

145-01-1999

## KING EIDER

*Somateria spectabilis*

Location: Presque Isle State Park

Date: November 16, 1999

Time: 7:40 AM

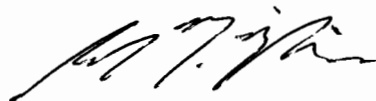
Weather: Variably cloudy, wind northwesterly to 25 mph.

Observer: Jerry McWilliams

Optics: Zeiss 10 X 40 Binocular and Kowa TSN Spotting Scope at 35X

Viewing distance: about 300 yards.

Details of sighting and description: I was conducting the waterbird count at Sunset Point and migration seemed a bit slow for what seemed like ideal conditions. At 7:40 AM I saw an approaching flock of about 30 Red-breasted Mergansers flying in a westerly direction. I noticed that there was a much heavier all dark bird in the middle of the flock. It seemed to be about the right size for a White-winged Scoter minus the white secondaries. When the flock of ducks was directly across from me I easily identified the dark duck as a King Eider. It had a large head with a sloping forehead, a relatively short stocky neck (thicker than a scoters neck), the body was heavy, and the wings were broad at the base. The entire upperside and underside of the duck, except the breast and mantle, were an even dark brown. Other features that confirmed the identity of the bird as a King Eider was the pale orangish colored bill, the buffy breast that continued around the back onto the mantle, and the pale (whitish) wing linings and axillaries. These characteristics are unique, except the wing linings and axillaries, to male basic I plumaged King Eiders. Common Eider males at this age have grayish bills, white breasts and mantle, and grayish wing linings and axillaries.



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Ballot - Round One**

Species: King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Date of Sighting: 16 November 1999 to 16 November 1999

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County: ERIE

Observer(s): Jerry McWilliams

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Jerry McWilliams

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

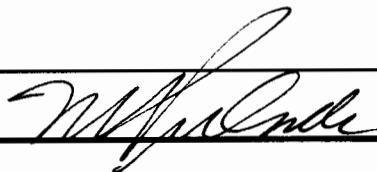
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: No			Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman			X					
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6		1			
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 3/12/01