

Gillespie Creek Journal



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

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 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."

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**

Engage Your Senses



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

"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 supports the bird's weight on mucky ground.

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."

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"**

Nature's Treasures Abound

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.



**Coot Family Photo by
Kim Smith**

Experience Awe