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, statewide

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

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

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: Summer-fall, more common in eastern half

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.
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 cardui
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 splendidula
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

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
Pyrharctia isabella
Size: WS: 1.75 - 2.25 in.
Description: Forewings orange-yellow 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

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-summer, statewide

White-lined Sphinx Moth
Hyles lineata
Size: WS: 0.24 - 0.38 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-fall, statewide

Dogbane Leaf Beetle
Chrysochus auratus
Size: L: 0.37 - 0.75 in.
Description: Small, oblong beetle with metallic green to brown coloration.
Diet: Dogbane and milkweed plants
Habitat: Dogbane and milkweed
Viewing: 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
Colesomagilla 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

Familiar Bluet
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

Halloween Pennant
Enallagma civile
Size: L: 1.4 - 1.7 in.
Description: Bright blue damselfly with slender abdomen.
Diet: Insects
Habitat: Near still or slow moving water
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

* 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

* = stings