Reptile and Amphibian Viewing Tips

1. Stay quiet and calm.
2. Use binoculars to get a closer look while keeping a respectful distance from wildlife.
3. Wash your hands before handling — especially important for amphibians such as frogs, toads and salamanders.
4. Be patient.
5. Go to where the habitat is — visit state parks and other public lands.
6. Do your homework — learn what species live in the area.
7. Leave no trace — leave wildlife in nature and nature the way you found it.

Reptiles

Have scales, plates or shields.
Born by hatching from eggs or through live birth.
Lay eggs in the ground.
Breathe using lungs.

Amphibians

Generally have moist, smooth skin.
Born as eggs and go through metamorphosis.
Lay eggs near or in water.
Breathe using lungs, gills or through skin.
Smallmouth Salamander

*Ambystoma texanum*

**Size:** L: 3.9 - 5.5 in.

**Description:** Smooth and slimy skin, olive green-brown in color with gray-bronze speckling. Small head and mouth.

**Diet:** Insects and worms

**Habitat:** Moist woodlands and prairies

**Viewing:** Year-round, south Douglas down through Richardson counties

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American Toad

*Anaxyrus americanus*

**Size:** L: 2.0 - 4.3 in.

**Description:** Dry, warty skin brown with red to green tones. White belly with dark spots.

**Diet:** Worms

**Habitat:** Riparian woodlands

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, and Cass counties

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Bullfrog

*Lithobates catesbeianus*

**Size:** L: 3.5 - 8.0 in.

**Description:** Olive to lime green with some darker mottling, long hind legs, lighter belly.

**Diet:** Insects and worms

**Habitat:** Invasive, permanent ponds, lakes, etc.

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide

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Cope's Tree Frog

*Hyla chrysoscelis*

**Size:** L: 1.0 - 2.4 in.

**Description:** Skin mottled gray, bright green and tan. Long hind legs with yellow-orange inner thighs. Sticky pads at end of toes.

**Diet:** Insects

**Habitat:** Woodlands near water

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, eastern quarter, central along Platte River

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Dekay's Brown snake

*Storeria dekayi*

**Size:** L: 9 - 15 in.

**Description:** Brown with red or gray tones, pale belly. May have dark dots or stripes down back.

**Diet:** Snails, worms and insects

**Habitat:** Rural to urban, where suitable habitat found

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, east and southeast

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False Map Turtle

*Graptemys pseudogeographica*

**Size:** L: 3.5 - 11.0 in. (shell)

**Description:** Head, neck and front legs with yellow stripes. Shell is olive green to brown with dorsal ridges on top, yellow underside.

**Diet:** Aquatic insects and fish

**Habitat:** Large rivers

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, extreme east

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Six-lined Racerunner

*Aspidoscelis sexlineata*

**Size:** L: 6.0 - 10.5 in.

**Description:** Brown to bright green with 6 - 8 lines running length of body, long tail, hind legs and toes.

**Diet:** Insects, snails

**Habitat:** Dry grassland and woodland edges

**Viewing:** Late spring-early fall, statewide except west half of Panhandle

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Woodhouse's Toad

*Anaxyrus woodhousii*

**Size:** L: 2 - 5 in.

**Description:** Bumpy toad with light gray-tan, variable spotting, white back stripe, and white under with single dark spot on chest.

**Diet:** Insects

**Habitat:** Variable

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide

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Western Tiger Salamander

*Ambystoma mavortium*

**Size:** L: 6.0 - 8.5 in.

**Description:** Dark with smooth slimy skin with yellow barring, short legs and a wide mouth.

**Diet:** Insects and worms

**Habitat:** Water or small mammal burrows

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide

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Woodchuck

*Marmota monax*

**Size:** L: 3.5 - 5.5 ft.

**Description:** Large furry animal with short legs and a long tail.

**Diet:** Vegetarian

**Habitat:** Woodlands

**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide

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Woodcock

*Philohela carolinensis*

**Size:** L: 11.5 - 16 in.

**Description:** Small bird with long legs and a slender bill.

**Diet:** Seeds, insects, and small animals

**Habitat:** Forest

**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide

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Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

*Picoides flaviventris*

**Size:** L: 9 - 11 in.

**Description:** Small bird with a distinctive red patch on its head.

**Diet:** Sap, insects

**Habitat:** Forest

**Viewing:** Year-round, statewide

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Black Rat Snake

*Scotophis obsoletus*

**Size:** L: 39 - 84 in.

**Description:** Black back with pale belly that sometimes has a checkerboard pattern. Young are pale with dark blotches.

**Diet:** Eggs and small animals

**Habitat:** Rural to urban, where suitable habitat found

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, extreme east and southeast

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Bullfrog

*Lithobates catesbeianus*

**Size:** L: 3.5 - 8.0 in.

**Description:** Olive to lime green with some darker mottling, long hind legs, lighter belly.

**Diet:** Insects and worms

**Habitat:** Invasive, permanent ponds, lakes, etc.

**Viewing:** Spring-fall, statewide

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Six-lined Racerunner

*Aspidoscelis sexlineata*

**Size:** L: 6.0 - 10.5 in.

**Description:** Brown to bright green with 6 - 8 lines running length of body, long tail, hind legs and toes.

**Diet:** Insects, snails

**Habitat:** Dry grassland and woodland edges

**Viewing:** Late spring-early fall, statewide except west half of Panhandle