

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographys, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name:
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage):
3. Locality: Louisiana: Grand Terre Island Parish: Jefferson Parish
West end vic. entrance jetties.
4. Date(s) when seen: 9 April 1994 (1st. photo)
5. Times of day when seen: First seen about 3.30p.m. Present all next day
6. Reporting observer and address: Bob Russell 6196 Chatham Dr. #154
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: NOLA, 70122
Bill Klein
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: m.o.b. later
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): fair, hazy, overcast
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x40 Zeiss
11. Distance to bird: 20 ft.
12. Duration of observation: 1 minute (more later from shore)
13. Habitat (general and specific):
rock jetty entrance to LA Wildlife + Fisheries building
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): resting on rocks. Later seen swimming in bay.
Low profile ~
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

First photo taken of King Eider found by Bob Russell. Photographer Bill Klein. I called bird a probable Common which this photo certainly negates. Have developed 10% colorblindness in past year but color readily visible to me in this photo. Forehead also somewhat more vertical than what I noted in my field notes.



Louisiana Ornithological Society's
LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. **English and Scientific names:** ~~X~~ King Eider (Somateria spectabilis)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage** (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one subadult male
3. **Locality: LOUISIANA:** Plaquemines
(parish)
Grande Terre, rock jetty at USFWS building
(specific locality)
4. **Date(s) when observed:** April 20, 1994
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** 1015 to 1030
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Jim Holmes (504) 892-6714
801 Dove Park Rd.
Covington, LA 70433
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):**
Nancy Newfield, Roger Breedlove, and Birgit Berger
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):**
previously seen and identified by many observers including
David Muth and Curt Sorrels on April 15, 1994
9. **Light conditions** (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): fair, mostly cloudy
10. **Optical equipment** (type, power, condition):
Bausch & Lomb Elite binoculars, 8x42, in good condition
11. **Distance to bird(s):** 10 to 30 feet
12. **Duration of observation:** 15 minutes
13. **Habitat:** rock jetty off of Grande Terre going into Barataria Bay

14. **Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

The bird was watched while it rested on a rock.

15. **Description** (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possibly: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species):

see attached description

16. **Voice:** Not heard

17. **Similar species** (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

1) Common Eider- This species is ruled out by shape and color of bill and head shape and coloration.

18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?):

Slides are included. (by Jim Holmes)

19. **Previous experience with this species:**

I have seen the species on two prior occasions:

1) A subadult male at Ocean City, MD on 12/93

2) Two adult males and a female at Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel on 1/94

20. **Identification aids:** (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: None

21. **This description is written from:** ___ notes made during the observation (___ notes attached?); notes made after the observation (date: 4/20); ___ memory.

22. **Are you positive of your identification if not, explain:** yes

23. **Signature of reporter:** _____ May 20, 1994 (1800)
(date) (time)

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*)

April 20 ,1994

Grande Terre, LA

Observers: Jim Holmes, Roger Breedlove, Nancy Newfield, Birgit Berger

Description:

This bird was known to be present for several days. It was located on the rock jetty on the north side of Grande Terre. We approached the bird in a boat as it sat on a rock and took several photographs. The bird never flew.

General: A large sea-duck in a heavy stage of molt allowing close approach by boat.

Bill: The nail was gray. The bill from the nail to the nostril (including the area from the nostril to the gape) was bright orange approaching red. From the nostril upwards the bill was more orange. Bill shape showed only a slight indentation at the gape.

Head: The head shape showed a slight bulge outward at the forehead and a flat crown. The forehead, crown, and nape were light brown, becoming darker farther down the nape. The junction of the bill and the forehead was dark. The eye was smudged black. The rest of the face (loral spot and ear coverts) and throat were white.

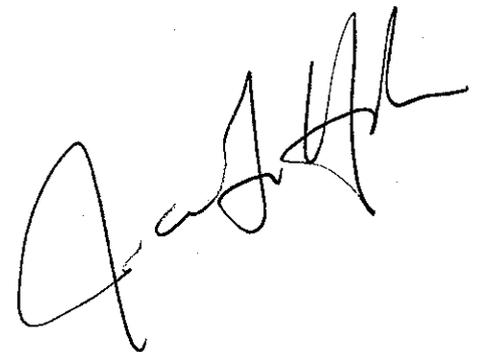
Chest: The chest was white. There was a thin line of dark brown feathers forming a circle around the base of the neck/upper chest. The lower chest had a thick semicircular line of dark feathers across it. This line separated the white chest from what appeared to be a creamy colored belly. The belly was difficult to observe as the bird sat on the rock for the entire observation and the belly was poorly exposed.

Back: Mainly black.

Wings: At rest, they were mainly black with a scattering of brownish feathers. The primaries were heavily molted.

Rump: Black.

Tail: Heavily molted.



- Bright orange/red
below dotted line

Orange above dotted line
Barnier's Sparrow



J. J. J.

King Eider
of Grande Terre, LA

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1. English and scientific name: King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 imm ♂ changing to adult
3. Locality: LA Jefferson
state parish
West end of Grand Terre Island near research station
specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: 4/29/94
5. Times of day when seen: 2:30 - 2:45 PM
6. Reporting observer and address:
Ronald J. Stein
211 N.W. 4th St.
Reserve, LA 70084
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Joe Kleiman, Martin Guidry, David LaHoste
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
MANY ??? others (Stake out)
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Excellent light conditions, all angles
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
8.5 x 44 Power Binoculars
11. Distance to bird: < 30'
12. Duration of observation: 15 minutes ±
13. Habitat: Gulf / Rock Jetties
Bay
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification): Observed resting on rock entire time of observation. Boat made several passes on both sides of rocks giving excellent views. Very tame, allowing boat to approach < 30'.

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

Large duck with black back, sides and tail. White on breast and upper back, some white on abdomen and in wings. Bill orange/red with orange frontal shield beginning to appear with some black feather border beginning to outline shield. Some brown still on top of head.

16. Voice: Silent

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Common Eider eliminated by head pattern described above. Would also have a more sloping profile to bill/head.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

Photographed by David LaHoste

19. Previous experience with this species:

None

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification:

a) at time of observation: None - Had already prepared since

b) after observation: ^{This was a stake out} Robbins Guide and Nat. Geographic Guide

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation (date: _____); memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:

Ronald J. Stein

24. Date and time of writing this account:

5/1/94 10 PM

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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1. English and scientific name: KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1-IMM. MALE
3. Locality: LOUISIANA state JEFFERSON parish

GRAND TERRE
specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: APRIL 29, 1994
5. Times of day when seen: 2:15-2:45 P.M. (CDT)
6. Reporting observer and address: J.P. KLEIMAN
15913 MALVERN HILL
BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
R. STEIN, M. GUIDRY, D. L'HOSTE
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: M.O.B.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): SUN AT OUR BACK, GOOD COND.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): ZEISS 10X40 BINOC. (GOOD)
11. Distance to bird: 30-40 FT
12. Duration of observation: ~ 30 MINUTES
13. Habitat: PARTIALLY SUBMERGED ROCKS, PROBABLY AT ONE TIME
A BREAKWATER
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification):
RESTING

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

A LARGE, BULKY-LOOKING DUCK WITH A DEVELOPING ADULT KING EIDER BILL (ORANGE WITH YELLOW PROCESS DEVELOPING BUT BILL PROCESS OF IMM. KING EIDER COULD BE SEEN) — CREAMY WHITE FACE AND BREAST — DARK MUSTACHE LINE DOWN THROUGH EYE — CROWN DARKER THAN FACE — WINGS AND BACK BLACK WITH SOME WHITE SHOWING NEAR REAR

16. Voice:

NOT HEARD

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

COMMON EIDER — THIS SPECIES WOULD HAVE MORE WHITE IN THE BACK & BILL WOULD BE DIFFERENT

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

?

19. Previous experience with this species:

SEEN SEVERAL TIMES ON GREAT LAKES & EAST COAST

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification:

a) at time of observation: NAT. GEOG.

b) after observation: NAT. GEOG., DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS OF N. AM. (KORTWRIGHT)

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; _____ notes made after observation (date: _____); memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? YES. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:

Joseph P. Kleiman

24. Date and time of writing this account:

MAY 2, 1994 10:00-11:00 AM



E

**REPORT TO THE
LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

1. Common and scientific name:
King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*
2. Number of individuals seen, sexes, ages, general plumage, etc.
One male bird in the process of molting, part way between eclipse or immature and adult / breeding plumage.
3. Locality:
The western of two rock jetties bordering the channel that leads to the Wildlife and Fisheries lab on the north side of Grand Terre, Jefferson Parish, LA
4. Date(s) when seen:
7 May 1994
5. Times of day when seen:
About 8:30 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:
John P. Sevenair, 325 Stafford Place, New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Nancy Newfield, Melvin Weber, Tom Sylvest, Birgit Berger
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
Many; the bird was a well-known stakeout. It was apparently first discovered by Wildlife and Fisheries personnel.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and amount of light):
The weather was partly cloudy
10. Optical equipment:
Zeiss 7x42 binoculars.
11. Distance to bird:
20' to 40'
12. Duration of observation:
About ten minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
Rocks of a jetty in Barataria Bay and waters immediately adjacent.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
When first seen the bird was standing on the rocks of the jetty. Perhaps slightly disturbed by our close approach in a boat, he jumped into the water and swam parallel to the jetty on its west side. At one point he stretched upward and flapped his wings as if exercising wing muscles.
15. Description (Include what was actually seen, not what should have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc.

This bird is a large duck, much larger and bulkier than nearby laughing gulls. The bill was thick at the base, tapering to a "nail" at the tip. A portion of the bill extended back on the face, upward toward the eye. The nail was light brown, the main part of the bill was a red or red-orange color, and the portion of the bill near the eye was a bright orange. The forehead was slightly convex, bulging in front of the eye.

The top of the head down to below the eye and back to the nape of the neck were brown, and appeared to be slightly iridescent, or perhaps mixed with a paler color. The lower part of the face, the throat, the neck from the nape down, and the

entire breast were almost completely white. There was a small black smudge leading down and forward from the eye, below the orange extension of the bill. There was also some smudgy black around the neck, almost like a collar.

The back, the sides, and the upper surfaces of the wings were mostly brown with a few white streaks. When the bird flapped its wings it was evident that he was in heavy molt; he had very little in the way of primaries and secondaries.

16. Voice:
Not heard
17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observations):
The extension of the bill back into the face toward the eye is found in the Common Eider and the King Eider. The bill color is that of a King Eider rather than a Common Eider.
18. Photographs:
I took several slides with a 70 mm lens. The enclosed photo is was made from one of these slides, very much magnified. The slides are available on request, though I suspect that this is a much-photographed bird.
19. Previous experience with this species:
I saw a somewhat similar bird in the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Cod in the winter of 1984.
20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
 - a) At the time of observation:
None
 - b) After observation:
The National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, second edition.
21. This description written from: Notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory.
A copy of the notes is enclosed.
22. Are you positive of your identification? yes If not, explain:
23. Signature of reporter:

24. Date and time of writing this account:
The first draft was completed at 5:30 PM on 7 May 1994. A few notes (especially under #18 above) were added on 23 August 1994 after the photo came back.



17 Apr 1994 Grand Terre
R. Porrington

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gsl

Grand Terre, Louisiana

5-18-94