



## Wildlife in focus

The king of fishers; photograph by David White

**W**hen on the riverbank you very rarely see a kingfisher. More often than not, you hear that wonderful and evocative sound of a shrill double-note as it flashes by at lightning speed, with a flash of glistening blue which often betrays the bird's presence before it is actually seen.

The kingfisher is quite simply the most brilliantly coloured of any British bird, and there is no mistaking its electric blue, black and vivid orange markings.

It is also very aptly named, as it perches on a suitable twig or branch before plunging into the water after minnows or sticklebacks — without doubt the king of fishers.

I have photographed kingfishers many times, often waiting for what seems an age for them to appear. However, I recently decided to try and photograph them as they actually entered the water and caught their prey. Would this be possible, knowing the incredible speeds at which they dive?

I knew a spot on a lake in Hampshire where they frequently dived to catch fish and eventually I managed to get the result I wanted.

I have had quite a few comments from people who have seen the photo. Did I get wet? Indeed, did my camera get wet? Did I have a waterproof housing for the camera? I feel that photography is a form of art ... and sometimes an artist does not reveal all his secrets. ■

Canon EOS-1DX Mark 11. 1/1600 second at f8.0. EF 500mm f4 IS USM lens. ISO 5000.

David has a solo show of his photos of the Wiltshire countryside and its wildlife at Osborne Studio Gallery (2 Motcomb St, Belgravia, London SW1X 8JU), from 18th September until 4th October; free admission; for more information, visit [www.osg.uk.com](http://www.osg.uk.com)