

1st primary longest; the others graduated. Length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; alar expanse 4 inches. The female has a similar dorsal aspect to the male, but less brilliant; her ventral aspect is white, the feathers faintly edged and tipped with rufous, and the three lateral tail feathers tipped with white. In the young bird the throat strongly inclines to yellow. In the adult males which I have seen, I have not detected "the three outer tail feathers rusty white at the tips," as according to Nuttall.

2nd division of Passerine, in which the external and middle toes are united to their penultimate articulation.

Fam. Syndactyla.

Genus Alcedo.

Gen. char. Bill quadrangular, long and straight, edged, acuminate; nostrils basal, lateral, oblique, almost wholly closed by a naked membrane; legs short, naked above the knee for a considerable space; tongue short and fleshy; outer toe connected to the middle as far as the second joint, and the inner to the middle as far as the first joint. 3rd primary longest.

A. alcyon. Belted Kingfisher.

Ceryle (Megacerile) alcyon. Baird!

v.s.p. Bill black, pale at the tip; legs and feet bluish; claws black; irides hazel; eggs 6, white.

Dorsal aspect. A white spot between the orbit and nostrils; crest, nape of neck, interscapular region, scapulars, small and greater wing coverts, (which are also faintly tipped with white,) and rump, bluish slate colour; primaries and secondaries black; the former with half of their inner vanes white, and barred with white on the collateral portion of the outer vane; the four or five last ones edged on the outer vane with bluish slate colour and tipped with white; secondaries bluish slate on the outer vanes; black barred with white on their inner vanes, tipped with white except the 4 or 5 last ones which are wholly bluish slate colour; tail square; the two centre feathers bluish slate, with a black streak down their shafts, the others all black, with 11 or 12 narrow bars of white, with a terminal tip of the same colour, and edged with slate blue on the outer vanes.

Ventral aspect. Chin, throat, and sides of neck, belly, vent, wing and tail coverts white; breast with a slate blue belt reaching from shoulder to shoulder.