

BELTED KINGFISHER *Ceryle alcyon*

L 28–36 cm / 11–14" Wt 140–170 g / 5.0–6.1 oz

The Belted Kingfisher feeds primarily on small fish. To catch its prey, it may dive obliquely into the water from an overhanging perch or while hovering 6–12 m (20–40 feet) above the surface.

APPEARANCE: Upperparts bluish grey. Head has shaggy, double-peaked crest and broad white collar. Small white spot near dark eyes. Large black bill. Wings dark bluish grey to black with irregular white markings on coverts and flight feathers visible in flight. Bluish grey to black tail feathers have white tips. Underparts generally white except for prominent bluish grey band on upper breast. **Female** also has rufous band on lower breast. Rufous flanks more extensive in female. **Immatures** resemble male; however, plumage somewhat darker, with more prominent white spots and brown breast band.



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► Distinctive in all plumages.

VOICE: Most frequently heard call a sharp, metallic rattle, *tick-tick-tick-tick-tick-tick*, given while perched or in flight. Also utters harsh screaming and squeaking calls.

HABITAT AND BEHAVIOUR: Streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Flight strong and direct; glides following two or three flapping strokes. Often flies close to water surface.

Can hover while searching for prey. Shuffles poorly on short legs, primarily into and out of nesting burrows.

STATUS: Common breeder. Rare winter resident.



YELLOW WARBLER *Dendroica petechia*

L 12-13 cm / 4.7-5.1" Wt 9-11 g / 0.3-0.4 oz

The Yellow Warbler is a common host of the brood parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird. Rather than abandoning an affected nest, this warbler buries the cowbird's eggs under additional nest linings.

APPEARANCE: Adult male has yellowish green upperparts. Indistinct yellow eye-ring surrounds beady black eye. Somewhat darker wing and tail feathers have yellow edges. Two yellow wing bars. Yellow patches on inner webs of tail. Underparts bright yellow with thin chestnut streaks on breast. Adult female duller yellowish green. Chestnut streaks on underparts indistinct or lacking. **Fall and winter adults** somewhat duller. **Immature** male resembles female. Immature female drab olive-green with yellow tail spots restricted to outer feathers.



► Only warbler with yellow patches on inner webs of tail.

Female and immature Wilson's Warblers more olive-green above; tail feathers lack yellow spots; all plumages lack yellow wing bars and yellow edges on flight feathers. Orange-crowned Warbler has dusky streaking on breast; also lacks beady-eyed look and yellow on tail and wings.

VOICE: Male sings lively, cheerful *tseet-tseet-tseet-sitta-sitta see*. Call notes include short, high-pitched *chip* and *seet*.

HABITAT AND BEHAVIOUR: Wet deciduous thickets, overgrown pastures, and gardens. Gleans insects from undersides of leaves. Also fly-catches and hovers to pick prey from surfaces. Hops among vegetation.

STATUS: Common breeder. Common spring and fall migrant.

