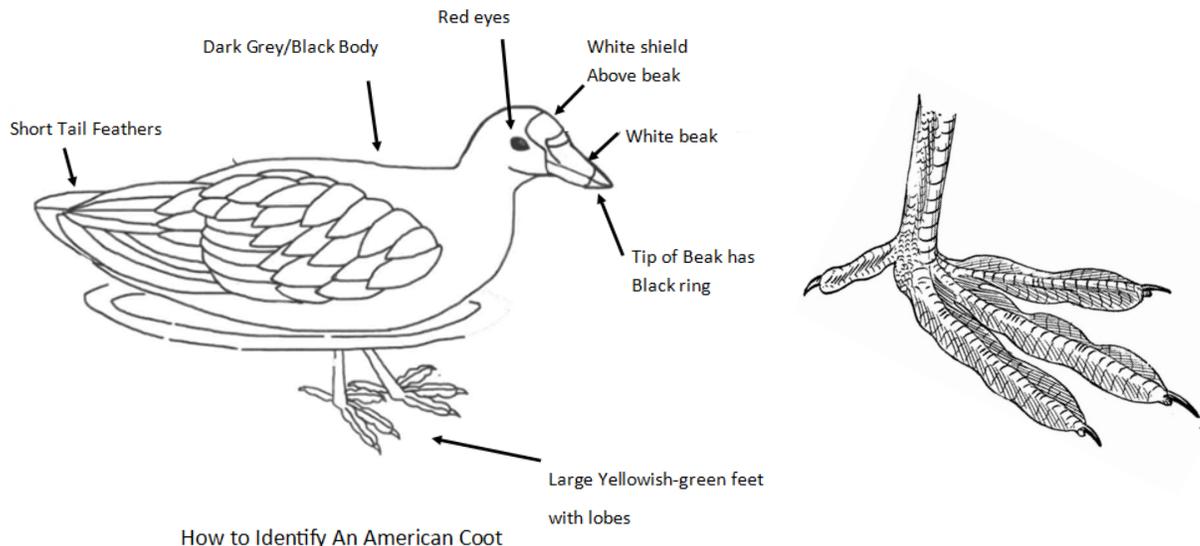


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American Coot

American Coots belong to the Rail family of birds. It is the only rail adapted to live on the water. Coots are similar in looks to the Common Gallinule but not related to them. When identifying Coots, look for a white beak with black tip, a white shield above the beak, red eyes, dark grey to black body and wings, short tail feathers, and large yellow-greenish feet with lobed toes. They do not have webbed feet. Use the diagram below as your **Field Guide**. [View this video](#) all about coots to see them in action.



LESSON

Coot Behavior

- * When foraging for food in the water, Coots dabble and dive; when out of the water they pluck at plants.
- * Coots eat aquatic plants and the occasional insect, tadpole or snail.
- * Coots are not as graceful flyers as other waterfowl. They must run on the water, flapping their wings to get airborne.
- * Coots bob their heads back and forth while swimming and walking.



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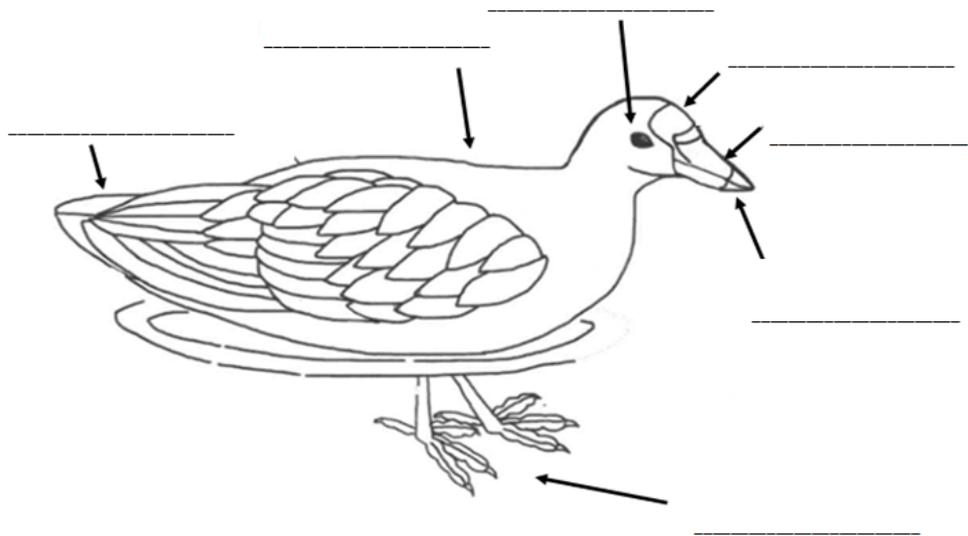
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A great place at Wetlands Park to do today's activity: [Nature Preserve](#)

How do you Identify a coot? Label the Coot's identifying features and color the Coot. Now use your Field Guide picture to help you find and collect data for Coots in the Nature Preserve.

ACTIVITY



How to Identify An American Coot

Site	West Lower Pond	Boardwalk Pond	West Upper Pond	Vern's Pond
Number of Coots				
Behavior				



Takeaway... A question for today: Which pond had the most Coots?

[Click here to answer.](#)



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Just for Fun

Start your own bird journal

Make a cover and add pages as you discover new birds. Start with the Coots you found today. Google how to draw Coots. This link has a downloadable tutorial and video: <https://www.wedrawanimals.com/how-to-draw-an-american-coot/>

Draw	Description:
	Location:
	Behavior:
	Weather:
	Name:

