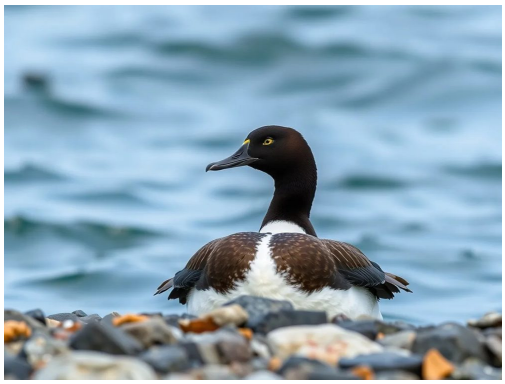
CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Common Eider

Somateria mollissima

Somateria mollissima is the largest duck in the Northern Hemisphere and a specialist at eating things that fight back with armour. It dives to the seabed, tears blue mussels off the rock, and swallow…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Anatidae
Habitat: Coastal marine environments, rocky seashores, and islands in subarctic and arctic regions
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 10-20 years
Weight: 1.2–2.8 kg
Scientific name: Somateria mollissima

Did you know?

- Eider females sometimes share parental duties, forming 'crèches' where several hens tend to their ducklings together.
- The Latin species name mollissima means "softest," a direct reference to the down. Eiders can dive to around 20 m and forage in water cold enough to …

What I learned

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