



THE BELTED KINGFISHER

Our Feathered Friends.

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THE Kingfisher is so well known that a description is scarcely necessary. Who has not watched it, as with rapidly vibrating wings it poised itself above the waters of the river, waiting for its finny prey to approach the surface, when with a sudden swoop, it dashed downwards, capturing its prey and bearing it aloft, to be devoured perhaps in its tunnelled nest in the river's bank? Success does not always crown its efforts. Sometimes, it dashes downwards and strikes the water without capturing anything, its intended victim sinking beyond its reach. Sometimes, it halts in its downward course, its prey being too far from the surface; for the Kingfisher does not dive beneath the surface of the stream; it takes only what it can reach with its long bill.

The upper parts with the bar across the breast are a dull blue with fine black lines. The lower parts, a ring