

Common Eider

1 Nov 1901

Woodbury Co., IA

G. C. Rich

Anderson 1907, DuMont 1933, 1934

Record Number: 81-LI
Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

DuMont, P.A. 1934. Iowa specimen of American Eider
re-determined as the Pacific Eider. Wilson Bull. 46:203.

VOTE (1981): 3-I, I-II, 2-III, 1-V

III, Based on observers and specimen in hand.

II, if spec. can be located, to I. Q is this an Iowa specimen?

I, examined by DuMont -- should be photographed.

V, Specimen first called mollissima by DuMont and then on
reexamination, V. nigra.

III, Does specimen still exist? If so I-S.

Common Eider

50. (160). *Somateria dresseri* Sharpe. American Eider.

The American Eider is only an accidental visitor in Iowa. G. H. Berry reports it as a "rare winter visitant" in Linn county.

Dr. G. C. Rich writes: "Rare transient. I have a mounted specimen, male, shot in Woodbury county, Nov. 1, 1901."

Kumlien and Hollister report it as rare on Lake Michigan in winter, Racine, 1875 (Hoy); two at Milwaukee; one at Lake Koshkonong, Nov. 1891 (Bds. of Wis., 25-26).

Anderson 1907
p 178-179

1

2

DuMont 1934
p 41

Somateria mollissima dresseri Sharpe. American Eider
Accidental. Anderson (1907) states: "The American Eider is only an accidental visitor in Iowa. . . . Dr. G. C. Rich writes: 'Rare transient. I have a mounted specimen, shot in Woodbury County, Nov. 1, 1901.'" This specimen, now in the collection of the Sioux City Academy of Science, was recently examined by the writer. Although the bird is in low plumage, the bill processes are diagnostic of this species.

was label
1-PC?

2

DuMont, P. 1934. Iowa specimen of the "American Eider re-determined as the Pacific Eider. Wilson Bull. 46:203.

Iowa Specimen of the "American" Eider" Re-determined as the Pacific Eider.—Admission is made by the writer that at the time the specimen of eider duck in the Sioux City Academy of Science was examined the thought in mind was positively to distinguish it from *Somateria spectabilis*. A re-examination of this specimen, on May 25, 1934, proved that instead of being *Somateria mollissima dresseri*, as recorded in "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (1933, p. 41), it actually is *Somateria v-nigra*, the Pacific Eider. The posterior horns of the bill processes are narrow, pointed, and but slightly forked, while the anterior point of the feathering on the side of the maxilla is rounded, not pointed as in *S. mollissima*.

2

Dr. T. C. Stephens has kindly supplied a record of the information for this specimen as taken from the note-book of Dr. Guy C. Rich. This is as follows: "Mounted by W. H. Knight. American Eider. L., 27½; W., 16; Tail, 5½; Tarsi, 3 in.; Bill, 2½. Found in Market. Bro't in by hunter from Missouri river bottoms below city. Was in flock of other ducks. Shot after a heavy N. E. storm. Sex not marked but probably ♀. My only note."

During a conversation with Dr. Rich, he assured me that November 1, 1901, was the correct date on which the specimen was taken, and that it came from the Missouri River below Sioux City. It would seem, therefore, that this record might be claimed as Nebraskan as well as Iowan.—PHILIP DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.