



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nesting Eider Interaction Plan

Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office

Introduction: Steller's eiders (*Polysticta stelleri*) and spectacled eiders (*Somateria fischeri*) are two sea ducks listed as threatened species under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. These birds nest on the tundra and may be encountered by researchers doing field work. This plan provides guidance to help you avoid disturbing nesting birds as you conduct your research. More information about Steller's and spectacled eiders can be found at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's website.

Potential Impacts: Human activity that causes a female eider to flush off her nest may increase the risk of egg predation. Repeated disturbance could cause the female to abandon the nest altogether. Closely approaching an adult female and her young ducklings can also increase their chances of predation. Please follow these instructions when you encounter a bird nest while conducting research on the tundra.

Bird flies away at close range

Nest is seen
Determine Type

Nest is not seen

Waterfowl Nest

- 1-10 solid-colored eggs
- Eggs are oval shape
- Usually abundant fluffy down feathers surrounding eggs
- *Incomplete nests can have fewer eggs and no feathers.



Non-Waterfowl Nest

- 1-4 spotted eggs
- Eggs more pointed at one end
- No down feathers in nest



Back up 30 meters
the way you came

Approach nest
with care

Collect data

Leave area quickly to allow female to
return. Veer off 50 m. to the side to
avoid stepping on nest.

- If you can do so in less than 1 minute:
- GPS Coordinate
 - Take photo of nest

- More than 1 minute:
- Mark approx. nest location on map

Cover eggs with down



Stay as far from nest as possible.
Leave area quickly to allow
female to return.

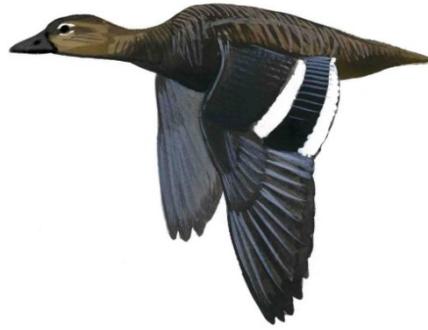
Report sighting to USFWS
David Safine: David_safine@fws.gov, 907-456-0354
Neesha Stellrecht: Neesha_stellrecht@fws.gov, 907-456-0297

For more information:
Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-456-0203
<http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/fairbanks/endangered.htm>
May 2013

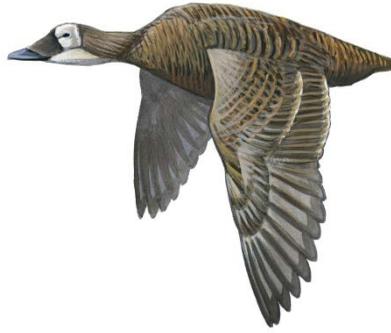
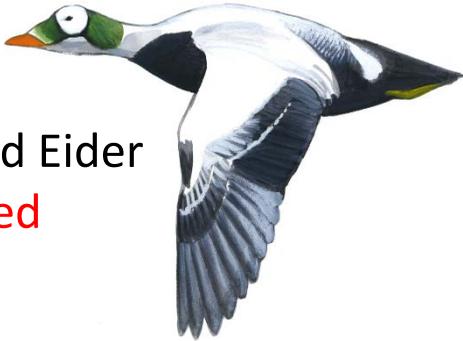


Eider Identification Guide – Barrow Vicinity

Steller's Eider
Threatened



Spectacled Eider
Threatened



King Eider



* Common eiders may migrate through the area, but do not nest on the tundra near Barrow.