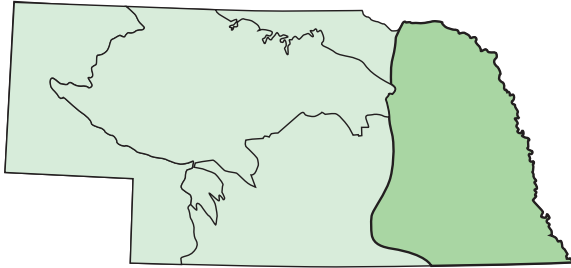


Tallgrass Prairie Region



The Nebraska tallgrass prairie region comprises the eastern quarter of the state. The key to this landscape is the thick, rich soil that enables deep-rooting prairie plants to survive. Grasses and forbs dominate this grassland region, with few trees, except along water corridors.

This area receives 25 - 36 inches of rain annually. Much of the historic grasslands have been converted, leaving only about 2 percent of unmodified tallgrass prairie habitat. This area incorporates many wetlands, including the saline wetlands, north of Lincoln. This range has a diversity of birds, plants, mammals, reptiles and insects that call it home.



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 Nebraska Tallgrass Prairie

Tracks

front back
front back

Raccoon
Length: f 2 - 2.3 in., h 2.5 - 3 in.
Width: f 2 - 2.3 in., h 2 - 3 in.
Stride: 5 - 11 in. (walking)

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)

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 -

OutdoorNebraska.org



© R. B. Forbes, ASM - MLL

Plains Pocket Mouse

Perognathus flavescens

Size: L: 4.33 - 5.52 in., W: 7 - 16 g.

Description: Small rodent with fur-lined cheek pouches. Back fur is buffy/brown, light on belly, with buff/yellow lateral line dividing the colors.

Diet: Seeds and grains

Habitat: Open areas with sandy soil

Viewing: Year-round, common east



© L. L. Master, ASM - MLL

Franklin's Ground Squirrel

Spermophilus franklinii

Size: L: 13.9 - 16.0 in., W: 0.75 - 3.0 lbs.

Description: Elongated body with gray/brown fur, short rounded ears, and a bushy tail.

Diet: Plants, seeds and fruit

Habitat: Tallgrass prairie

Viewing: Year-round, statewide



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



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

Vulpus 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