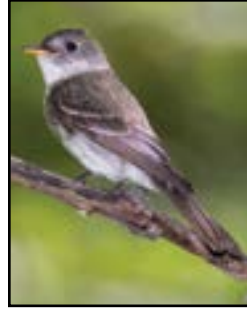
**Size:** L: 19.7 - 26 in., WS: 32 - 27.4 in.  
**Description:** Males: green head, yellow bill, orange legs brown body, blue wing patch and black curly tail. Females: mottled brown with orange legs, blue wing patch.  
**Diet:** Seeds, aquatic plants and insects  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide



### Killdeer

*Charadrius vociferus*

**Size:** L: 8 - 11 in., WS: 18 - 19 in.  
**Description:** Brown shorebird with white belly, chin, and face markings, two black chest bars and long legs.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide



### Eastern Wood-pewee

*Contopus virens*

**Size:** L: 5.9 - 6.25 in., WS: 9 - 10.2 in.  
**Description:** Overall olive-gray with darker back and face. Flat, bicolored bill, long tail and wings.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Woodlands  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, east



### Tufted Titmouse

*Baeolophus bicolor*

**Size:** L: 5.5 - 6.3 in., WS: 8 - 10.2 in.  
**Description:** Gray above, white below with rusty wash on flanks. Feathers form crest on head. Black patch above beak.  
**Diet:** Insects and seeds  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, southeast



### Common Goldeneye

*Bucephala clangula*

**Size:** L: 15.8 - 20 in., WS: 30 - 32.7 in.  
**Description:** Sloping forehead and white spot behind bill. Yellow eye. Males: mostly white with dark back and green head. Females: gray body and brown head.  
**Diet:** Aquatic insects  
**Habitat:** Large lakes and rivers  
**Viewing:** Fall-spring, statewide



### Belted Kingfisher

*Megasceryle alcyon*

**Size:** L: 11 - 13.8 in., WS: 19 - 22.8 in.  
**Description:** Top-heavy appearance with large crested head and dagger-like beak. Gray head and back, white belly and neck. Females: rusty-red bellyband and flanks.  
**Diet:** Fish  
**Habitat:** Riparian zones along waterways  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide



### Carolina Wren

*Thryothorus ludovicianus*

**Size:** L: 4.7 - 5.5 in., WS: 7.5 - 11.4 in.  
**Description:** Stout, grumpy-looking bird with reddish-brown plumage above and buff-white below. Buffy stripe above eye and long, thin bill.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, southeast



### Northern Cardinal

*Cardinalis cardinalis*

**Size:** L: 8.3 - 9 in., WS: 9.8 - 12.2 in.  
**Description:** Songbird with signature crest or "mohawk," and an orange, cone-shaped bill. Males are bright red and females are tan with red hues.  
**Diet:** Seeds and fruit  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, east



### Wood Duck

*Aix sponsa*

**Size:** L: 18.5 - 21.3 in., WS: 26 - 29 in.  
**Description:** Elegant duck with slicked back crest. Males: red eye, green head, white outlines, chestnut chest and tan sides. Female: browns with white eye-ring.  
**Diet:** Seeds, fruit and insects  
**Habitat:** Riparian zones, wetlands and waterways  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide



### Hairy Woodpecker

*Leuconotopicus villosus*

**Size:** L: 7.1 - 10.2 in., WS: 13 - 16 in.  
**Description:** White below, black and white checked wings, black and white tail, and chisel beak. Males: red patch on back of head.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide



### Yellow Warbler

*Setophaga petechia*

**Size:** L: 4.7 - 5.0 in., WS: 6.3 - 7.9 in.  
**Description:** Small bright yellow bird with a large black eye. Males have red streaking on chest.  
**Diet:** Insects  
**Habitat:** Open woodland  
**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide



### Black-capped Chickadee

*Poecile atricapillus*

**Size:** L: 4.7 - 6 in., WS: 6.3 - 8.3 in.  
**Description:** Compact with short bill, black on top of head and neck, white cheeks, gray back, and pale belly.  
**Diet:** Seeds and fruit  
**Habitat:** Rural to urban  
**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide