

144-01-1998

Porc

Katrina Knight
kknight@epix.net

-----Common Eider details-----

On March 12th, 1998, Rudy Keller and I were at the dam breast at Lake Ontelaunee observing the Snow Goose flock and looking for the Pink-footed Goose. As I was looking at the geese, Rudy suddenly exclaimed that there was an eider flying by. I quickly looked up and saw the bird he was talking about. It was flying low over Lake Ontelaunee and I could see that it was a drake Common Eider even before I used my binoculars. We observed it fly from directly in front of us, over the end of the lake and then come back around overhead and fly off down the Maiden Creek. Afterward we searched other areas of the lake, but it apparently did not return. The weather was generally sunny and very windy. Visibility was very good.

Description: It was a chunky, heavy-looking duck with dark flanks and tail. The back, neck and breast were white. The head was white with dark on top and bright green at the nape. The long, sloping bill was generally yellow in color. (I can't say whether or not it was all yellow, but the part extending up toward the crown was obviously yellow.) The wings seemed relatively short and broad. The upper wing coverts were solid white with black primaries and secondaries. I didn't take notice of the underside of the wings. It was larger and chunkier than the female mallard that was flying behind it.

Elimination of other species: The duck was obviously shaped like an eider. The drake King Eider has a black back and a very different head pattern. The Spectacled Eider does not have the high, yellow bill of this bird and has a different face pattern.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

Date of Sighting: 12 March 1998 to 12 March 1998

Location: LAKE ONTELAUNEE

County: BERKS

Observer(s): Katrina Knight, Rudy Keller

Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Katrina Knight, Rudy Keller

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess				X				
R. Ickes			X					
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			5	1				1
DECISION			X					

Comments: 5/1/1

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8/29/98