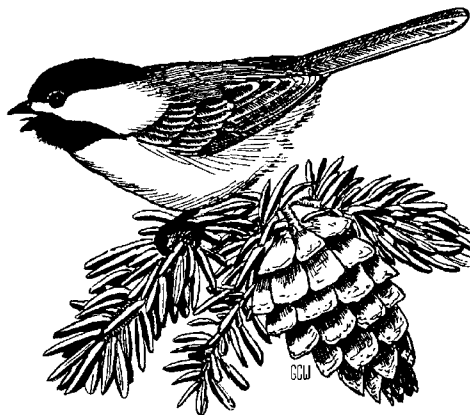


## (34) STATUS OF KING AND COMMON EIDERS MIGRATING PAST POINT BARROW, ALASKA

Robert Suydam<sup>1\*</sup>, Lori Quakenbush<sup>2</sup>, and Mike Knoche<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, Barrow, AK, Robert.Suydam@north-slope.org;<sup>2</sup>Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK;<sup>3</sup>University of Alaska, Department of Biology and Wildlife, Fairbanks, AK.

King (*Somateria spectabilis*) and Common (*S. mollissima v-nigra*) eiders migrate past Point Barrow, Alaska, between wintering areas in and adjacent to the Bering Sea and nesting areas in northern Alaska and northwestern Canada. Based on standardized migration counts, both populations declined by more than 50% between 1953 and 1996. King Eiders declined from approximately 800,000 to 350,000 birds and Common Eiders declined from about 150,000 to 70,000 birds. Preliminary results from migration counts in summer/fall 2002 and spring 2003 indicated that the King Eider population at least remained stable (summer/fall 2002 estimate = 490,247; 95% CI  $\pm$  74,331; spring 2003 estimate = 362,237; 95% CI  $\pm$  88,851) while the Common Eider population may have increased (spring 2003 estimate = 119,809; 95% CI  $\pm$  26,668). Fall migration counts after early September provide an index of production for King Eiders. In 2002, only about 40,000 birds migrated past Point Barrow after early September indicating that relatively few King Eiders were produced in 2002. Obtaining an index of production for Common Eiders is problematic because many adults molt in the eastern Beaufort Sea and migrate as large mixed flocks, making it difficult to differentiate young birds from females.



# Tenth Alaska Bird Conference and Workshops

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March 15-19, 2004

Anchorage, Alaska



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