



2025 Student Art Contest

Spotlight Bird: Belted Kingfisher

This art contest is for all Utah students in grades Pre-K-12. Only artwork that meets all rules and guidelines will be eligible for judging and display at the 2025 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival. Students may use bird field guides, the internet, or the provided teaching guide to learn about the bird's unique characteristics.

Rules and Guidelines

1. Artwork Specifications:

- ❖ Student's original artwork of the Belted Kingfisher. Artwork may not be copied or traced from any source.
- ❖ Size: Artwork must be 8.5 x 11 inches
- ❖ Surface: The artwork must be created on a flat surface.
- ❖ Format: The artwork must be 2D. The following mediums are acceptable:
 - Drawing (pencil, ink, charcoal, etc.)
 - Painting (watercolor, acrylic, oil, etc.)
 - Mixed media, digital art, and AI generated art will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- ❖ Realistic or stylized images are welcome.

2. Submission Requirements:

- ❖ Ensure artwork is complete and meets the size and format requirements.
- ❖ Complete entry form and tape it to the back of the artwork. Entry form must be complete and legible to be accepted for display and judging.
- ❖ Do NOT frame or mount artwork (must be able to fit in a standard sheet protector for display, which will be provided by the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival.)
- ❖ Only one entry per student is allowed.

3. Submission Process:

- ❖ Deadline: All submissions must be received by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 11, 2025.
- ❖ How to Submit:
 - **By mail:**
Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Attn: Student Art Contest
61 S Main Street
P.O Box 618
Farmington, UT 84025
 - **In-person to Discover Davis office located inside:**
Memorial Courthouse
28 E. State Street, Suite 214
Farmington, UT 84025
Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Photos by Scott Baxter

4. Viewing and Awards:

- ❖ Artwork will be displayed for viewing during the festival at Western Sports Park located at 151 South 1100 West in Farmington. Additional details on viewing times, award ceremony, and the evening's program can be found at GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com
- ❖ After the festival, artwork will be uploaded to the GSLBF website for digital gallery viewing.
- ❖ Artwork will be judged in five grade categories: Preschool-K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. First, second, and third place awards will be given in each category. The prize for first place entries is \$50.00; second place is \$25.00; and third place is \$15.00. A Best of Show image will also be chosen by the judges and receive a \$75.00 prize.

Questions? Contact Susie Jones at susie@discoverdavis.com

Teaching Guide: Belted Kingfisher (*Megasceryle Alcyon*)

Info: Audubon.org; allaboutbirds.org

Identification

The Belted Kingfisher is known for its top-heavy physique and energetic flight. It is a medium-sized bird easily recognized by its distinctive shaggy crest and thick dagger-like bill. The males are blue-gray with a white collar and blue-gray breast band, while the females are more colorful featuring an additional rufous (rusty) chest band and flanks. The Belted Kingfisher is known for its loud, penetrating rattle and is often heard before it is seen.

Habitat

The Belted Kingfisher requires access to bodies of water for feeding and vertical earthen banks for nesting. Their most common habitats are streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, estuaries, and calm marine waters. They prefer open spaces with perches nearby to see prey below the water's surface, but with minimal vegetation obstructing the water.

Nesting sites are burrowed into steep or vertical banks near the water. Both sexes take part in digging a long horizontal tunnel with a nest chamber at the end. The tunnel is generally 3-6' long and usually slopes upward from the entrance so rainwater will not collect inside. There is no lining added to the nest chamber, but debris and undigested fish bones and scales will accumulate and provide some insulation.

During the breeding season the Belted Kingfisher breeds throughout most of North America at elevations up to 9,000 feet. They winter in similar habitat, as well as in mangroves, swamps, and brackish lagoons in the Central American parts of their wintering range.



Photos by Scott Baxter

Food

The Belted Kingfisher typically forages by perching on a high branch or telephone wire before plunging headfirst into a shallow water body. Their diet mainly consists of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and other aquatic prey. They often consume their catch immediately. Bones, scales, and other indigestible parts of prey are coughed up later as pellets.

Interesting Facts

The Belted Kingfisher is one of the few bird species in which the female is more brightly colored than the male. Their clutch size is typically 5-8 pure white, smooth, and glossy eggs with 1 brood per year. The female will incubate the eggs at night, with the male taking over early in the morning.

Belted Kingfishers wander widely, sometimes showing up in the Galapagos Islands, Hawaii, the British Isles, the Azores, Iceland, Greenland, and the Netherlands.

Predators of kingfishers include hawks, mammals, and snakes. If threatened, it may scream, spread its wings, and raise the patch of white feathers next to each eye.

Pleistocene fossils of Belted Kingfishers have been unearthed in Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas. The oldest known fossil in the kingfisher genus is 2 million years old, found in Alachua County, Florida.



2025 Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

Student Art Contest Entry Form

Completed form must be submitted with each entry
Artwork will not be returned if form is incomplete or illegible

Name of Artist: _____

Name of Parent or Teacher: _____

School (if applicable): _____

Address*: _____

City: _____ State: Utah ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ EMAIL: _____

Grade category (circle one): Pre-K-Kindergarten 1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12

*Students who independently submit artwork should list their home address in order to receive returned artwork. All other students should list their school address. Correspondence will be done by EMAIL.

Check this box if you would like your artwork mailed back following the festival.

☐

Art must be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Mail your artwork to:
Great Salt Lake Bird Festival
Attn: Student Art Contest
61 S Main Street
P.O Box 618
Farmington, UT 84025

Deliver in person to Discover Davis office located inside:

Memorial Courthouse
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Artwork from any category may be featured in Great Salt Lake Bird Festival's promotional documents, news releases, website, social media accounts, and clothing/merchandise. The student's name may be included with any art that is used for these purposes. **The student will retain all rights to the artwork but gives permission with this form to the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival for use of the image for promotional and contest purposes.**

Selections and decisions by the judges are final. Any entries with unsuitable content will not be considered.

www.GreatSaltLakeBirdFest.com