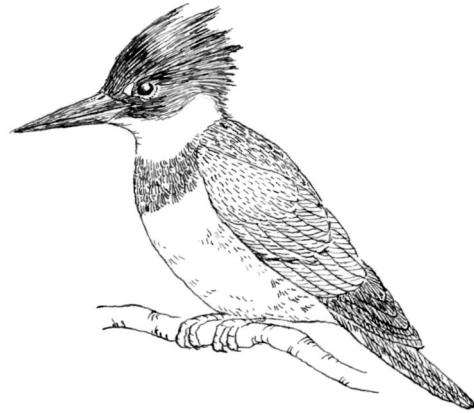


BELTED KINGFISHER

Ceryle alcyon

Along rivers and streams a rattling call from a blue and white bird tells of the presence of a feathered fisherman. The belted kingfisher is about robin-size with a large head, bushy crest and a stubby tail. The upperparts are blue-gray; the underparts are white. The male has a single dark bib in front, while the female has an additional rust-colored bib.



Kingfishers watch for food from a perch or hover directly over the water. When they spy a fish, a quick dive into the water usually produces a good meal. They are fun to watch as they return to the perch, shake, swallow their catch, then clean their bills, preen their feathers, and prepare to dive again.

Kingfishers nest in horizontal burrows in banks along the water. They are found along waterways at all times of the year and may occasionally get into trouble by visiting domestic fish ponds.

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