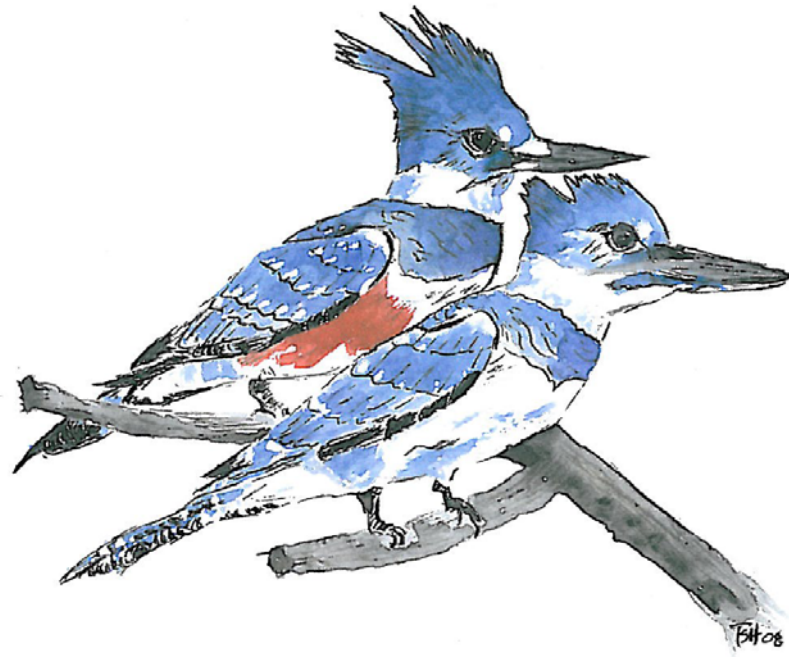


The Belted Kingfisher – April 2009 Classroom Reader

The Belted Kingfisher, Chattahoochee Nature Center's mascot, is a bird that utilizes all parts of the watershed. Kingfishers nest in banks, both on the edges of streams or higher in the woodlands. Their strong feet and partially fused toes allow them to excavate cavities in vertical slopes where they will lay 6-7 eggs, which are incubated by both sexes. The majority of their diet is small fish, frogs and crawfish that they will scout by hovering over clear bodies of water. They dive headfirst into the shallows, rarely going completely under the surface, when catching their meals with their beaks. This stocky bird has a large head, thick bill and ragged crest. Both males and females have a slate blue back and breast band, with a white belly. Unusual to the bird world, Belted Kingfishers exhibit reverse sexual dimorphism -- the females are more brightly colored than the males. Additionally, females have a rusty belly band that is absent on the males.



Artwork © by Tom Howick, Director of Education, Chattahoochee Nature Center

Belted Kingfisher

Teacher Resources

Great web sites about birds and their ecology:...

- [Cornell Laboratories of Ornithology](#)
- [National Audubon Society](#)

Reading List

- **Stokes Beginner's Guide to Birds: Eastern Region** (Stokes Field Guide Series) by Donald Stokes and Lillian Stokes
- **The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America** by David Allen Sibley and Rick Cech
- **The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America** (Peterson Field Guides) by Bill Thompson III and Julie Zickefoose
- **National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds--E: Eastern Region** - Revised Edition by National Audubon Society
- **National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Birds of North America** by Edward S. Brinkley and Craig Tufts

Think Swiss Climate Change Trail Exhibit at the Nature Center

The Encyclopedia of Earth – Climate Change:

[http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_\(collection\)](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_(collection))

Dealing with the subject of climate change is something is appropriate for older learners. This is a complex problem that can be discussed in middle and high school. The encyclopedia of earth has a great collection of articles, timelines, frequently asked questions and more that can be a great resource for older students.

Solar Electric Light Fund: <http://self.org/>

The Solar Electric Light Fund is a non-profit that works on sustainable energy solutions for developing nations. Helping these developing nations by providing sustainable energy solutions will help reduce the amount of carbon released into our atmosphere. Learn more about non-profits that are tackling the issue of climate change in new ways.

Drive Smarter Challenge: <http://drivesmarterchallenge.org>

Once students are driving their own cars, they can begin to make choices regarding their impact on the climate change. This website allows each individual to calculate savings through actions and calculates the savings of all those that participate. Take the challenge to see how simple driving tips can help save you money while also reducing energy consumption!