

KING EIDER 10/30/02  
Lake Nockamixon, Bucks CO  
145-01-2002 ALL PHOTOS BY  
BILL ETTER

















## UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

**Person Submitting:** August & Judy Mirabella  
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145-01-2002

**Species:** King Eider (female)

**Observers:** Found by: Jason Horn & Devich Farbotnik

Seen by: A. Mirabella and many others

**Date Seen:** 10/30/02 & 10/31/02

**Where Observed:** Nockamixon State Park, Bucks Co.

**Time/Conditions:** 10/30/02-Saw it three times from early morning to mid-afternoon for a total of one and one-half hours or more. Closest view was about 30 ft. as it swam by me briefly along the shore. Conditions were generally poor due to rain, heavy overcast, and shimmer on the water surface, as well as distance. The longest view was at about 100 yds for about an hour. On 10/31, the bird flew by at about 75 ft at about 8:30 am and then was seen at 100 ft to 100 yds as it swam along the shore at mid-morning. It was sunny but my views of the bird were side lighted. The bird was viewed with 7x42 Zeiss Binoculars and Leica APO77 Zoom Scope.

**Behavior & Habitat:** The bird was in the very large lake at NSP. It swam along the shore for much of the time. It also preened and slept on the water. It was seen on land preening for brief periods both days and diving on the second day.

**Description:** The first impression was the smaller, rounder head with shorter bill compared to Common Eider, which has the very long headed, long billed look. Under less than ideal conditions, the overall color of the bird appeared to be a buff brown. The head and neck were buff colored with fine streaking over the cap and hind neck making those areas appear darker. There was a whitish eye ring that merged into the more buffy face rather than being sharply defined. Prominent was the down curving pale line extending from the eye back and down the head. In the video, the pale area at the gape is visible although my notes did not mention it. The bill appeared dark but in the video, the tip was darker and the rest was paler. There was a nail at the tip. In the video, the upper bill extension is seen to stop well short of the eye and the lower bill extension, clearly curves up. The feather pattern between the upper and lower extensions ended in a round curve. In the video (close segment), when it stretched its neck, the bottom of the buff neck showed a dark narrow line that separated it from the breast and adjacent sides.

As mentioned above, under the conditions I saw it, the bird looked buff brown. In the video, a very brief view in the close up segment (watching it in slow motion) shows a rufous tint on the breast and flanks. On the breast, the video shows sparse whitish flecking to some feathers. Also, in the video, the same short segment shows some dark featheredges. There was a well-defined very narrow white line on the folded wing where the forward edge of the speculum would be. The edge of the speculum toward the rear also had a shorter less obvious white edge that was not always visible and was not as well



**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

Species: King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Date of Sighting: 30 October 2002 to 1 November 2002

Location: LAKE NOCKAMIXON

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik and multiple observers

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella, Bill Etter

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
<i>R. Witmer</i>								
<del>G. Armistead</del>	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
B. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>							
<b>DECISION</b>	<b>8</b>							

Comments: ~~Sharp was not seen~~

Signature (Secretary): Date:



2/20/05