

Belted Kingfisher

(*Megaceryle alcyon*)



Belted Kingfisher

Instant ID

- A bird up to 13 inches long with a wingspan of 20 inches
- Head, back and “belt” on chest are blue
- Long bill and short tail
- Prominent white collar and a shaggy crest
- Females have a rust colored horseshoe shape on bellies

Native Niches

- Found near bodies of water with perching sites nearby
- Found throughout Florida
- Year round resident throughout most of the continental United States
- Migrant from southern Alaska to northern South America



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Favorite Foods

- Dives for and uses beak to catch small fish and other water animals

Critter Characteristics

- White spot under eye helps to reduce glare while hunting
- Usually nests in holes dug into lakeshores or river banks
- Opposite from most birds, the female is more colorful than the male
- A pair will defend over 1/2 mile of shore while raising young
- Often hovers while hunting

Population Protection

- Stay in designated areas near river banks and lakeshores to prevent damage to potential nesting sites
- Leave a vegetation buffer when mowing around bodies of water to reduce water pollution and erosion

