



Birds

Belted Kingfisher

Megaceryle alcyon

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Birds (*Aves*)

Order: Kingfishers And Allies (*Coraciiformes*)

Family: Kingfisher (*Alcedinidae*)

General comments:

Belted Kingfishers are a familiar sight along Maine’s lakes and rivers with their shaggy crests, blue-gray plumage, and rattling calls. They require clear, open water for foraging and vertical banks for nesting, typically using natural streambanks or manmade cuts like gravel pits and road edges. While still fairly widespread, populations have shown long-term regional declines, likely due to habitat degradation, loss of nesting banks, and disturbance in riparian areas. Kingfishers appear resilient to contaminants but remain vulnerable to human activity in nesting and foraging habitats.

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Megaceryle alcyon Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Megaceryle alcyon_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

<p>High Regional Conservation Priority:</p>	<p>Partners In Flight: Regional Concern: -1, Regional Stewardship: , Regional Importance: -1, Continental Importance: 0</p>
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Habitat Associations:

- Formation:** Developed

- Macrogroup:** Extractive

- Formation:** Freshwater Aquatic

- Macrogroup:** Lentic

- Macrogroup:** Lotic

- Formation:** Freshwater Marsh

- Macrogroup:** Modified-Managed Marsh

Threats

No Threats Currently Assigned to Belted Kingfisher or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Belted Kingfisher or other Priority 3 SGCN.



Belted Kingfisher *Megasceryle alcyon*

Priority 3 SGCN

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work