

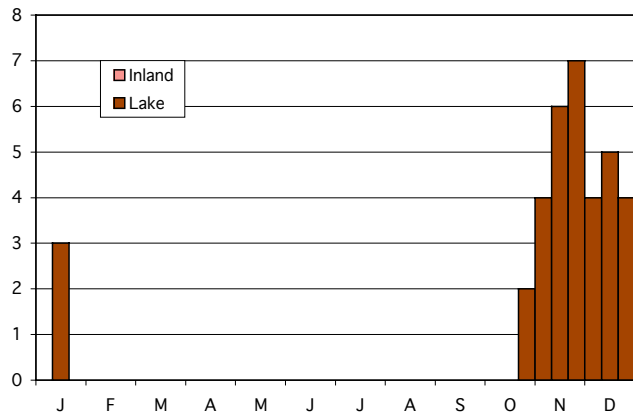
## King Eider

## *Somateria spectabilis*

### Historical Information

First Published Record: Indiana's first King Eider was a female or immature male collected by H.M. Smith 6 November 1936 at George Lake, Lake County (Ford 1956).

Based on records in Illinois and Michigan, Butler (1898) considered this large sea duck hypothetical. Keller et al. (1979) characterized this it as a casual late fall and winter visitant. Mumford and Keller (1984) provided no status assessment, but listed a number of records.



### Status

Physical Evidence: Two skins from Indiana are in the National Museum of Natural History collection (S.F. Jackson, unpublished list).

STATUS TABLE				
Specimens				
Museum				No.
National Museum of Natural History				2
20-Year Abundance Table				
	Win	Spr	Sum	Fall
Northern Tier	9	n	n	8
Central Tier	n	n	n	n
Southern Tier	n	n	n	n
Entire State	9	n	n	8

### Current Status

On Lake Michigan the King Eider is Very Rare (8) in fall and Occasional (9) in winter.

### Occurrence

Some 17 records have been logged on Lake Michigan; it has not been recorded away from the lake. Most of these were in female (or perhaps juvenile male) plumage. Exceptions to this rule include a first-winter male discovered by Clyde Fields at the Port of Indiana 28 November 1985, and lingered there through early January (Peterjohn 1986); a first-winter male reported on the Michigan City CBC 16 December 1989 and photographed by T.C. Keller four days later at the Hammond filtration plant (front cover of the Indiana Audubon Quarterly, 1997 vol. 75, no. 1); and an adult male identified by J.L. Dunn and seven other observers as it flew past Miller Beach with a merganser flock 10 November 1997 Brock (1998). Mumford (1962) describes five specimens shot by a hunter between 1956 and 1959.

### King Eider Data

Maximum Single Party Counts				
Fall/Winter				
Number	Date	Location	Observer	Ref.
6	11-Nov-1983	Mich. City Harb	Tim Coslet	KJB
4	26-Nov-1959	Off Hammond	R.E. Mumford	REM
2	15-Dec-1985	Port of Indiana	Clyde Fields	KJB
2	24-Dec-1985	Port of Indiana	K.J. Brock	KJB
1	6-Nov-1936	George Lake	H.M. Smith	HMS

Migration Envelopes						
Fall/Winter						
	Earliest	Arrive	Peak	Depart	Latest	Records
North	22-Oct-1959	---	30-Nov	---	17-Jan-1998	25

### References Cited

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Butler, A. W. (1898) The Birds of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources Annual Report, 22:575-1187.

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Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller (1979) *Indiana Birds and Their Haunts*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 214 pp.

Mumford, R.E. (1962) Specimens of Unusual Indiana Birds, *Wilson Bulletin*, 74:288-289.

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Peterjohn, B.G. (1986) Field Notes Autumn 1985, *American Birds* 40:118-123.