

145-01-1989

KING EIDER

At 7:45 AM on Sunday November 19, 1989 while beginning to record the passage of migrating water birds at Sunset Point on Presque Isle State Park, I saw a large dark duck flying about 5 to 6 feet above the water ^{FLYING} in a westerly direction approximately 150 to 200 yards away from me. As the bird approached it was joined by a smaller duck, which I readily identified as a White-winged Scoter. The wing beats of the scoter appeared to be faster than those of the larger dark duck. The lack of any white on the upperside or the underside quickly eliminated all species of geese. I identified the duck as a female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). As the eider passed by the point I clearly saw the heavy all-brown body, stocky neck, and bulbous head. Common Eider was eliminated because the profile of the head showed a depression at the forehead where it meets the bill unlike the long straight profile (lacking any depression) of the Common Eider. The pale wing linings (not flashy white like a Black Duck's), the lack of any white in the face, and the large size quickly eliminated both dark-winged scoters.

Viewing conditions were fair, but adequate (the sun was just starting to rise) under cloudy skies (stratocumulus). The eider was in view for less than 2 minutes. I was using a Bushnell Spacemaster spotting scope with a 25X eyepiece. The wind was southwesterly at 6 MPH.

Jerry McWilliams



Record No.: 145-01-1989

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # / of /

Species: King Eider

Date of Sighting: 11/19/89

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1989

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas				X			
R. Leberman				X			
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner							X
P. Schwalbe				X			
TOTALS			3	3			1

DECISION NOT ACCEPTED

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3-1-90