

# Ornithological Observations



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Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

**Editor: Arnold van der Westhuizen**

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## RED-KNOBBED COOT – 8<sup>TH</sup> BREEDING RECORD FOR KWAZULU NATAL - JULY 2011

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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

Dean WRJ 2005 Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* in Hockey PAR,  
Dean WRJ, Ryan PG (eds.) 2005. Roberts Birds of Southern Africa.  
7th edn. John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town.



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



Figure 2 – Adult and chick swimming away from nest