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RED-KNOBBED COOT – 8TH BREEDING RECORD FOR KWAZULU NATAL - JULY 2011

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The current edition of Roberts Birds of Southern Africa reports only 7 breeding records of Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* in KwaZulu-Natal (Dean, 2005). On 24 July 2011 a breeding pair of Red-knobbed Coot with a single chick was observed at Tala Game Reserve (S 29°50' E 30°31'). The chick was very small and the parents very attentive on and in close proximity of the nest. One adult was bringing food to the other adult which in turn fed the chick. This transfer of food happened while the adult and chick were on the nest.

The adult on the nest was clearly very protective of the chick. It pecked continually at the chick’s head in order to keep it concealed under her body and thus out of sight.

No other eggs could be observed in the nest. This may indicate that a single egg had been laid or predation of other eggs may have occurred.

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References

Figure 1 – Transferring of food from one adult to the other

Figure 2 – Adult and chick swimming away from nest