



Two-striped Grasshopper

Melanoplus bivittatus

Size: L: 1.2 - 2.2 in.

Description: Smooth yellow-brown with two distinct pale-yellow stripes.

Diet: Plants

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Chinese Mantis

Tenodera sinensis

Size: L: 3.12 - 4.1 in.

Description: Long, green-tan body, thick, bent front legs, and oversized eyes atop a triangular head.

Diet: Insects, small animals

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer-fall, most common in eastern half



Assassin Bug

Sinea diadema

Size: L: 0.47 - 0.63 in.

Description: Dark brown or a dull red with narrow head with straw-like beak, flat, expanded abdomen, narrow wings and spines on front legs.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Crop fields and gardens

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Yellow Garden Spider

Argiope aurantia

Size: L: 0.20 - 1.1 in.

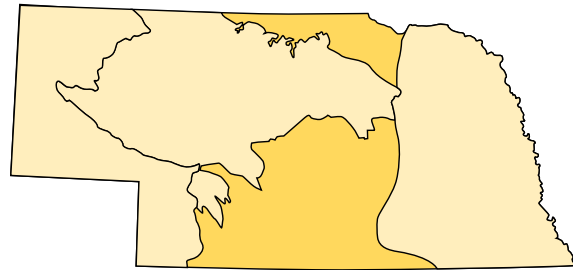
Description: Yellow and black orb weaver with long yellow-red and black legs. Female: larger and brighter. Male: more brown.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, more common in eastern half

Mixedgrass Prairie Region



The mixedgrass prairie region is a transitional zone between the tallgrass prairie of the east and the shortgrass prairie of the west. As a result, the vegetation of this area varies, with a combination of tallgrass and shortgrass prairie plants. There are many wetlands, rivers, and streams. Wooded zones surround almost every waterway. Precipitation is greater in the east, with about 28 inches annually, compared with 20 inches in the west.

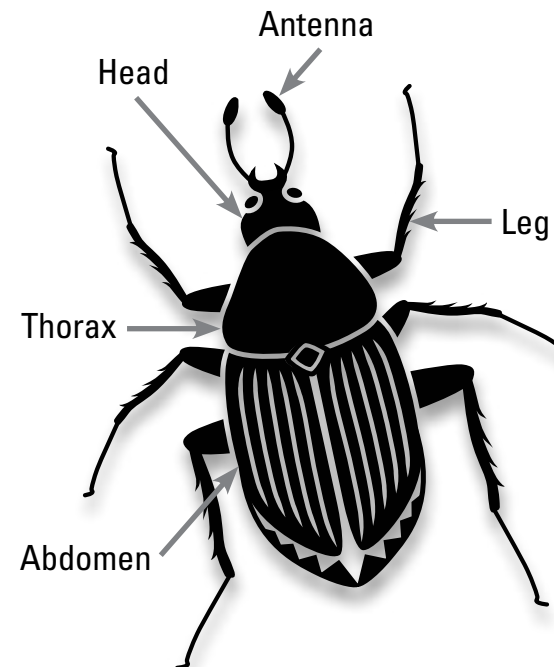
The land is primarily used for agriculture, with around two-thirds converted to cropland and much of the remaining third used for grazing livestock. There is however, a diversity of wildlife found in this region, including the annual spring staging of 500,000 sandhill cranes around the Platte River in central Nebraska. This spectacle draws around 80,000 nature enthusiasts each year, with about half from outside of Nebraska.



Insect Viewing Tips

1. **Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public spaces.
2. **Do your homework** — learn what species live in the area.
3. **Think about timing** — check what is active in the area this time of year.
4. **Consult an expert** — join in on a guided insect hike to learn more.
5. **Leave no trace** — leave wildlife in nature and nature the way you found it.

Basic Insect Anatomy



Painted Lady, wings closed

Insects of the Nebraska Mixedgrass Prairie



Identification Guide



Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Size: WS: 3.3 - 4.8 in.

Description: Orange butterfly with black body, veins and borders with white spots, Male: has black spot at center of each lower wing.

Diet: Milkweed (larva), nectar (adult)

Habitat: Open fields, rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Painted Lady

Vanessa cadui

Size: WS: 2.0 - 2.87 in.

Description: Upperside orange-brown, upper forewing black with white, hind wing with row of black spots. Underside patterned brown-gray.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Splendid Tiger Beetle

Cicindela splendida

Size: L: 0.47 - 0.59 in.

Description: Iridescent green-blue head, red-orange body with white markings.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Clay banks, bluffs and road banks

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide except northeast



Familiar Bluet

Enallagma civile

Size: L: 1.3 - 1.7 in.

Description: Bright blue damselfly with slender abdomen.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Near still or slow moving water

Viewing: Summer-fall, statewide



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

Size: WS: 2.5 - 4.5 in.

Description: Yellow with black tiger-stripes. Females have blue spots and a dark morph.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-summer, statewide



Isabella Tiger Moth

Pyrrharctia isabella

Size: WS: 1.75 - 2.25 in.

Description: Forewings orange-yellow-tan with broken black spot, Female: has orange-pink hind wing.

Diet: Herbaceous plants (larva)

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Goldenrod Soldier Beetle

Chauliognathus pensylvanicus

Size: L: 0.35 - 0.47 in.

Description: Golden-orange with variable black markings and black head and legs.

Diet: Insects (larva), pollen and nectar (adult)

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Halloween Pennant

Celithemis eponina

Size: L: 1.4 - 1.7 in.

Description: Dragonfly with orange wings with brown bands and red spots on front edge of wing.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Marshes, ponds, lakes

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Gray Hairstreak

Strymon melinus

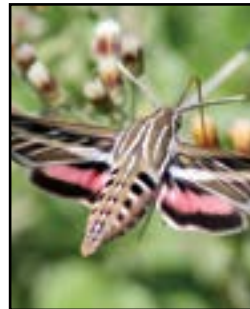
Size: WS: 1.0 - 1.25 in.

Description: Upperside of wings dark, underside gray with white edging, orange patch with black spot above wing-tails.

Diet: Fruit (larva), nectar (adult)

Habitat: Open fields

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



White-lined Sphinx Moth

Hyles lineta

Size: WS: 2.4 - 3.6 in.

Description: Striped olive-brown with horizontal light tan stripe on forewing, and thicker horizontal pink stripe on hind wing.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-summer, statewide



Dogbane Leaf Beetle

Chrysochus auratus

Size: L: 0.31 - 0.43 in.

Description: Small, oblong beetle with metallic green to brown coloration.

Diet: Dogbane and milkweed plants

Habitat: Dogbane and milkweed

Viewing: Summer, statewide



*Brown-belted Bumblebee

Bombus griseocollis

Size: L: 0.37 - 0.75 in.

Description: Bumblebee with black head and wings and brown belt band on thorax.

Diet: Nectar and pollen

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Spring-summer, statewide



Clouded Sulphur

Colias philodice

Size: WS: 1.5 - 2.75 in.

Description: Male: Yellow-green with dark edging on wings, white eyespot on underwing, Female: yellow-white, less bold edging.

Diet: Nectar

Habitat: Open fields

Viewing: Summer, statewide



Big Sand Tiger Beetle

Cicindela formosa

Size: L: 0.59 - 0.8 in.

Description: Red-purple with white markings and spindly legs.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Sand blowouts, dunes and stream banks

Viewing: Summer, mostly statewide, excluding southern Panhandle and southeast corner



Spotted Lady Beetle

Coleomegilla maculata

Size: L: 0.2 - 0.23 in.

Description: Oval-shaped, red to pink beetle with irregular black spots.

Diet: Aphids, mites and pollen

Habitat: Crop fields and gardens

Viewing: Summer, east



*Western Bumblebee

Bombus occidentalis

Size: L: 0.4 - 0.9 in.

Description: Yellow and black bumblebee with distinct white tail.

Diet: Nectar and pollen

Habitat: Fields - agriculture and wild

Viewing: Summer, Panhandle