

Kingfisher

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Alcedinidae

Genus: *kingfisher*



For Further details: [link](#)

Habit and habitat

Hunting: They are efficient hunters, typically perching on a branch or other elevated spot to scan the water. They then dive headfirst into the water to catch their prey.

Diet: While many species eat primarily small fish, their diet can also include aquatic insects, shrimp, tadpoles, frogs, crabs, and even small rodents or lizards, depending on the species and its habitat.

Water-based: *Kingfishers* are primarily associated with slow-moving, clear freshwater habitats such as rivers, streams, and lakes with shallow areas and overhanging branches for perching.

Coastal: Some species, like the Common Kingfisher, can also be found in coastal areas, estuaries, and harbors, particularly in winter.

Characteristics

- Their feet are small, and, with a few exceptions, the tail is short or medium-length. Most species have vivid plumage in bold patterns, and many are crested.
- It is about 30 cm (12 inches) long and is bluish gray above and across the breast and white below. Only the females sport the brownish red band or “belt” across the lower breast.
- Their eyes are also especially rich in oils that enhance color vision.
- The bills of kingfishers are all long and thick, but vary in shape in accordance with the foraging habits of each species.
- Most species are sedentary, but about a few species are migratory or partially migratory. Unlike many bird species, some kingfishers migrate during the day.
- Fly-catching species have dorsoventrally flattened bills, whereas fishing species have laterally flattened bills. Ground-feeding species, including shovel-billed kingfishers usually have shorter, quite broad bills.
- The sexes of most kingfisher species are similar in size and plumage, though some species show distinct differences. For example, the males of some paradise kingfishers have much longer tail streamers than females.
- All kingfishers are territorial. Most are also monogamous, and many pair for life. Courtship involves aerial chases, individual and joint displays, and courtship feeding.