

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Eiders are birds of the far north, rarely reaching even northern California as winter vagrants. The single record of the King Eider for San Diego County is the species' southernmost along the Pacific coast of North America.

Winter: San Diego County's King Eider was an adult male, found at the Imperial Beach pier (V10) 4 December 1982. It later moved up the Silver Strand to Glorietta Bay (T9), where it remained to 25 January 1983 (M. B. Stowe, Morlan 1985). Seven King Eiders, more than in any year before or since, reached southern California during the winter of 1982–83, a year of El Niño.



Photo by Mary Beth Stowe