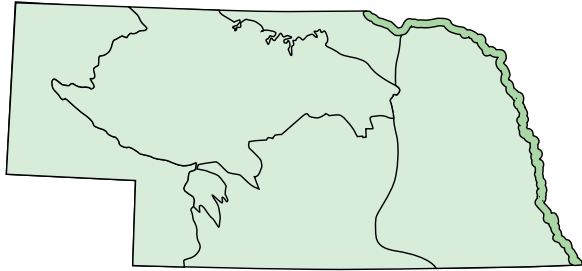


Missouri River Corridor



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.



Mammal Viewing Tips

Mammals can be difficult to see due to their secretive nature.

1. **Stay quiet and calm.**
2. **Be discreet** — wear muted clothing and limit fragrances.
3. **Look for signs** — tracks and scat can tell you if a mammal is in the area, even when you don't see them.
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 mammals live in the area.

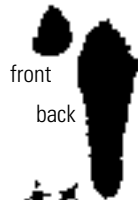


Mammals of the Missouri River Corridor

Tracks

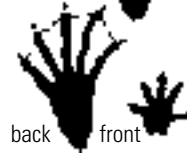
Eastern Cottontail

Length: f 1 - 1.5 in., h 3 - 3.5 in.
Width: f 0.8 - 1.3 in., h 1 - 1.5 in.
Stride: 6 - 36 in. (hopping)



Beaver

Length: f 2 - 3.2 in., h 5 - 7 in.
Width: f 2 - 3.5 in., h 3.3 - 5 in.
Stride: 3 - 6.5 in. (walking)



Coyote

Length: 2 - 3.2 in.
Width: 1.4 - 2.4 in.
Stride: 8 - 16 in. (walking)



Bobcat

Length: 1.8 - 2.5 in.
Width: 1.8 - 2.5 in.
Stride: 8 - 16 in. (walking)

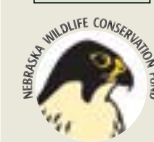


White-tailed Deer

Length: 2 - 3.4 in.
Width: 1.6 - 2.5 in.
Stride: 10 - 22 in. (walking)



PRINTS NOT TO SCALE



Identification Guide

NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

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Eastern Fox Squirrel

Sciurus niger

Size: L: 18.0 - 27.5 in., W: 1.5 - 2.7 lbs.

Description: Fur is gray on back and buffy red on belly, bushy tail, sharp climbing claws and small ears.

Diet: Plants, seeds, insects, birds and eggs

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round, statewide but limited by treed habitats



Eastern Cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

Size: L: 15.6 - 18.8 in., W: 1.8 - 3.4 lbs.

Description: Buff-brown fur, some black/gray hair tips, rufous patch on back of neck and white. Large eyes, long ears, powerful hind legs and short puffy brown and white tail.

Diet: Plants

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



American Beaver

Castor canadensis

Size: L: 36 - 52 in., W: 34 - 64 lbs.

Description: Large, semi-aquatic rodent, dark brown fur, short front legs with large claws, webbed hind feet, orange teeth and long, flat scaly tail.

Diet: Bark, leaves, aquatic vegetation

Habitat: Areas with slow-moving fresh water

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Muskrat

Ondatra zibethicus

Size: L: 16.0 - 25.5 in., W: 2.5 - 3.5 lbs.

Description: Semi-aquatic rodent with dark brown head, coloring gets lighter moving down sides and back. Partly webbed hind toes and long, nearly hairless tail.

Diet: Cattails, aquatic vegetation

Habitat: Shallow water, wetlands

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Big Brown Bat

Eptesicus fuscus

Size: L: 4.3 - 5.1 in., W: 17 - 23 g.

Description: Tan-brown body, black and hairless face, wings, and tail. Females are larger than males.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round (hibernating November - April), statewide



American Mink

Mustela vison

Size: L: 12 - 18 in., W: 0.88 - 3.5 lbs.

Description: Long, narrow body with flat head and pointed snout. Small eyes and rounded ears.

Diet: Small animals

Habitat: Riparian woodlands and wetlands

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Long-tailed Weasel

Mustela frenata

Size: L: 11.0 - 16.5 in., W: 85 - 340 g.

Description: Long, narrow body. Fur is brown with buffy belly in the summer. Turns white in the winter.

Diet: Small animals

Habitat: Open fields and woodlands near water

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Raccoon

Procyon lotor

Size: L: 24 - 38 in., W: 7.6 - 20.0 lbs.

Description: Stout gray-brown with black mask and rings on bushy tail. Pointed face, dexterous front paws to feel and grasp food.

Diet: Small animals, fruit, garbage

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Red Fox

Vulpes vulpus

Size: L: 18 - 35.4 in., W: 6.5 - 24 lbs.

Description: Fur light to deep red/brown, triangle face and ears, dark nose, eyes, and legs/feet. Bushy tail often with a white tip.

Diet: Small mammals, insects, seeds and fruit

Habitat: Rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Coyote

Canis latrans

Size: L: 48 - 53 in., W: 15 - 46 lbs.

Description: Gray-brown fur above, whiter below. Triangular ears, black nose and bushy tail.

Diet: Various animals and some plants

Habitat: Various, rural to urban

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Bobcat

Lynx rufus

Size: L: 30 - 48 in., W: 11 - 30 lbs.

Description: Varied brown fur with darker speckle/spotting, tufted ears, large paws, and short, bobbed tail.

Diet: Animals, mainly small prey

Habitat: Various, forest to fields

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



White-tailed Deer

Sylvilagus floridanus

Size: L: 63 - 86.6 in., W: 115 - 300 lbs.

Description: Red-brown fur, white under throat, body and tail. Long legs, short tail. Males have antlers.

Diet: Plants

Habitat: Fields, woods, farmlands

Viewing: Year-round, statewide