



Fig. 1. Red-bellied Woodpecker roosting under the lowermost frond of a cabbage palm tree. Photo obtained with electronic flash 30 min after sunset and lens aimed  $90^\circ$  from the horizontal.

of a particularly favorable outside roost site may encourage its use by several individuals. The fronds of *Sabal palmetto*, which is found throughout Florida and coastal Georgia and South Carolina (Small 1972, Manual of the southeastern flora, New York, New York, Hafner Publishing Co.), apparently provide such a site; thus this palm species may be used commonly for roosting by Red-bellied Woodpeckers in areas where both occur and where cavities are scarce.

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**The Common Eider in Florida.**—On 12 November 1981 Pat Ware saw an eider swimming in the surf 250 m S of Doctors Pass, Naples, Collier County, Florida. On the same day I photographed the bird and identified it as an immature male Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). Its plumage closely resembled the plates in Palmer (1976) and Peterson (1980). The identification of the Common Eider was confirmed by H. M. Stevenson and P. W. Sykes, Jr. (pers. comm.), who examined photographs taken on 26 December 1981 (photograph # P341 Tall Timbers Research Station).

TABLE 1. Summary of Common Eider records in Florida.

Number	Date (day/mo./yr.)	Sex <sup>1</sup>	Location	Reference	Comment
1	15-16/12/55	NA	Lauderdale-by-the-sea, Broward, Co.	S. Sprunt <i>in</i> Stevenson 1956	Univ. Miami Ref. Col. # 1032 (R. Andrews, R. P. Allen)
2	14-15/12/57	NA	Tampa Bay, Hillsborough, Co.	Sprunt 1958	Details lacking.
3	19/12/62	Female	Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia, Co.	Ackermann 1963	Both observations are of a female in the same general area; probably the same bird.
	3-25/1/63	Female	Matanzas Inlet, St. Johns, Co.	Hudson 1963	
4	3/4/67	NA	Dry Tortugas, Monroe, Co.	C. Petrovic <i>in</i> Robertson 1967	Reported as the southernmost record for N. America (Petrovic and King 1972). Univ. Miami Ref. Col. 5246
5	17-27/12/70	NA	St. George Inlet, Duval, Co.	Markgraf 1971	One bird remaining at one location through mid-winter.
	Late/11/70-4/2/71	NA	St. George Inlet, Duval, Co.	Markgraf et al. <i>in</i> Stevenson 1971	
6	23/11/72	NA	Melbourne, Brevard, Co.	F. Moore <i>in</i> Stevenson 1973	Four records appear to be of the same bird that died.
	4/12/72-2/2/73	NA	Cocoa, Brevard, Co.	R. Barber <i>in</i> Woolfenden 1973	
	10/7/73	NA	Canaveral, Brevard, Co.	Many observers <i>in</i> Ogden 1973	
	9/9/73	NA	Canaveral, Brevard, Co.	R. Barber <i>in</i> Edscorn 1974	

<sup>1</sup>NA = Not Available.

The duck remained in the vicinity until 13 February 1982 and was seen by many observers along approximately 10 km of moderately-used urban beach. The eider was tame and was easily photographed while it fed energetically in the surf wash by scooping up coquinas (*Donax variabilis*), an abundant small clam. Mollusks are known to be the predominant food of Common Eiders (Palmer 1976, Bent 1925). Photographs taken six weeks after its discovery showed the same individual. Although the feathers appeared worn, I believe that the eider was healthy and vigorous as was indicated by its feeding and its ability to fly well, which was observed by several persons.

My review of published records indicate that this sighting was the second record for the Gulf Coast. I have found 12 published records of the Common Eider elsewhere in Florida (Table 1). I believe these were of six individuals. In my opinion eight of the records involved three episodes of multiple sightings of the same bird. The Naples sighting would then be the seventh record for the state and the fourth time that one Common Eider has been reported in a restricted locale for at least 6 weeks. Except for three records, all of the eiders appeared in mid-winter (Table 1). These three records are of two individuals that probably arrived in winter and died. These data indicate that the occurrence of the Common Eider in Florida is a winter phenomenon.

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