

Beatrice's Movements in 2008

Autumn Migration

09 August 2008

This was her last night' roosting at her nest site.

10 August 2008: Beatrice sets off South

She roosted overnight on the River Avon, where she had earlier been fishing, near Cairnacray, north of Tomintoul. At 11am she was on a hillside above the river and later set off on migration, as she had passed over the Ladder Hills into Aberdeenshire by 1 pm. Then she turned more to the south, skirting the high Cairngorms and 2 hours later was 1 mile west of Kirriemuir in Angus. At 5pm she was just NE of Perth and after crossing the River Tay, she settled for the night in woods a mile south of Strathmiglo.



11 August 2008

At 6am, Beatrice was circling near the Tyndall Bruce Monument, and an hour later was flying SSE at 23km/hour near Scotlandwell. An hour later she was flying SSW 2 miles west of Kirkcaldy, before crossing the Firth of Forth, the westerly winds pushing a little to the east, so she came ashore over Leith Docks, Edinburgh. At 10am she was over Loganlea Drive, Portobello and the last fix for this batch of transmissions at 11am gave her position as a mile east of Penicuik and she was flying south at 23 km/h. I wonder if and where she will choose for her 'stop-over' location. In the afternoon, Beatrice meandered south through the area in the Borders where ospreys now nest. Flying south of Ettrickbridge at 2pm, she passed Hawick an hour later flying SSE at 39km/h. She stopped for the night in a big forest just west of Lauriston Fell on the Border.

12 August 2008

All day in the Newcastleton forest area or along a small river which runs through Old Castleton; presumably stopped by bad weather.

13 August 2008

Morning in the Newcastleton forest then after 1pm she flew south over the Border into ENGLAND. At 2pm she was flying SSE at 41km/hour and heading for Spadeadam Forest, carrying on she passed over Hadrian's Wall near Haltwhistle and so on into Weardale, where she headed for Burnhope reservoir. At 6pm she was flying over the top end of the Northumbrian Water reservoir presumably fishing. The evening was spent perched along the north side of the lake and she roosted in a clearing in the forest.

14 August 2008

At 9am she flew 2.5 miles north, possibly to eat a fish, and was perched there on a heather hill for several hours. At midday she was flying south at 27km/h near Pawlaw Pike, to the NE of Middleton-on-Teesdale. an hour later she was 2 miles west of Darlington, and at 2pm was flying at 45km/h near Danby Wiske, north of Northallerton. An hour later she was over the Hambleton Hills in the North York Moors National Park and an hour later was settled at a small lake nesting in woodland called Oulston reservoir in the Howardian Hills. She remained there all evening and moved a few hundred yards to roost in large conifers.

15 August 2008

She spent the early morning, probably in poor weather, at the lake, and at 10am had moved a few miles east and was flying SSW over Yearley. An hour later she was flying SE at 38km/h 5 miles east of York, and at 2pm she was 4 miles SW of Lincoln and 2 hours later she was perched near a small river and lakes just NE of Lancaster. At 5pm she was flying SW near Billingborough at 38km/h and an hour later reached woodland NW of Bourne, where she roosted overnight. By chance, we were staying that night about 15 miles south at Stamford, with Tim Mackrill the Rutland Water Osprey Project Officer, after carrying out some studies on their ospreys and launching my new Osprey book at the Rutland BirdFair.



16 August 2008

A lovely day in Lincolnshire, but Beatrice did not leave her roost until 9am, when she was flying SW but did not travel far for she stayed near some lakes near Witham Hall. After midday, she crossed the A1 trunk road and headed for Rutland Water. Tim had alerted the Osprey wardens at the reserve and soon she was seen at the nest near the Manton Bay hides - this evening email reports: "Beatrice landed on the nest at 13:10 this afternoon and was identified by our volunteer, Ken Baker, who could clearly see the satellite aerial. Neither of the breeding birds were present when she arrived, but after five minutes female 5N returned and chased Beatrice off the nest. They then circled together for several minutes before drifting off in a south-westerly direction, 5N still following the intruder... Will be really interesting to see if she stays around for a few days!" Her arrival was announced on the public address speakers at the BirdFair, teaming with Saturday's visitors.

When the satellite data came in I could she was flying above Manton Bay at 44km/h at 350 feet at 1pm; an hour later she was roosting 3 miles SW of Rutland Water, at 3pm she was fishing over Eyebrook reservoir and on the last signal this transmission she had been roosting from 4pm to 6pm in big trees north of Eyebrook.



We were driving home from the BirdFair and just after 9am passed the place on the A1, where Beatrice crossed at midday! We decided to look for her roosts of the previous two nights on our way north, so turned off the A1 at York and then cut across country into the Howardian Hills and then on to the Durham and Northumbrian hills. We found Oulston reservoir nestling in wooded farmlands in a lovely part of Yorkshire; could not get close to the lake but could see where she had fished and the big trees where she roosted. Burnhope reservoir in Weardale was a much more exposed lake, up in the moors, surrounded on parts of both banks with conifer plantations. Burnhope reservoir below left and Oulston reservoir on right - it was interesting to look at the locations of her migratory roosts and fishing sites.

17 August 2008

Beatrice roosted overnight near Eyebrook Reservoir. During last evening she moved to a clearing within a big wood where she roosted. She was still there at 9am, and then moved nearer Eyebrook reservoir where she fished during the morning. John Wright, osprey warden at Rutland, found her eating a fish on a dead tree between 11am and midday (see his photo), then she was flushed by a farm worker and spent the next half an hour drifting around with a couple of other ospreys. Soon after she set off south passing Corby at 1pm, flying SSE at 41km/h. She passed Wellingborough an hour later at 471 metres altitude, and at

3pm was just NW of Bedford flying SSW at 51km/h. An hour later she was perched in a wood just north of the M1, west of Flitwick, and then moved to big woods to the SW of Woburn Abbey, where she roosted overnight.

18 August 2008

Beatrice was perched in hedge row trees south of Woburn at 10am; an hour later she was flying SE at 48km/h near Dagnall, and at midday she was still flying at 47km/h over Latimer, 2 miles east of Amersham. Rest of data not yet in.



9am perched in farmland trees

19 August 2008

First part of data received this afternoon. 7-9am she was in parkland 5 miles SW of Maidenhead, where she had probably roosted. At 10am, she was migrating SE at 33km/h over Camberly Heath, then an hour later was over Thursley Common and at midday she was at 21km/h SSW over the South Downs near Rackham in West Sussex. At this point she was about 8 miles to the English Channel; the weather was showers and light rain with a SW wind of 25mph. She set off out to

sea and at 2pm she was 28 miles out into the English Channel, heading for the French coast, 50 miles away.

The late evening signals showed she had crossed the Channel successfully - reaching the French coast north of Fecamp in Seine-Maritime; at 6pm she was over the village of Theuville-aux-Maillots. She roosted nearby.



Beatrice's route through Scotland and England - 620 miles from her eyrie to French coast



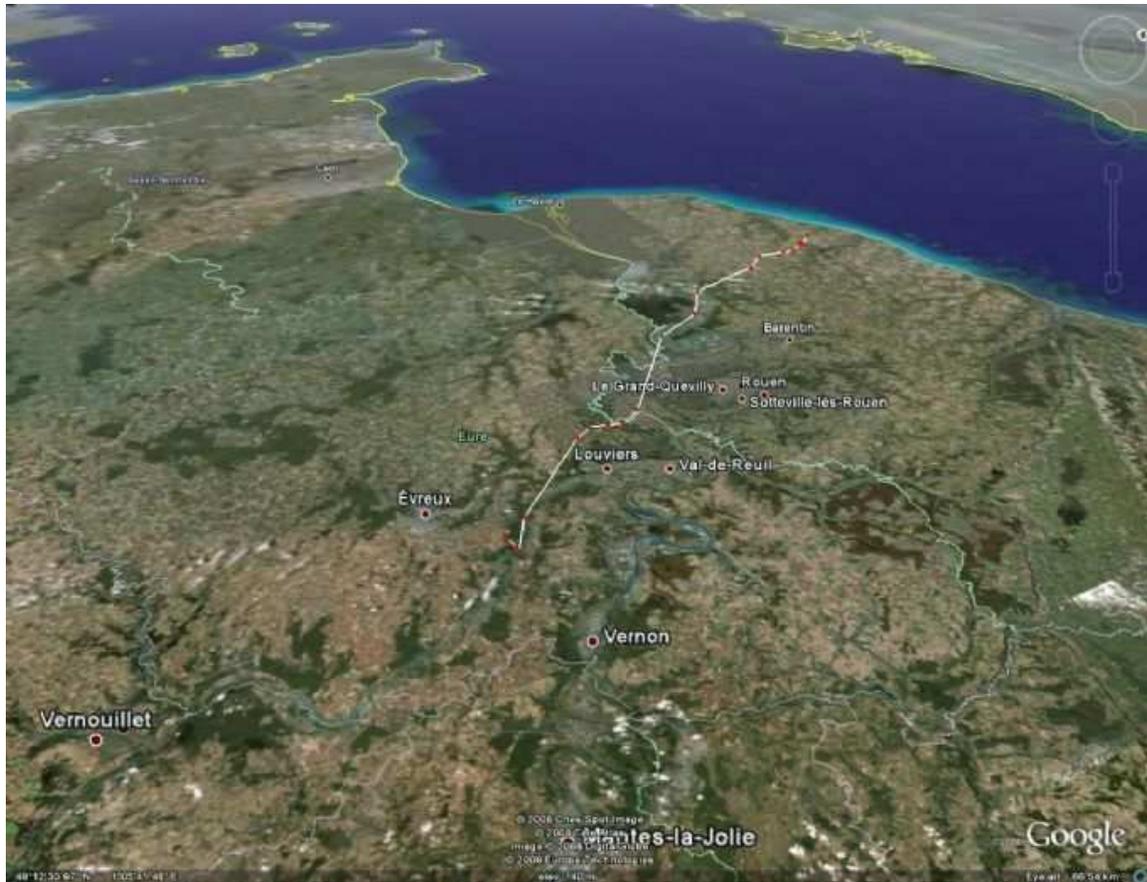
Beatrice's flight across the English Channel - SW wind 25mph drifting her to east.

20 August 2008

Beatrice was slow to move out of the area but reached the River Seine at midday near Le Trait, flying SE an hour later she was over artificial lakes near the Seine south of Jumieges. Next she was on the banks of the Seine near Elberg and then in the later afternoon was roosting on a large parkland tree in the Forest de Bord, NW of Louviers. Overnight roost little south on edge of wood near La Vallee.

21st August 2008

At 6am, two kilometres south near La Haye Malherbe; slowly moving south-east but poor weather conditions for migration, and may be she's looking for a stop-over place with plenty of fish.



22 August 2008

Beatrice started migrating again in the afternoon, at 2pm she was east of Evreux heading SSE at 46km/h. An hour later she was on a small river north of Dreux where she roosted overnight in trees beside the river.

23 August 2008

She was beside the river at 6-7am and 9am, and out in a field at 8am, probably eating a fish. At 10am she was 15 kilometres SSW and had changed her heading from SSE to SSW; at 11am she was west of Chartres flying S at 45km/h and at 2pm she had covered 120 km from her night roost. By now she had climbed to 1077 metres altitude, local land 150metres, and she kept this height, being 1287metres altitude NW of Tours at 3pm flying SSW at 57Km/day. At 6pm she was perched on the north bank of the River Vienne, not far from its confluence with the River Loire. She was in trees 150 metres from the river bank opposite

the village of Rassay. The local weather had been clear and sunny, with very light west wind. Tomorrow's forecast is light rain.

24 August 2008

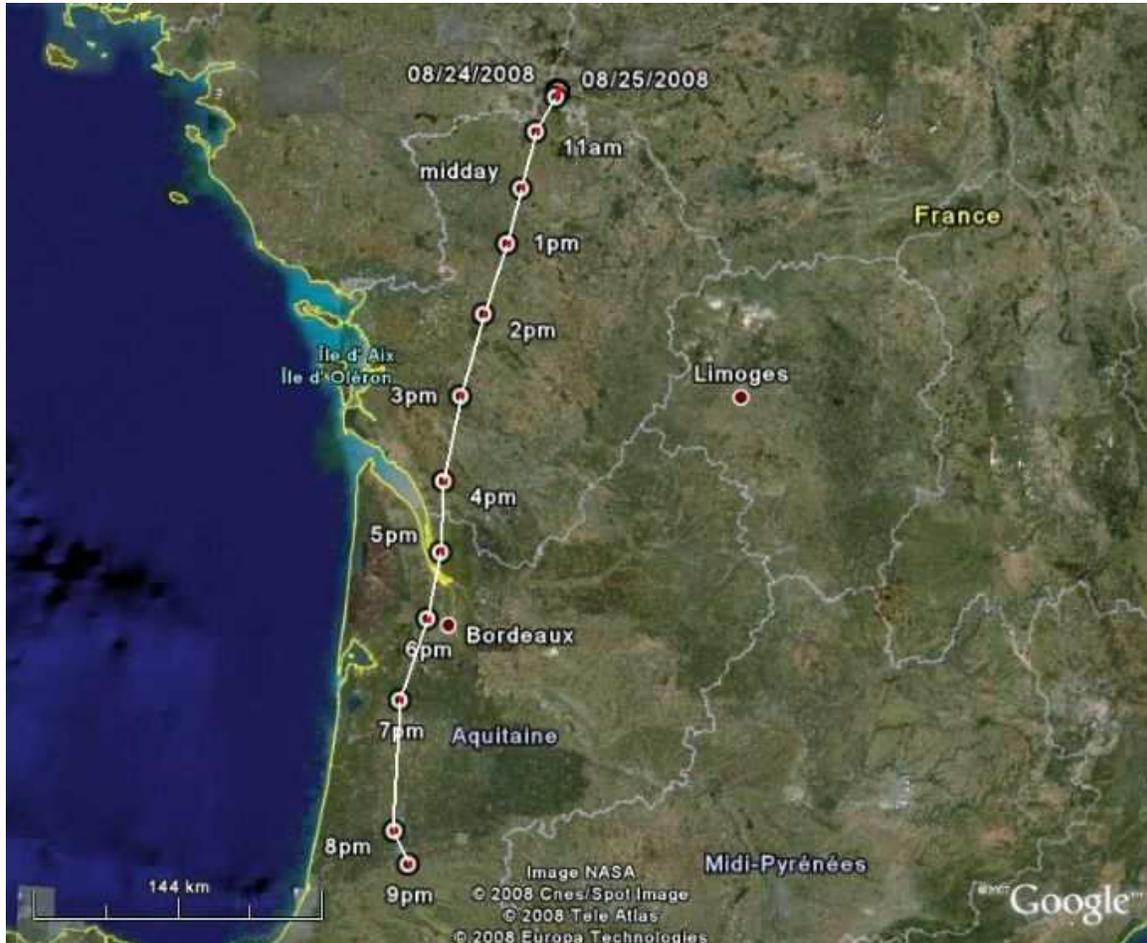
Beatrice stayed all day in the same area; a landscape close to the river of small fields surrounded by tall hedges - probably a floodplain hay meadows. At 9am she was fishing along the north bank of the River Loire opposite Bertignolles and an hour later after returning to her roost, she was again fishing the Loire, further downstream, below Montsoreau near the bridge.



25 August 2008

Beatrice remained at her roost on the Vienne until the fog cleared. She started her day's migration in sunny conditions just before 10am, when she was 2.9 kms south-west, flying at 57km/h to the SSW. Beatrice kept up this progress and at midday had covered 52 kilometres and was at 600 metres altitude passing over the Department of Deux-Sevres; at 3pm she was soaring to an altitude of 1104 metres near Saintes and had flown 158 kilometres. At 5pm she crossed the River Gironde at Braye and at 7pm she was still migrating strongly south, flying at

67km/h at 532 metres near Biscarrose, 25 kilometres from the Atlantic coast. By 9pm, she was perched in a small wood by a small river near Onard, about 40 kilometres NE of Dax. She had travelled 393 kilometres in 11 hours, and is now just north of the Pyrenees.



28 August 2008

Beatrice has settled down on a small area of woodlands, oxbows, marsh and a small river just SW of Gout - looks a very nice fishing area for ospreys. This river flows on to reach Dax and then Bayonne. It is north of the Pyrenees so Beatrice has halted her migration.

29 August 2008

She was still in this area this morning, but at 10am she started flying SSW and by midday was 23 kilometres from there and SW of Dax, with the Pyrenees ahead.

The weather there today (30th) is mostly sunny, light winds and some thunderstorms later. She kept flying to the SW to skirt the Pyrenees and crossed into Spain at 3pm at 908 metres altitude. Beatrice flew east of Pamplona and after 135 kilometres day's flight she settled for the night on a small river near Senoria de Sarria, north of Puente la Reina.

30 August 2008

She was still at the riverside roost at 9am, but at 10am was flying at 56km/h heading south and kept up this speed over the next two hours, gaining height to 1095 metres. At midday, she was flying SSW near Mendavia, 15 km east of Logrono. An hour later she was flying ESE at 1527 metres over the vineyards of La Rioja, and by 3pm she had passed over the mountains, then she gained height again to 1967 metres, flying SSW at 50km/h. Beatrice passed east of Soria and at 6pm has stopped by the small river Duero, just south of Cubo de la Solana in Castille y Leon. Day's flight 141 kilometres.

31 August 2008

At the riverside until 9am, presumably fishing; at 10am she was flying S at 55km/h and in good weather she flew strongly southwards, passing 3 kilometres east of Sigüenza and at midday was flying SW at 66 km/h at 2018 metres near Algora. At 2pm she was 20 kilometres east of Madrid, and kept flying strongly S or SSW to be near Malagon at 5pm; an hour later she was in olive plantations further south, where she has probably roosted for the night, having flown 466 kilometres.



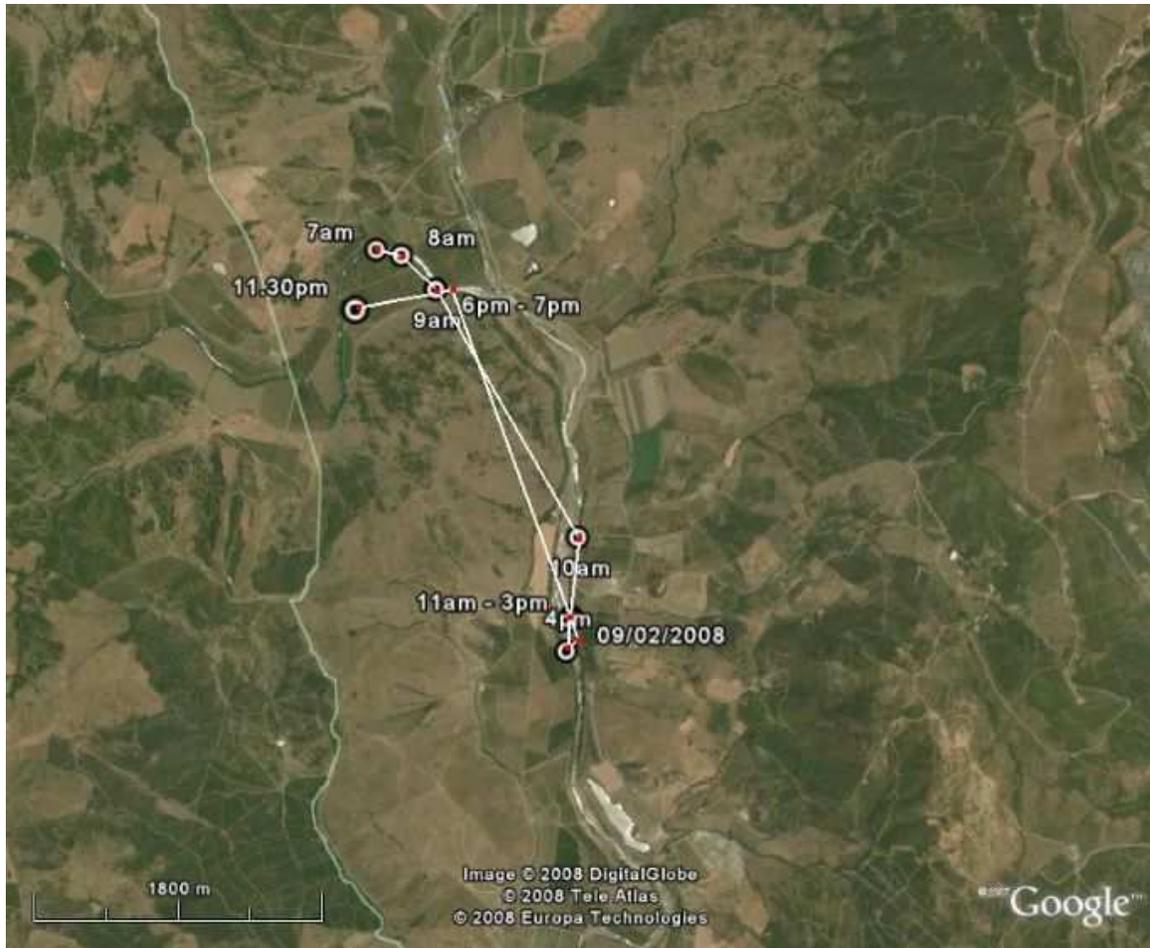
01 September 2008

Beatrice roosted last night on the River Guadalquivir just SW of Villafranca de Cordoba and was still in that area until 10am. She was flying S at 38km/h an hour later and at midday was just east of Ecija. She flew steadily south and was high over the Embalse de Zahara at 3pm. At 4pm she was still flying S fast 64km/hr at 1680 metres near El Colnemar and at 5 pm reached a small river upstream from San Marba del Tesonilla, upstream from Sotogrande. She move 2 kilometres upstream to a small dammed side river lake where she roosted the night. A day's flight of 193 kilometres. So she is ready to cross the Straits of Gibraltar tomorrow, where the forecast is sun and light west winds. Emailed the raptor watch on Gibraltar last evening to keep an eye open for Beatrice!



02 September 2008

John Cortes from Gibraltar said it wasn't a good day for migration, and Beatrice decided the same - she stayed all day on the small river about 12 kilometres inland from Sotogrande. See map.



04 September 2008

Still in the same river system - appears to be on stop-over or waiting for better weather.

06 September 2008

Beatrice remained on the river Guadiara, although she moved about more, visiting a dammed lake just west of the coastal motorway north of Sotogrande and on the 5th she roosted both morning and early evening in hillside trees to the east of her favourite dam. The weather is good so she has clearly decided to stop-over - maybe it's just a good place for her to catch fish before crossing to Africa.



Beatrice's favourite roosting and feeding site - a small dammed tributary of the River Guadiaro.

Winter 2008-2009

7th - 11th September 2008

Still in the same area - now into her 10th day of her stop-over. A friend in Spain is hoping to get the area checked out tomorrow and send me some photos of the stop-over area.

After giving her time to move on, we realise that this is Beatrice's wintering site - she's one of the increasing number of ospreys that do not travel to Africa.

12th - 27th September 2008

Beatrice continues her stop-over near Sotogrande: mainly on the river Guadiaro on the dammed side river further north, and sometimes roosting on open land away from the water. Cloudy and even some rain, east wind - due to be sunny on Thursday. Now 27 days of stop-over at this locality.

28th Sep - 16th October 2008

Beatrice has continued to use the parts of the river for an extended stop-over or is she going to winter in Spain? On 7th October, she did fly to the Mediterranean Sea and was possibly fishing 600 metres off the coastal town of La Duquesa, as at 3pm she was flying north at 25 km/h just 29 metres over the sea. At 4pm and 5pm she was perched by a small reservoir about one kilometre west of the coastal motorway, before returning to her usual haunts.

17th - 27th October 2008

Beatrice is settled in winter quarters in southern Spain - which gives an incredible spread of wintering sites for our three adult ospreys. On the 26th October she wandered a bit and at 1pm was 16 kilometres south of her usual haunts over the Mediterranean Sea near La Alcaidesa.

31st October 2008

Beatrice continues to live in the same area; on 28th she was at the mouth of the river near Soto Grande flying at 31km/h at 71 metres over the river, and then flew north to spend three hours at the reservoir near the motorway, before returning to her usual haunts. Beatrice's positions 18th -27th October.

1st -10th November 2008

Beatrice stayed in the same wintering area, except for a few trips to the Mediterranean coast to fish. At 11am on 5th, she was flying SSE at 79km/h at 327 metres south of Soto Grande, and on 4th was perched in woodlands south of Guadiaro at 3pm and 4pm, before returning to usual haunts.

20th November 2008

Beatrice is still using her winter haunts. She was at her roost in upper river until 7am, then at 8 on south section of river, at 9am flying south at 36km at 40 metres down the river. 10am perched in woods south of Guadiaro, an hour later was flying at 12km/h NE at mouth of river, then back to woods until 3pm; at 4pm flying east at 25km/h at 222 metres back towards roost, at 5pm on river near roost and at 6pm back at same roost (see map). Her days flights were at least 38 kilometres. Earlier in week Tim Mackrill (Osprey project officer at Rutland Water) located her on several occasions at her roosting area. He will be sending a report for the webpage when he returns to England.

4th December 2008

Beatrice still in same area. Below is Tim's report:

Looking for Beatrice 17th and 18th November 2008 - Tim Mackrill

As her satellite radio has shown, Beatrice's winter home is the secluded river valley of the Rio Guadiaro in south-western Spain, quite unlike some of the other areas favoured by wintering Ospreys in the region, such as the salt pans of Cadiz and large reservoirs in the south of Andalucia. On 17th and 18th November, whilst birdwatching in Andalucia, I visited the Guadiaro area with Paul Stammers and Lloyd Park from Rutland Water, and Flavio Monti from Italy to try and find her. Like most wintering Ospreys, Beatrice has a favoured roosting site, a short section of the Guadiaro some 14 kilometres inland from the river mouth at

Sotogrande. On the first morning we were joined by Juan Hegial - a fieldworker from the Spanish Osprey project - and arrived at the site around mid-morning. Using a GPS, we were able to pin-point the trees that Beatrice probably roosts in: one very obvious dead tree and other more secluded perches amongst white poplars bordering the river. The river itself was surprisingly narrow and not more than 10 metres across, but the numerous perching sites obviously provide an undisturbed roosting area for Beatrice. A significant proportion of land in the Guardiaro valley is given over to orange-growing and the field adjacent to the roosting area has been planted up with young orange trees. The land-owners proved to be very friendly and were really interested to hear of their now-famous resident!

Whilst walking along the river I suddenly heard a sound I often hear at Rutland Water - the familiar chipping notes of an Osprey - and looked up to see not one, but two Ospreys flying over-head - Beatrice and a second bird, probably a juvenile female. They soon disappeared behind the poplars bordering the river, but it was very interesting to know that there was at least one other Osprey wintering in the area. About half an hour later, Beatrice re-appeared, this time flying south alone. She disappeared behind the hills behind us, no doubt heading for her regular daytime haunts further south along the river valley. Despite several hours of searching we failed to relocate Beatrice during afternoon. She was not perched on any of the pylons that the GPS data suggested she sits on during the day and her other favoured daytime perches along the river were well hidden. If we were going to see Beatrice again it seemed that her roosting area would be the best place to try and so next morning we were in position before dawn. At 7:40, just as it was beginning to get light, a Buzzard landed on the prominent dead tree close to river. Almost immediately Beatrice flew up from a hidden perch and dive-bombed the Buzzard. Despite her best efforts, the Buzzard would not be moved and, after several stoops, Beatrice disappeared behind the hills to our south. I climbed the hill in an effort to see where she had gone, but by the time I reached the top there was no sign. The one consolation was that the views from the top were spectacular. Looking south it was possible to see the river mouth at Sotogrande, just a short flight away for an Osprey.

After checking the pylons and other perching sites we drove to the river mouth at Sotogrande. Here the river is wider and enters the Mediterranean in a lovely sheltered bay perfect for an Osprey to fish in. Walking along the beach with Gannets diving for fish offshore, the rock of Gibraltar was prominent on the horizon. We checked a wooded area Beatrice sometimes perches in during the day, but again without luck. Later in the afternoon we returned to the roosting area to wait for Beatrice to return. Sure enough, at 17:50 Beatrice appeared from the south and dropped onto a hidden perch beside the river. Once again the view was fairly brief, but having seen Beatrice on migration as she passed through Rutland Water in late August, it was great to have seen her on her winter quarters in the sunshine of the south of Spain.

14th December 2008

Beatrice is still using the same area - mainly in the middle river section, but this is probably because many of the GPS positions are for the late morning and early noon - even in Spain the battery is not charging fully every day. Today she was in mid river, possibly fishing 9 -10am, then three hours in fields away from river and then she flew to her upper roost area.

19th - 20th December 2008: Beatrice on a 'walk-about'

After being faithful to her wintering site along the Guadiaro valley since 1st September, Baaetrice suddenly set off on a tour of the land towards Gibraltar. At 11am on 19th December, she was at her usual haunts on the middle river, but at the next GPS fix at 3pm she was flying at 48km/h just west of Estacion Ferrea, over 20 kilometres to the south. At 4pm she was perched on a hill near a small dam to the east of the highway, and an hour later she had crossed back over the highway A405 and was perched at the north end of a long lake. The next contact was at midday on 20th, when Beatrice was perched near a dam 2 kilometres SW of Estacion Ferrea, at 1pm and 2pm she was perched on the hilltop at Cerro Mercelo, 2 kilometres north of the Gibraltar turnoff on the main coastal highway. At 3pm she was flying NE at 37kms/h at 122 metres towards Tajo del Pajarraco, and an hour later was flying east at 30kms/h just south of her middle river haunts back in her wintering site.

21st - 27th December 2008

Back in usual haunts

6th January 2009

Beatrice's last batch of signals were on the 3rd, when she was roosting overnight in the same trees at the top part of the river.

23rd January 2009

Recent fixes for Beatrice have been in the same river system and last night she was roosting in trees near the upper dam.

3rd February 2009

Beatrice has settled back into a routine of using mainly the middle and higher sections of the Guadiaro river.

17th February 2009

Beatrice has a new routine. She continues to roost at night and use the River Guadiaro as previously but from midday into the afternoons she has been flying further south to perch in coastal woodlands two kilometres north of Alcadeida.

27th February 2009

No change in behaviour, with Beatrice spending most of her time along the River Guadiaro.

5th March 2009

Latest data is all from the River Guadiaro or nearby, so she is probably feeding up and getting ready for the flight north.