

**BELTED KINGFISHER**  
*(CERYLE ALCYON)*

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G4 / MBTA; not listed under the ESA.

**Distribution:** Breeding range includes most of US and Canada, but is a local, occasional breeder in AZ and NM. On Navajo Nation, known from Chuska Mountains (Tsaile and Asaayi Creeks), Morgan Lake, and the Little Colorado River. Potential occurs throughout Navajo Nation where appropriate habitat exists.

**Habitat:** Nests in burrows in earthen banks usually near major water source (streams, rivers, ponds and lakes) with adequate prey supply of small fish and other aquatic animals. Clear water, riffles and lack of overgrown vegetation are important components of lotic habitat; small lakes/ponds or coves and shallow bays of larger lakes are preferred lentic habitats.

**Similar Species:** Large bill, unique blue/white color pattern, and loud-rattling call distinguish this species.

**Phenology:**

- e.APR-l.APR: arrival to breeding area, courtship, nest building
- l.APR-m.JUN: egg-laying and incubation (22 days)
- l.MAY-m.JUL: nestling period (27-29 days)
- l.JUN-m.AUG: fledging of young
- l.JUL-e.SEP: independence of young (21 days), dispersal of adults
- m.SEP-m.NOV: migration to wintering areas

**Survey Method:** ≥1 survey in suitable habitat with high-powered optics during 1 MAY-1 JUL.

**Avoidance:** No disturbance to nesting habitat year-round; no activity within 0.2 km (1/8 mi) of active nest during 15 APR-15 AUG; buffer may be less depending on activity type and duration, but not less than 0.1 km.

**References:**

- Hamas, M.J. 1994. Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). In *The Birds of North America*, No.84 (A.Poole and F.Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists Union, Washington, D.C. (description p.2)
- Prose, B.L. 1985. Habitat suitability index models: Belted Kingfisher. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Biological Report (10.87). 22pp.