Gillespie Creek Journal

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Quail Run Hole #5 Duck Parade 12/24/23



Friday 1/26/24 A New **Comer Arrived Too Late**

supports the bird's weight on mucky ground.

Do you recognize the black "New Comer" that arrived this past week to feed for a bit within the Hole #5 Quail Run duck parade pond?

Although the species swims with ducks and geese its a member of the Rallidae family. My birding friends in South Carolina and Florida will recognize its Moorhen and Gallinule relatives. Yes, it's an American Coot. My dad, a duck hunter called them Mud Hens.

From the Farmer's Almanac: "It's thought that January's Full Moon came to be known as the Wolf Moon because wolves were more likely to be heard howling at this time."

January 2024 nears its end with a full moon. Join me in celebrating the

passing of what has shown to be the

coldest/warmest weather of the year.

In today's journal we'll visit the human

reactions as well as those of the avian

inhabitants that toughed it out and

found beauty using survival

adaptations.

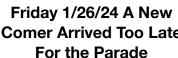
From Dr. Dubois: "The Wolf Moon radiates transformational power, and by looking inward, embracing our authentic selves and connecting with those closest to us, it brings us opportunities for self-acceptance and growth."

From the Spirits of the West Coast Art Gallery: "The Native Wolf Symbol represents loyalty, strong family ties, good communication, education, understanding and intelligence."

Folklore tells us to: "Meditate in silence,



Full Wolf Moon 7:30 AM January 26, 2024, Sun City, AZ



American Coots migrate and feed in groups called "Rafts." A Back Bay, Virginia raft of Coots is reported to have consumed 216 tons (in dry weight) of vegetation in a single winter."

"Each one of the Coot's long toes has broad lobes of skin that help it

kick through the water. The broad lobes fold back each time the bird

lifts its foot so it doesn't impede walking on dry land, though it

Interestingly I've also read that a Coot breast filleted, fried in oil with salt and pepper is pretty tasty!



Coot Feet Amazingly Unique by "Alama"



Coot Family Photo by Kim Smith

Engage Your Senses