Sauk River Watershed District

# American coot

**General Description**:  Dark duck-like bird but more closely related to the family of marsh birds known as rails.

**Color**: Black to gray with white bill, red eye, and red spot on top of its bill.

**Length:**  15 inches.

**Weight:** 1-1.5 pounds.

**Habitat:** Prairie areas with open water.

**Food:** A large variety of insects and plants.

*Coots have to “run” on the surface of the water to take off.

Photos and information courtesy of: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/