

# Foraging and Vigilance in American Coot

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## Introduction

- It is frequently seen swimming on open water or sloughs or walking about on land, occasionally far from shore in search of food, the head always bobbing in time with the foot movements (Jones 1940).
- The American Coot inhabits a wide variety of freshwater wetlands from prairie potholes to swamps and marshes to suburban park and sewage ponds to the edges of lakes (AAB 2023).



American Coot - *Fulica americana*

## Results

- There was a significant difference in the American Coots at the HBNWR compare to the Arcata Marsh.

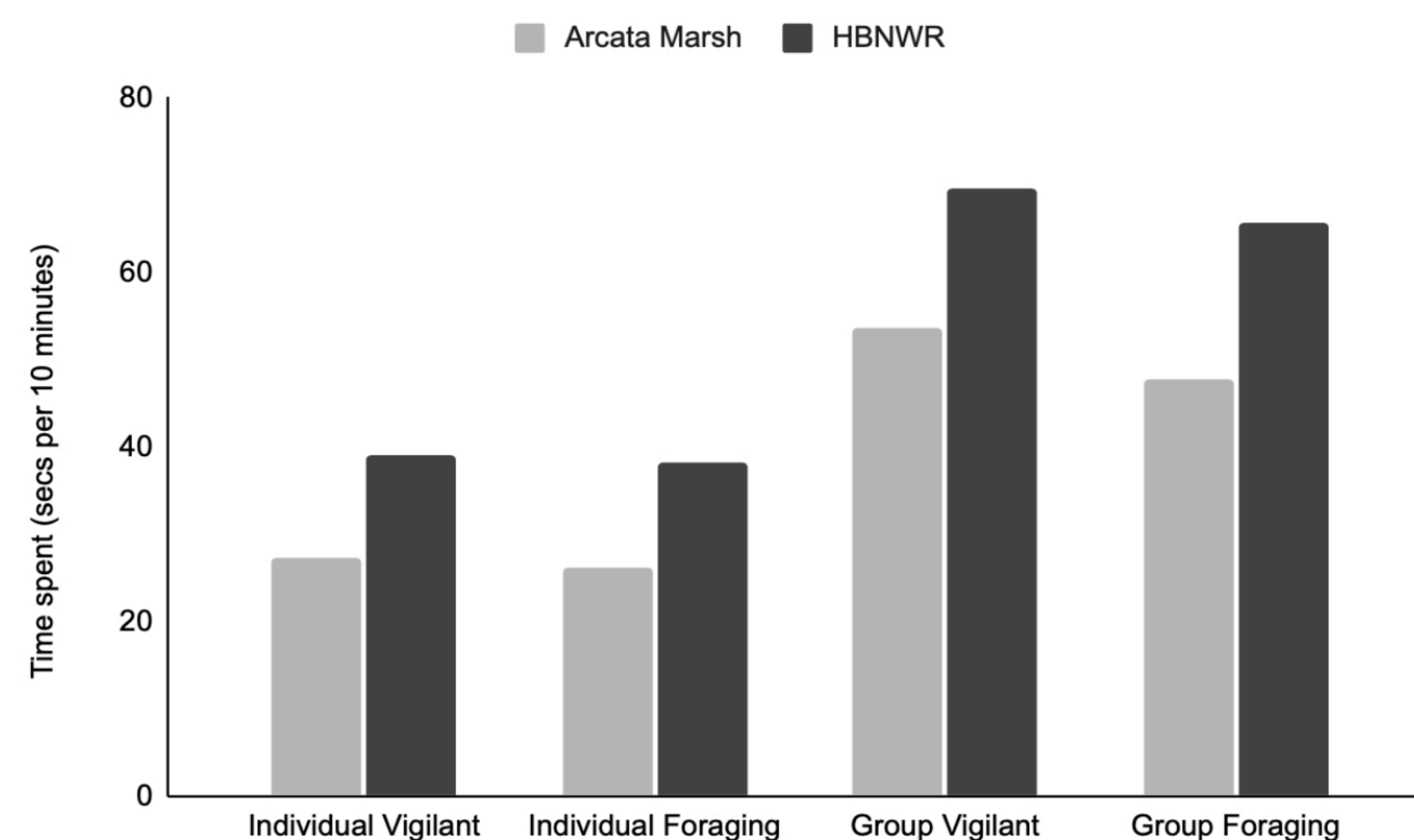
T-test	P-value
Arcata Marsh-Group Vs Individual Foraging	0.1063928346
Arcata Marsh-Group Vs Individual Vigilance	0.05427577463
HBNWR-Group Vs Individual Foraging	0.00830667154
HBNWR-Group Vs Individual Vigilance	0.001380075618

## Methods

- Scan Sampling
- Arcata Marsh and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Observed species with a spotting scope (Vortex Diamond Back HD 16-48x65)
- Binoculars (Vortex Crossfire HD 10x42)
- 10 minute observations and used a stop watch to keep track of time spent foraging and vigilant in a group or individual.

## Discussion

- Significant difference of time spent foraging and vigilant based on location.
- Group of American coot seem to foraging more and are more vigilant that the HBNWR compare to the American coot found at the Arcata Marsh.
- Why is there a difference?
- More resources available?
- Reproductive opportunities?
- Resident or not?



## Acknowledgements

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## Literature Cited

- All about Birds [AAB]. 2023. American coot.
- Jones, J.C., 1940. Food Habits of the American Coot: with notes on distribution. Vol 2. US Government printing Office.

- Figure 1. Bar chart of time spent foraging and vigilant in both locations in seconds per 10 minutes.