

BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF AN AMERICAN COOT

Range and Habitat:

This bird breeds from British Columbia, western Canada, and New York locally southward. It winters north to British Columbia, Kansas, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Its preferred habitats are open ponds and marshes. In winter, this bird can also be found on coastal bays and inlets.

Breeding and Nesting:

Eight to ten pinkish eggs, spotted with brown, are laid on a shallow platform of dead leaves and stems, usually on water but anchored to a clump of reeds. The incubation period ranges from 21 to 25 days and is carried out by both sexes.

Foraging and Feeding:

The American Coot eats plant materials, some aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, snails, worms, and sometimes eggs from nearby bird nests. It gathers food by tipping its tail end in the air and its head below the surface to gather food; sometimes diving; or walking along the shores to pick up food items.

Vocalization:

Emits a variety of clucks, cackles, grunts, and other harsh notes.

Similar Species:

Similar to this bird is the Common Moorhen, which is of the same size and shape but has a reddish bill with a yellowish tip, a white stripe along the flanks, and a brownish back.



Breeding Locations:

Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

Breeding Type:

Common to abundant

Breeding Population:

Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

Egg Color: Pink

Number of Eggs: 2 - 12

Incubation Days: 21 - 25

Egg Incubator: Both sexes

Nest Material:

Lined with fine material., Made of dead stems.

Migration: Migratory