

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Longevity Record of Gambel White-crowned Sparrow.—An immature Gambel White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*), band number 41-80551, was originally banded by me at my home in Altadena, California, on November 22, 1942. This same bird returned most recently on March 5, 1950, having at that time attained a proven life of almost eight years.

After its original capture, the bird repeated at my banding station 12 times until March 18, 1943. It returned on December 12, 1943, and repeated once, on January 3, 1944. It returned on November 26, 1944, with no subsequent repeats that season. It again returned December 8, 1945, and was recaptured three times during the ensuing 40 days. The next return, on November 19, 1946, was followed by 23 recaptures ending February 9, 1947. Its fifth return was on December 14, 1947, followed by five repeats until April 18, 1948. The last two returns, on January 9, 1949, and March 5, 1950, were single captures in each season.

Out of 848 birds of this species banded between the fall of 1941 and the spring of 1946, this is the only individual with a proven length of life of over five years.—FRANKLIN G. CRAWFORD, *Altadena, California, May 31, 1950.*

Voice Differences Between Sexes in the American Coot.—The American Coot (*Fulica americana*) exhibits no sexual dimorphism in plumage characters and although the males average about seven per cent larger than females (Engels, *Jour. Morph.*, 62, 1938:599-607), this size difference is usable in the field only when both members of a pair are observed side by side. Otherwise, reliable size comparisons can not be made. I have found, however, that the sexes can be recognized by differences in voice.

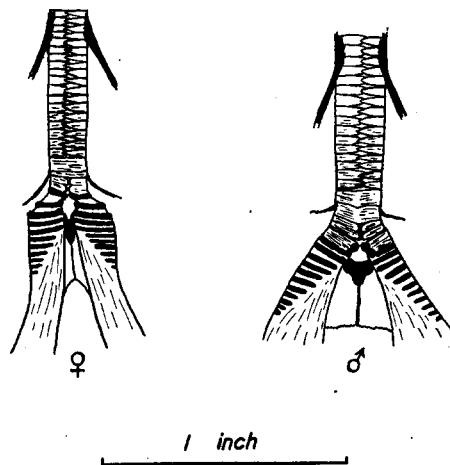


Fig. 47. Sexual dimorphism in the structure of the syrinx of the American Coot.

Soon after commencing a study of the breeding behavior of two pairs of coots on Jewel Lake, Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa County, California, I noticed that the smaller birds uttered a series of notes quite different from those given by their larger mates. As the study progressed, it became necessary to mark the birds with neck dangles in order that individual birds could be distinguished. With this marking, and a series of measurements to confirm the apparent size differences, it was definitely established that a consistent difference existed between the notes of the large and small birds.

With the difference proved, it became necessary to ascertain which sex gave which series of calls. This was accomplished by confining a flock of coots on a small pool on the University of California campus at Berkeley. Some of the confined birds were sexed by means of a laparotomy and tagged with neck dangles, while other tagged birds were observed and later killed and sexed. In all, about