

Aquatic Inverts

“Measuring less than 1% of the state’s area, Kansas wetlands support more wildlife diversity than the remaining 99%.

The aquatic (in the water) invertebrates (animals without a backbone) are very important to the biodiversity of Cheyenne Bottoms.

Macroinvertebrates (big enough to see without a microscope) fill many roles in an aquatic ecosystem – prey, predator, decomposer – and exhibit a wide diversity of body forms and functions.

Metamorphosis: The life cycle changes an invertebrate goes through to become an adult

- **Direct – Some young are simply miniature versions of the adult. Example – Crayfish**
- **Incomplete – Invert goes through three life stages – Egg, Nymph/Naiad, Adult. Nymphs look similar to adults except are wingless. Example – Dragonfly**
- **Complete – Invert goes through four life stages – Egg, Larva, Pupa, Adult. Larvae look very different from adults Example – Midgefly**