



Field Sparrow

Spizella pusilla

Size: L: 4.7 - 5.9 in., WS: 7.9 in.

Description: Pale gray head, white eye ring, rufous on top of head and behind eye, pink beak.

Diet: Seeds and insects

Habitat: Fields with bushy thickets

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide, though rare in Panhandle



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



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



Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

Size: L: 18 - 22 in., WS: 45 - 52.4 in.

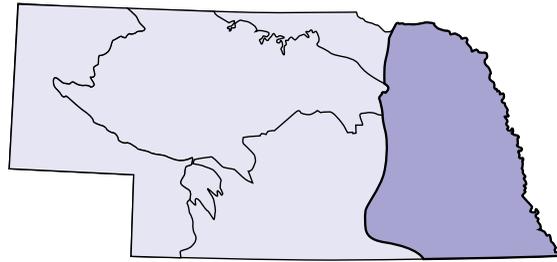
Description: Large raptor known for rusty red tail. Plumage can vary widely, but generally dark brown above and light below.

Diet: Carnivore, mainly small

Habitat: Fields to woodlands

Viewing: Year-round, statewide

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.



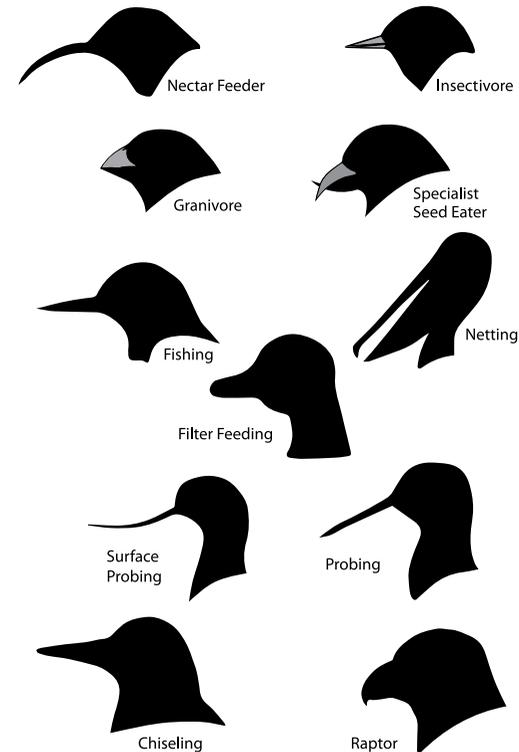
Bird Viewing Tips

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.



Birds of the Nebraska Tallgrass Prairie

Beaks as Tools



NOT TO SCALE



Identification Guide

NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

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



Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

Size: L: 7.5 - 10 in., WS: 13.8 - 15.8 in.
Description: Stocky bird with short tail, flat head and pointed bill. Back is patterned brown and tan, belly is bright yellow with black V on chest.
Diet: Insects
Habitat: Grasslands, fields
Viewing: Year-round, east



American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis

Size: L: 4.3 - 5.0 in., WS: 7.5 - 8.7 in.
Description: Small finch with gray to orange beak and white wing bars. Males yellow and black, females tan.
Diet: Seeds
Habitat: Rural to urban
Viewing: Year-round, statewide



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



Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

Size: L: 8.3 - 9.1 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



House Finch

Haemorhous mexicanus

Size: L: 5.0 - 5.5 in., WS: 8.0 - 9.8 in.
Description: Strong cone beak, buffy brown with darker streaks, males have red through head and chest.
Diet: Seeds
Habitat: Rural to urban
Viewing: Year-round, statewide



Blue-winged Teal

Spatula discors

Size: L: 14 - 16 in., WS: 22 - 24.4 in.
Description: Small, mottled-brown duck with wing-patch of powder blue, white, and green. Males have white crescent behind bill.
Diet: Aquatic plants and insects
Habitat: Vegetated wetlands
Viewing: Summer, statewide



Northern Bobwhite

Colinus virginianus

Size: L: 9.75 in., WS: 13 in.
Description: Stocky ground bird patterned in brown, rufous, buff, and black. Males: black and white patterned face. Females: buffy throat and eyebrow.
Diet: Seeds, plants, and insects
Habitat: Open fields and woodlands
Viewing: Year-round, statewide except southwestern Panhandle and northwest



Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

Size: L: 4.7 - 5.1 in., WS: 7.5 - 8.7 in.
Description: Finch-like bird with cone-shaped bill. Males are bright blue in summer, otherwise males and females are tan with some blue.
Diet: Seeds and fruit
Habitat: Rural to urban
Viewing: Year-round, east



Dickcissel

Spiza americana

Size: L: 2.5 - 3.2 in., WS: 6.7 - 7.0 in.
Description: Gray with rusty shoulders, yellow on chest, above eye, and at corner of bill. Males have black V on chest.
Diet: Seeds and insects
Habitat: Marches, fields
Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide but more common in 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



Bobolink

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Size: L: 5.9 - 8.3 in., WS: 10.6 in.
Description: Flat head, short tail. Males: black with white rump, buff-yellow nape. Females: buff with brown back, flank streaking.
Diet: Seeds and insects
Habitat: Grasslands
Viewing: Spring/fall, statewide; summer, east and central



Black-capped Chickadee

Poecile atricapillus

Size: L: 4.7 - 5.9 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



Grasshopper Sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum

Size: L: 4.3 - 4.7 in., WS: 8.0 - 8.5 in.
Description: Streaky sparrow with brown above, buff below, white eye ring, yellow lore, short tail.
Diet: Insects
Habitat: Grasslands
Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide