



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust



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Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

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Protect local wildlife



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Species information

i **Common name**
Kingfisher

Latin name
Alcedo atthis

Category
Birds
Woodpeckers, cuckoo and kingfisher

Statistics
Length: 15-17cm
Wingspan: 40cm Weight: 25g
Average Lifespan: 2 years

🌐 Conservation status
Classified in the UK as an Amber List species under the Birds of Conservation Concern review.

About

A famously colourful bird of rivers and streams, the kingfisher can be spotted sitting quietly on low-hanging branches over the water, suddenly diving in to catch a small fish. Kingfishers breed near lowland watercourses and lakes which have suitable banks for burrowing nests and shallow edges for feeding. They occasionally visit gardens.

How to identify

The striking mix of its bright-blue back and metallic copper breast make the kingfisher unmistakable. Male kingfishers have an entirely black bill, females have an orangey-red patch at the base.

Where to find it

Widespread, absent from northern Scotland.

Habitats

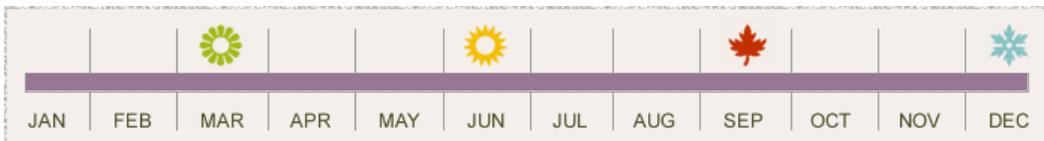
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When to find it



How can people help

Kingfishers are vulnerable to harsh winters and habitat degradation such as pollution and the unsympathetic management of riverbanks. The Wildlife Trusts manage many wetland nature reserves for the benefit of the wildlife they support. You can help by supporting your local Trust and becoming a member; you'll find out about exciting wildlife happenings, events on your doorstep and volunteering opportunities, and be helping local wildlife along the way.

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