



River & Rowing
Museum
Henley on Thames

Fact File: Coot

Coots have black feathers and a distinctive white bill and shield on their head. There are an estimated 190,000 coots that spend the winter in the UK and are commonly seen living on rivers, lakes and ponds.

Coots eat a mixture of plants, seeds, snails and insect larvae and dive down into the water to find their food. Because of their ability to dive and their distinctive white head coots are sometimes called the 'White-faced Divers'. They bring their food back to the surface before they eat which can lead to arguments over food with other birds.

Coots make large messy nests and lay between six to nine eggs in the spring. By two months old coot chicks are independent from their parents! This means they no longer need the care of an adult to survive.

When coots fly they run along the surface of the water before they take off making a loud pitter-patter noise.

