

From: Edward Creef <zydecats@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: "Edward Creef" <zydecats@earthlink.net>
To: Donna Dittmann <ddittma@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2001 6:44 AM
Subject: Re: dead eider

Donna,

I believe that Joyce Mazourek of USFWS is filling out the official report forms for this finding/sighting. She already has a copy of my photo that she will add to hers and hopefully those of Bren Haas of NMFS who also was on the trip to Breton Island. As for non-retrieval of the carcass, what can I say. None of realized at the time the importance of this individual bird and our minds were more focused on the planning of the next Breton Island Restoration event that will take place sometime this summer using dredged material from the MRGO. In the future, I promise to bring along an ice chest and retrieve any interesting carcasses of birds that I come across when I'm out at one of our coastal Corps disposal areas. Live and learn.

Ed Creef

----- Original Message -----

From: "Donna Dittmann" <ddittma@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu>
To: <zydecats@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2001 1:40 PM
Subject: dead eider

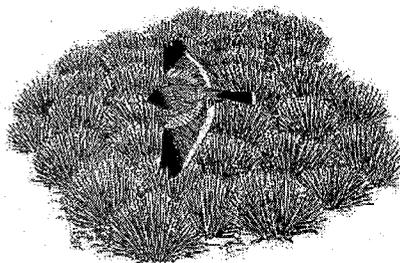
> Dear Ed,
> Your LABIRD post was forwarded to me by one of our LBRC Committee
> Members (subscribed to LABIRD).
>
> Please submit a report with photos at your earliest convenience to the
> LBRC. Reports that include diagnostic photos can be reviewed at our annual
> meeting held in the beginning of September (rather than by mail). You can
> link to our Reporting Form at www.losbird.org, or I would be happy to mail
> you a copy (if so, email me your address). If you would like, you can
> email
> me the photos, and I can take a look --before you submit the record.
>
> There are currently no records of Common Eider for Louisiana; only two
> accepted records of King Eider. Can I ask why the carcass was not picked
> up
> and delivered to a museum--it would have been incredibly valuable to have
> the voucher specimen, especially in consideration that it was "recently
> deceased".
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Donna
>
> Donna L. Dittmann
> Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee
>

Birdingonthe.Net

Recent Postings from The Louisiana Birding List

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Updated on Thursday, June 7 at 08:38 AM ET
The most recently received Mail is at the top.



Chocolate Ground-Tyrant, ©Sophie Webb

7 Jun Re: Common Eider at Breton Island [Wylie C Barrow]
 7 Jun LOS webpage news ["David J. L'Hoste"]
 6 Jun DeRidder BBS [Matt Pontiff]
 6 Jun Fw: Fwd: West Nile effort uncovers rising deaths of birds from toxins [Roselie Overby]
 6 Jun Tropical Weather - Sea Birds???? ["Jay V. Huner"]
 6 Jun Re: miss kites ["Lewis G. Rousset"]
 6 Jun Re: miss kites [cecil tarver]
 6 Jun Rayville BBS highlights [MiriamLDavey]
 5 Jun UL Lafayette Experimental Farm Birds, Week of 27 May 2001 - Western St. Martin Parish, Louisiana ["Jay V. Huner"]
 5 Jun East Plaquemine-St Bernard Breeding Bird Survey. [gousset]
 5 Jun Re: Bluebird Report [Dwight LeBlanc]
 5 Jun Re: miss kites [Cindy Tynes]
 5 Jun miss kites [cecil tarver]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [James Beck]
 5 Jun Re: Catalpa worms [Olga Clifton]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [Virginia Rettig]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [Russ Allor]
 5 Jun Catalpa worms [Paul Dickson]
 5 Jun Re: Common Eider at Breton Island [Paul Dickson]
 5 Jun Common Eider at Breton Island [Bill Vermillion]
 5 Jun Re: Wild black cherry in W. Carroll ["Beth H. Maniscalco"]
 5 Jun SV: 2001 NAMC - Louisiana data [Trond Nilsen]
 5 Jun Wild black cherry in W. Carroll [Roselie Overby]
 5 Jun 2001 NAMC - Louisiana data [marty floyd]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [Paul Dickson]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [Van Remsen]
 5 Jun Re: so long cicadas [Russ Allor]
 4 Jun Re: River Road BBS [James Beck]
 4 Jun Re: River Road BBS [Russ Allor]
 4 Jun Bluebird Report [Olga Clifton]
 4 Jun white pelicans [Gypsy Langford]
 4 Jun so long cicadas [Virginia Rettig]
 4 Jun review of Ladybird B&B ["Peter H. Yaukey"]
 4 Jun Re: LALIT [JINGOLD]
 4 Jun Chuck-will's-widows [Virginia Rettig]
 4 Jun River Road BBS [Van Remsen]
 4 Jun yard notes May 2001 [Van Remsen]
 4 Jun Re: standoff between thugs ["Nancy L. Newfield"]
 4 Jun standoff between thugs [Paul Dickson]
 4 Jun Re: Interesting "Weekend" Birds - South Central Louisiana - Jay ["Beth H. Maniscalco"]
 4 Jun Re: White Pelican, long trip for departed merganser, tree swallow s [Terry Davis]
 4 Jun Re: White Pelican, long trip for departed merganser, tree swallow s [Terry Davis]
 3 Jun Re: White Pelican, long trip for departed merganser, tree swallow s [Paul Dickson]
 3 Jun Interesting "Weekend" Birds - South Central Louisiana - Jay Huner and Associates ["Jay V. Huner"]
 3 Jun Re: White Pelican [Alan Hohensee]
 3 Jun E. Wood Pewee [Van Remsen]
 3 Jun White Pelican [Van Remsen]
 3 Jun red breasted merganser at lock 4 [Paul Dickson]
 3 Jun Re: Breton Island Eider [James Beck]
 2 Jun Red-breasted Merganser at Lock and Dam No. 4 Red River Parish ~11 :30 am [JINGOLD]
 2 Jun Re: Breton Island Eider ["Nancy L. Newfield"]
 1 Jun Breton Island Eider [Edward Creef]

Subject: Re: Common Eider at Breton Island
 From: Wylie C Barrow <wylie_barrow@USGS.GOV>
 Date: Thu, 7 Jun 2001 08:13:27 -0500

From 5 to 7 subspecies of Common eider are recognized. For that eider, a Pacific origin isn't just likely, it's definite. S.m. v-nigra breeds from the Aleutians to Banks Island, and there's a fairly extensive population which breeds in Asia. They winter, primarily of the American side, depending upon ice conditions from the Bering sea to the Gulf of Alaska, with rare reports as far south as Washington. So there's no doubt that the bird originated from the Pacific, or perhaps as far east as Banks Island. The black v under the chin definitely identifies the bird as S.M. v-nigra.

How it got here is certainly open to speculation, but the possibility of it resulting from a dumped egg in a greater scaup nest stretches the limits of the imagination. While some greater scaup do nest on the Alaskan Coastal Plain, they are in freshwater areas. Eiders nest on offshore islands.

BirdMail

Common and King eiders are rather unique in that their young are able to osmoregulate when ingesting full-strength seawater from hatch. Scaup, as do most other Anatids, cannot osmoregulate on full-strength seawater until their about 2 weeks old. Because the nesting habitats of these two species are so different, I doubt any real probability of an eider dumping an egg in a scaup nest exists. Similarly, there's no evidence that siblings migrate together. What evidence there is is to the contrary, that siblings do not migrate together.

While it is unlikely a bird would migrate along the Atlantic coast and around Florida, there's evidence for a migration route which departs the Georgia Coast and crosses over the isthmus to Apalachee Bay. It's thought that most Greater scaup wintering in Apalachee Bay follow this route. Along the Atlantic Coast, over 90% of the eiders are American eiders S.m. dresseri, with lesser numbers of Hudson Bay eiders S.m. sedentaria, and a few European eiders S.M. mollissima. Consequently, if the bird had migrated down the Atlantic coast and crossed Florida, it would have been one of those subspecies.

Clint

Paul Dickson wrote:

Bill, Labird and even Clint who doesn't need us: I would say that a Pacific origin for an Eider is quite likely, far more so than an Atlantic origin. There is nothing attractive about the theory of one going around the Cape of Florida. A bird moving south along the Atlantic would be more likely to just keep on south to Cuba than to hook west and north to La. Louisiana gets no waterfowl from Newfoundland. On the other hand much of our waterfowl, and millions of birds in all come from Alaska. All of our Greater Scaup breed in Alaska, many of them side by side with Northern Eiders. The chance of an Eider egg ending up in a Greater Scaup nest is quite real. Such a bird could well flock with its siblings and migrate with them as well. If the bird is simply a lone pioneer, it is more likely that a route used by many other species would be tried. Some time long ago, all those other species tried the Alaska-Louisiana Gulf coast route and got back alive.

La. Eider Anecdotes: A well educated, avid duck hunter from Shreveport that I know who built a collection of mounted specimens of every North American waterfowl species told me that he once shot a "Common Eider" on Lake Bistineau in Bossier Parish in the 1940's. The bird came to an open water blind into Scaup decoys. He regretted not getting it mounted as he was young then. He was a very active DU supporter and had this whole collection in his office including every Eider. I believe his ID. He does not know which of the two versions of "Common Eider" it was because it was also a juvenile male and he didn't try to go farther than that at the time.

Paul Dickson

Subject: LOS webpage news

From: "David J. L'Hoste" <lhoste@LHOSTELAW.COM>

Date: Thu, 7 Jun 2001 06:46:46 -0500

I'll be out of touch (in Ecuador) until 24 June. So I'll not respond to messages regarding the LOS webpage during the next 17 days.

Adios,

David J. L'Hoste
lhoste@lhostelaw.com**Subject: DeRidder BBS**

From: Matt Pontiff <m_pontiff@HOTMAIL.COM>

Date: Wed, 6 Jun 2001 21:19:11 -0500

La. Birders,

I ran the DeRidder BBS on the 2nd with the following notables from 1997 to 2001:

No. Bobwhite	27 to 1, avg. 9
Log. Shrike	6 to 0, avg. 2
Wood Thrush	5 to 1, avg. 4.5
Summer Tanager	27 to 6, avg. 14
Bachman Sparrow	8 to 0, avg. 3
Chip. Sparrow	11 to 1, avg. 4.5
Ea. Meadowlark	29 to 6, avg. 15
Orchard Oriole	14 to 5, avg. 7
Y-b Cuckoo	3 to 11, avg. 7
Pileated W-p	1 to 8, avg. 4

This route is the piney woods south of DeRidder where there is a lot of timber harvesting yearround.

Gary

kena@gte.net

Subject: Re: Common Eider at Breton Island
From: Paul Dickson <Paul@MORRISDICKSON.COM>
Date: Fri, 8 Jun 2001 09:09:18 -0500

Clint: You obviously know a lot about Eiders. My main theories you didn't address though, and I didn't question the origin of this most recent Eider. I was addressing past Eider reports. I said "an Eider" not "the Eider". I trust your ID. My main proposed theory is that the Alaska-Gulf of Mexico route is used by many diverse bird species from Rufous Hummingbird to shorebirds to longspurs to cranes to waterfowl. An Atlantic seaboard to Louisiana Gulf Coast route is used regularly by no species of anything to my knowledge. It stands logically then, that a pioneer would use the more frequented route.

I do realize that a few waterfowl, Scaup in particular work all around the shores of Florida through the winter, I've hunted them there, but I thought that you said that Scaup are irrelevant to Eiders?

On sibling Greater Scaup not sticking together, I wonder how many banding data exist on which to form a defensible conclusion? Lessers maybe but Greater? Hmmm. I certainly am no expert on the big salt-loving Scaup but I have seen and shot quite a few Greater Scaup in migration on the Red River in November. I've done the same in Alaska, interior Canada, Colorado, Kansas; all are points enroute. They show an unvarying pattern of behavior that differs from Lesser Scaup. On the Red, they are always found flying downriver (south) in pairs and small groups. Immatures almost never mix with adults and Greater Scaup, unlike Lesser Scaup, are never in large flocks during migration. Also, these October and November migrants are never mixed with Lessers. That happens once they begin wintering behavior be it coastal or inland. Behavior on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts might differ from that of the interior fall migrants just as behavior differs once these inland migrants reach the Gulf. Migration behavior differs from wintering behavior. As the Greater Scaup specimens that I have collected are LSU's only ones from the interior of North America I doubt there is much data on migration behavior across the interior of the continent. Plenty we don't know there. Sure, some banded siblings may be found on different coasts but that doesn't preclude others sticking together at least for the journey.

Glandular adaptations aside, Greater also show an affinity for salt water over the more studied Lessers. That's the only place I have ever found them in Europe, by the sea. In Varanger Fiord, Norway, I found three species of Eiders and Scaup feeding in tidal bays together in late June. Same for Scotland though I have only seen Common Eider and Scaup there. These seemed to be non-breeders. Certainly it is known that Greater Scaup breed on freshwater and Eiders on the seacoast and islands but it is also true that freshwater flows into the ocean, even on islands, so they can nest near one another and do. As for egg dumping behavior, I have never kept Eiders but I have had captive Greater Scaup of Alaskan, Icelandic, and Norwegian origin and they were real egg dumpers as most of the Pochard clan tends to be.

I find it dangerous to state what birds won't do. In debates such as this, we can support our theories about what birds will do but the observation of absence is a tough one to back up.

Welcome to Labird; stick around, the debate can be fun and educational.

Paul Dickson

-----Original Message-----

From: Wylie C Barrow [mailto:wylie_barrow@USGS.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2001 8:13 AM
To: LABIRD-L@listserv.lsu.edu
Subject: Re: Common Eider at Breton Island

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2nd year King Eider

Found on North Breton Island

on May 31, 2001

The bird was found dead on the beach

by Joyce Mazourek, Ed Creef,

and Bren Haase

Id confirmed by Clint Jeske and Paul Dickson



