



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.

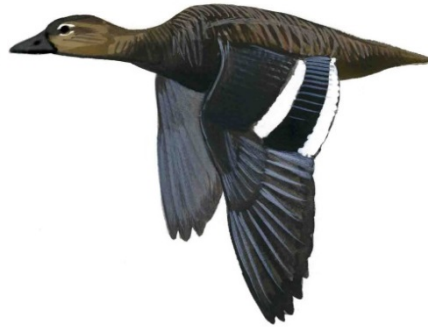
Report sighting to USFWS  
David Safine: David\_safine@fws.gov, 907-456-0354  
Neesha Stellrecht: Neesha\_stellrecht@fws.gov, 907-456-0297

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>  
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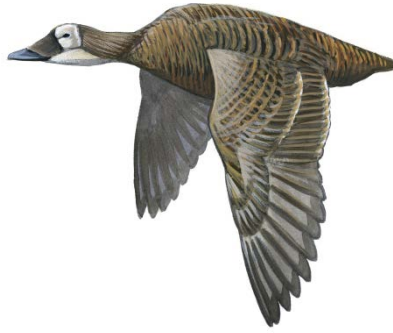


## Eider Identification Guide – Barrow Vicinity

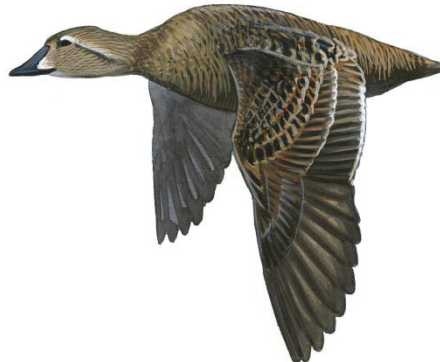
Steller's Eider  
Threatened



Spectacled Eider  
Threatened



King Eider



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