

Beatrice's Movements in 2011

Spring Migration

04 March 2011: Beatrice sets off North

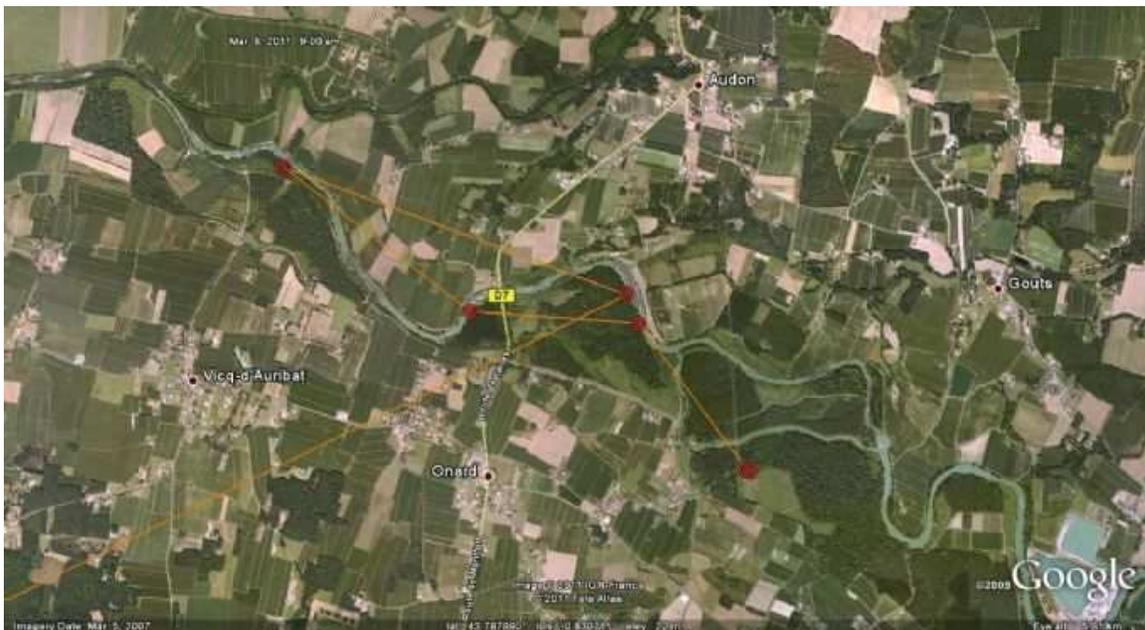
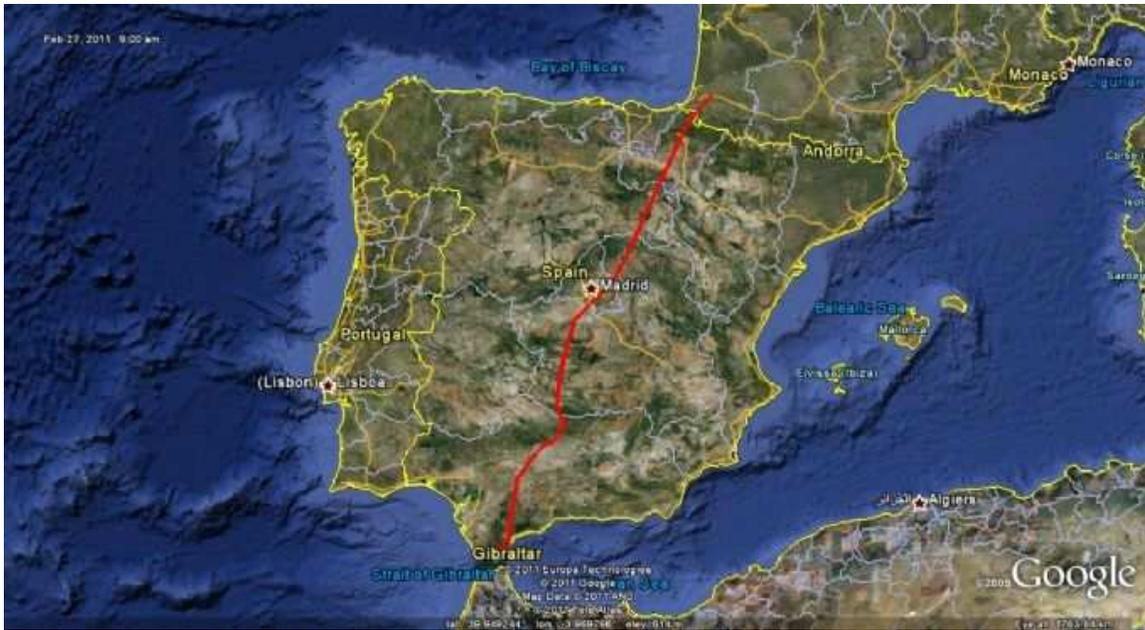
Beatrice was on the River Guadiaro at 1100GMT on 3rd March and had presumably eaten a morning fish. She soon after set off on her migration and at 1200GMT was over the mountains flying N at 31km/hr at 1563 metres altitude. By 1600 she was perched in some isolated trees on farmland beside the River Guadalquivir just east of Cordoba. She stayed there until 1800 and then moved to roost nearby in riverside trees.

On 4th, she was still on the river side at 0800GMT and then set off NNE and at 1500 was flew over the N430 near Luciana and an hour later she was still flying NNE at 78kms/hr at 1279 metres near Cuerva, south of Toledo. She is almost certainly heading for her stop-over site at the River Adour, north of the Pyrenees.

06 March 2011: Nearly reaches River Adour stop-over

After roosting just south of Toledo, Beatrice was flying north of Toledo at 0900GMT on 5th March and passed just east of Madrid at midday. She roosted at the north end of the Reservoir Dos Ramas that night, just south of Soria.

On 6th March, she was moving north near Soria at 0800GMT and at 1500GMT was just north of Pamplona heading for one of her valley routes through the Pyrenees. She was over the mountains just south of the French border at 1600GMT flying N at 59kms/hr at 1047 metres and soon passed over Bidarray in France. She came to rest for the night just east of Peyrehorade, on a southern tributary of the Adour, called Le Gave de Pau. She roosted that night in riverside trees. Her River Adour stop-over site is just 32 kms away so she should be there in the morning of the 7th. I wonder if she will stop-over and for how long. May be someone will see her there this spring.



Adour stop-over 7th-8th March

07 March 2011: At the Adour

Beatrice was flying on at 1000GMT and at 1100GMT changed direction a little to the east - flying at 50kms/hr at 87 metres altitude to reach her favourite part of the River Ardour well before midday. I wonder how long her stay will be this

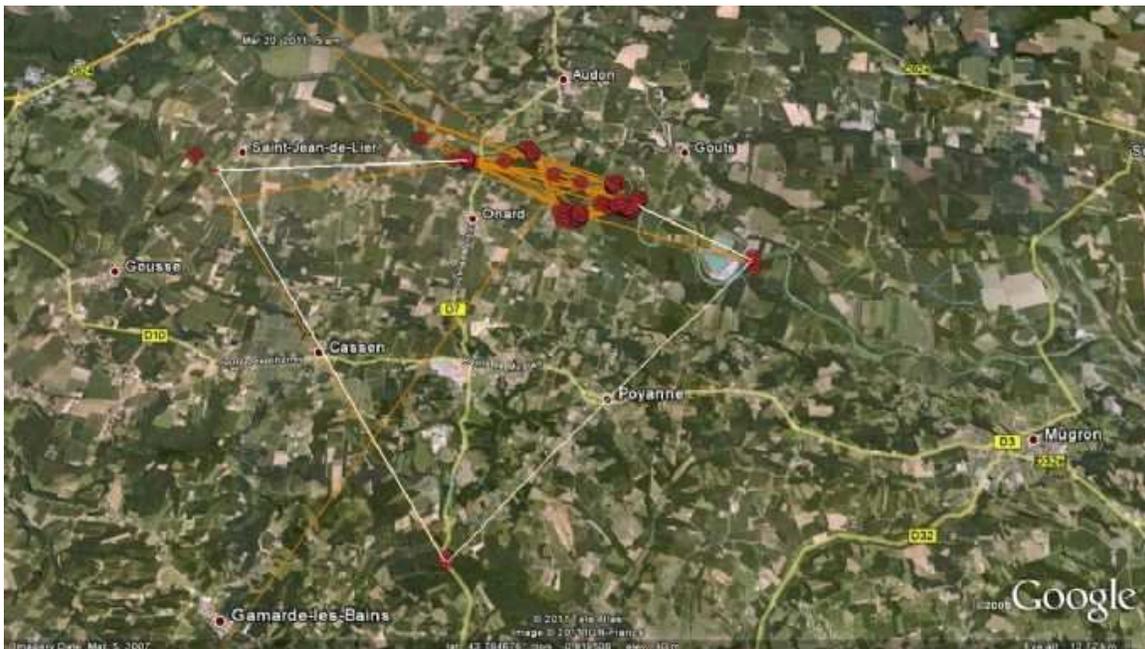
spring. Hoping that someone will see her and maybe get a photograph of her and her habitat.

10 March 2011: Well settled

Beatrice now well settled in her usual roosts and fishing sites on the Adour River.

20 March 2011: Still stopping over

No change - using the normal haunts on the Adour, although on the 18th she flew a circuit to the south and back.



24 March 2011

Still at Adour but some flights 5 kms south to bigger woodlands.

25 March 2011: Photographs of Beatrice and habitat

I am always grateful to birders who send in information on our migrating birds. Beatrice is a favourite - Joanne Brambley made a special trip from Toulouse to

the Adour but sadly missed finding and photographing Beatrice but she did enjoy seeing the locality and interesting birds.

Paul Lesclaux, who has read colour rings of our migrating ospreys and has erected osprey nest platforms, wrote to tell me his friend Valentin Dourthes had photographed Beatrice at Onard at 1400GMT on 24th, and also sent some habitat shots. Thanks to you all.





Beatrice – photo by Valentin Dourthes

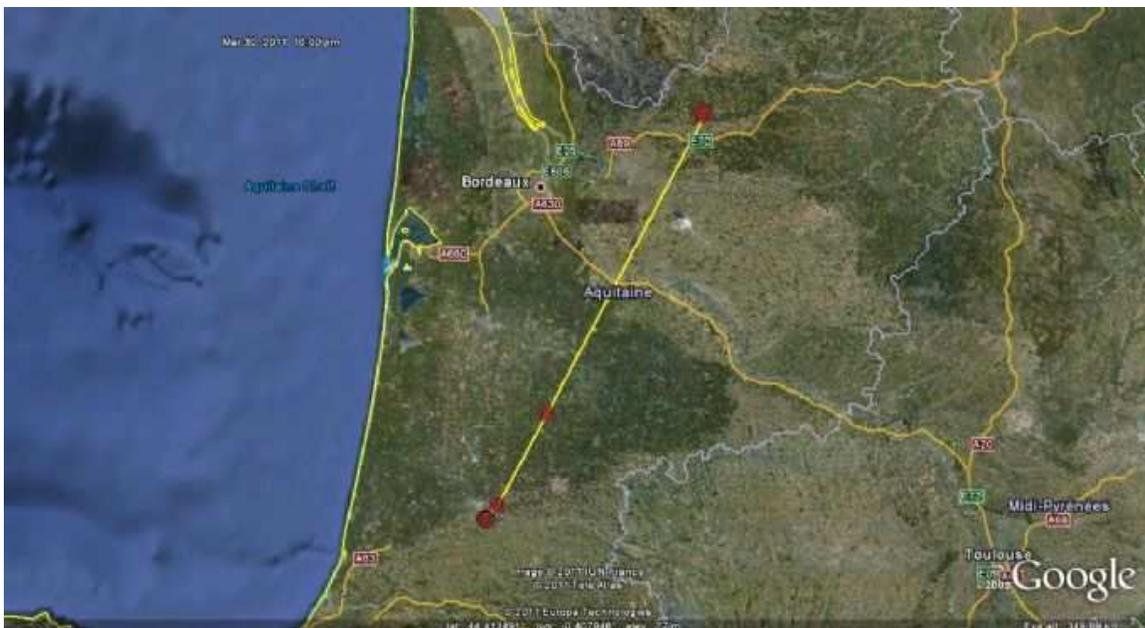
27 March 2011: No change

At 0800GMT this morning (27th) Beatrice was at a favourite location on the Adour, and throughout March 23rd to 27th she has remained in the main area with a flight down to river to fish.



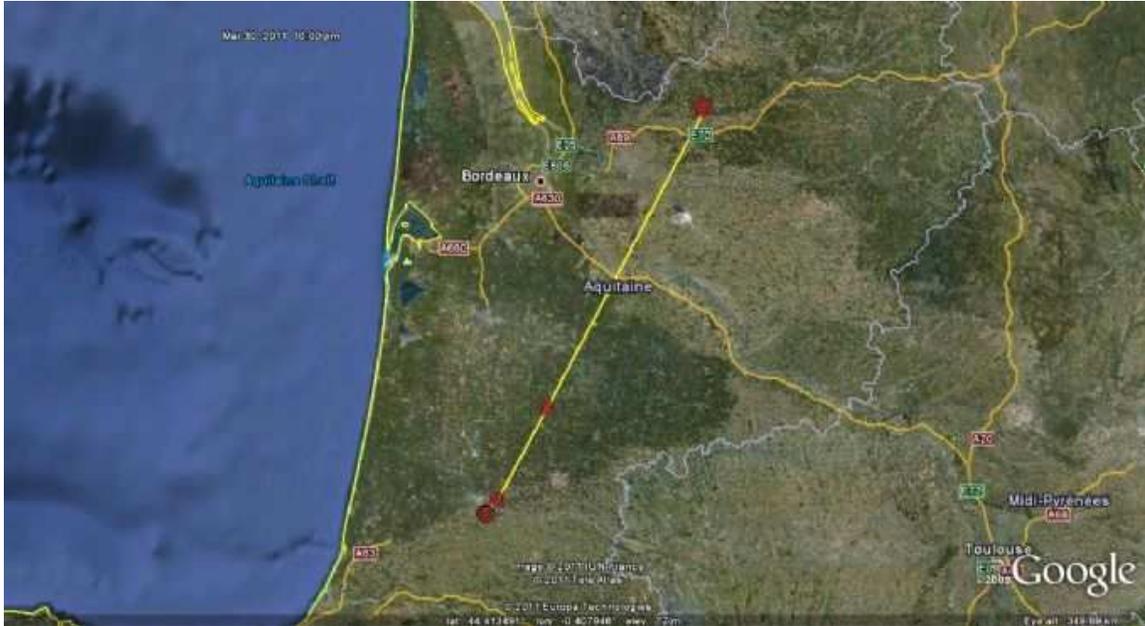
30 March 2011: Restarts migration

Beatrice fished as usual on the River Adour in the morning and then set off on renewed migration just before 1000GMT, when she was flying north at 49kms/hr. An hour later she was flying N at 75kms/hr at 373 metres altitude. At 1800 she was perched beside a wooded lake near Eygurande-et-Gardedenil, and an hour later settled to roost in woods 1.7kms NW. This is north of Montpon-Menesterol.



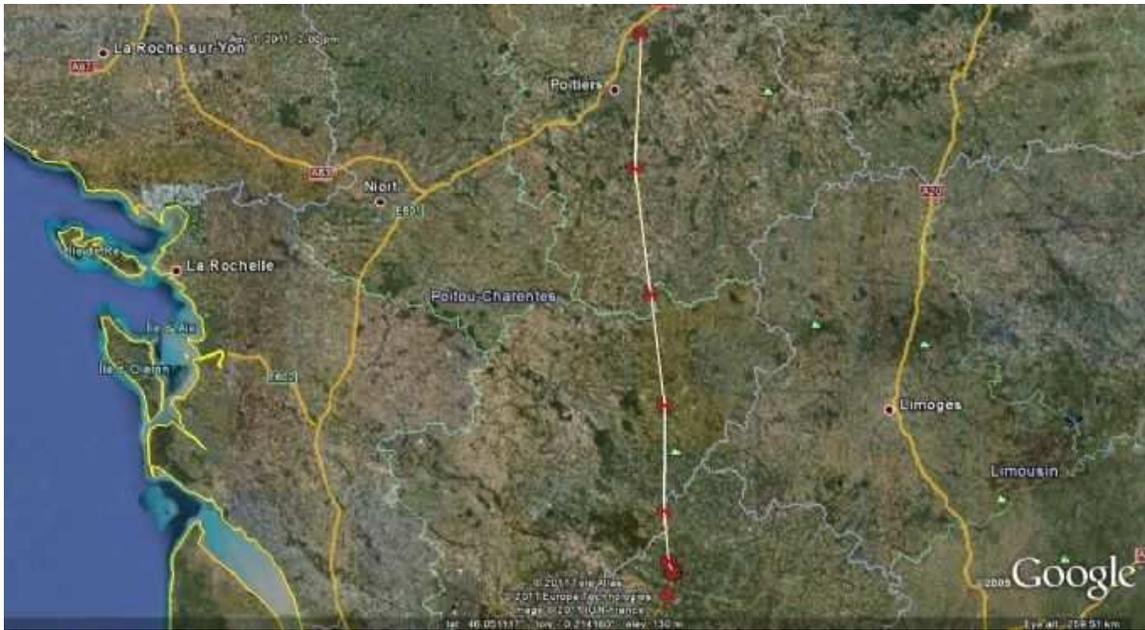
31 March 2011: Slow day

Beatrice just made 54 kms today through France. Set off after 0900GMT and at 1400 settled by lakes near Vieux-Mareuil.



01 April 2011: Much better day

Beatrice was well on her way by 0900GMT and midday was at Gencay flying at 38kms/hr at 448 metres. She flew east of Poitiers and crossed the Loire River near Jaunay-Clan and on the last signal of the batch at 1300 was flying strongly north and had already flown 141 kms.

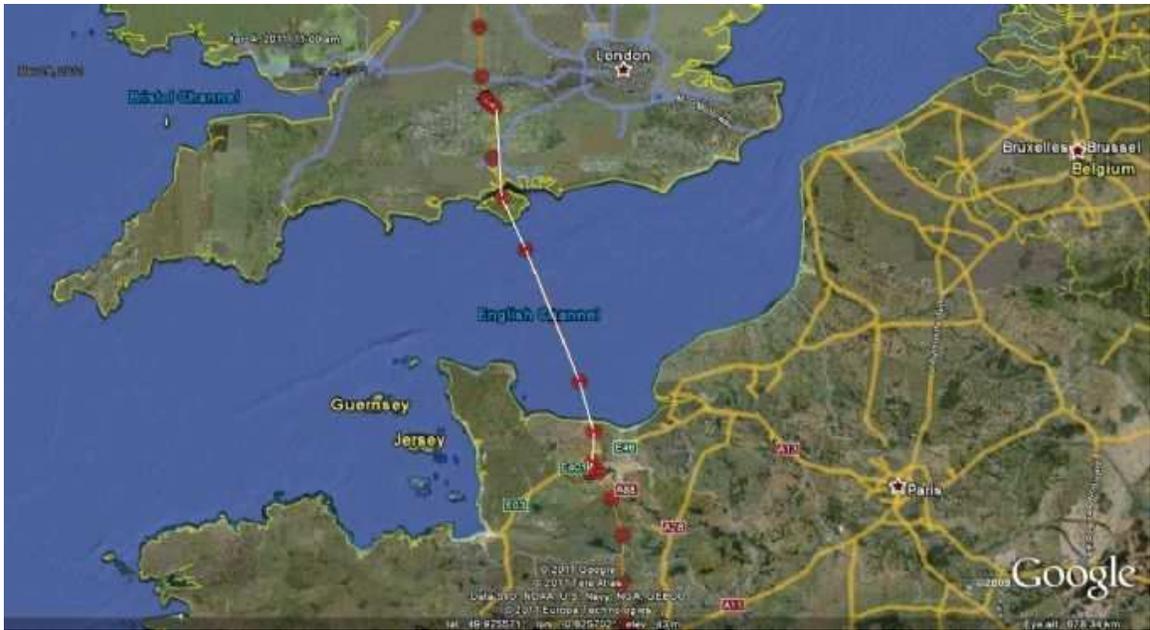


03 April 2011: Arrives in England

After roosting inland of the French coast, Beatrice set off North after 0800 GMT and crossed the coast just after 1000hrs, just west of Courseulles-sur-Mer and headed NNW across the Channel. At 1200 she was halfway flying N at 52kms/hr at 117 m above the sea. At 2 PM, British time, she was approaching the Isle of Wight still flying at 52kms/hr but now at sea level. She crossed the Isle of Wight and at 3 PM was flying NNW AT 67kms/hr just north of Newport. She flew over Southampton and at 5 PM turned North West near Ibthorpe, and then roosted in trees on the edge of a field at Linkenholt after today's flight of 272 km.

Later (4th April) got this message and photo from Kris Gillam "Hi Roy, thought you would like to hear of a sighting of Beatrice, I was able to see her arrive in England at St Catherines Point yesterday at 14.30. I took some photos of her as she passed over, see attached, and hoped I would be able to identify the bird on your website. Facinating to know her exact movements. Her timing and direction are very accurate - in 2009 she arrived just along the coast at Compton Bay on 2nd. cheers Kris <http://wightvogels.blogspot.com/> ""

Thanks Chris - I can just imagine the scene - as a kid I used to spend many happy days sea-watching at St Catherine's Point in the 1950s and it's where I learnt to mist-net and ring birds.

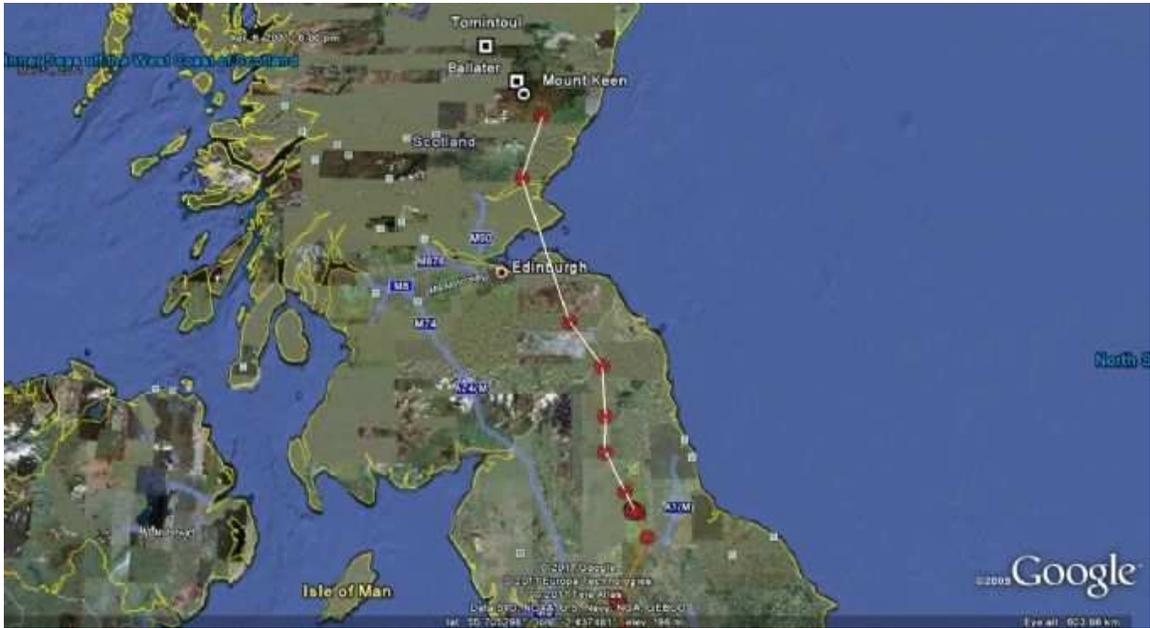


Beatrice over St. Catherine's Point, IOW. Kris Gillam

06 April 2011: Nearly there

Beatrice started this morning from Hamsterley Forest and headed north west of Hexham and the crossed the Border at Windy Gyle at 1pm. She crossed the Firth

of Forth between North Berwick and Elie in Fife and then at 5pm was 200 metres above Currys at Kingsway West in Dundee. At 6pm she was flying NNE over Glen Lethnot in Angus - so she'll have to roost in Angus or aberdeenshire, before home tomorrow.



07 April 2011: Home!

Beatrice roosted just north of Lumsden last night and she was so keen to get home that she had already set off on the last leg before 5am and arrived back at last year's nest at 6.15am.

Summer

10 April 2011: Moving around a lot

Beatrice has been at her last year's nest most of the time but has also made forays into West Moray and Nairn and was sitting on nests B06 and B20. B06 has not been used for several years while B20 has the male back, but his mate is still to arrive.

19 April 2011: Not settled

I have not been to her new nest yet but she's clearly not settled, maybe the old male has not returned yet. She has also been coming regularly to the west, and has been at her old nest on several occasions including roosting there overnight on the 17th/18th April. In her wanderings, she has ranged over 800 square kms. Hopefully a male will turn up and she can settle down.

25 April 2011: Back at her old home – fingers crossed!

Beatrice has been moving around a lot in the last ten days - one day she made a visit to the North Sutor headland beside the Cromarty Firth and another time was over the sea near Buckie. As the days went on she was spending more time in the Forres area, visiting several nests, and in the last 5 days she has spent more time at her old nest. I checked on Sunday afternoon and found her standing in the nest, with a new male visiting the nest and mating. My friends who overlook the nest tell me that the ospreys have been busy nest building; so we are hoping that she will settle down and breed with the new mate.

18 May 2011: Incubating

Beatrice is now incubating in her original nest with a new mate, from Fochabers area. She laid eggs about 3rd May and in the last ten days has been very close to the nest with one longer flight of 350 metres.

23 June 2011: Looking after a brood

Beatrice has hatched despite the bad weather, and is now feeding young. Twice during the last week she has been up to 300m metres from the nest.

08 July 2011: 2 chicks

Beatrice is rearing two chicks in her old nest - her locations are all for the area around the nest except for a quick 2kms trip to water (for washing?) at 9am on 4th July.

21 July 2011: Chicks just about ready to fledge

Beatrice's 2 chicks are nearly ready to fly and she has remained close to the nest over the whole recent period. A few hundred metres away being her furthest flights and she is now often roosting in dead trees behind the little nesting wood to get some respite from the noisy scene on the nest.

02 August 2011

Beatrice around nest site - local flights up to 400 metres distance.

07 August 2011: Chicks flying!

Mostly around the nest wood although on 3rd August she flew nearly 6 kms to freshwater and stayed there for two hours before returning to her nest.

12 August 2011: Heading off after a successful summer

I was at Beatrice's nest this afternoon and saw the two young on the nest eating a fish brought in by the male. They looked immaculate in their juvenile plumage and have been flying for over two weeks. My friends who overlook the nest site said they had not seen Beatrice today and when I checked the satellite data I could see why. Beatrice went to Findhorn Bay yesterday at 4pm and today at 11am she headed off SE at 30km/hr. By midday she was settled at one of her favourite jaunts on the River Avon between Tomintoul and Ballindalloch. I wonder

how long she will stay there before heading for France. It's really great that she returned to her old nest this year and that she has successfully reared two young.

Autumn Migration

13 August 2011: She didn't linger on the River Avon: She's off!

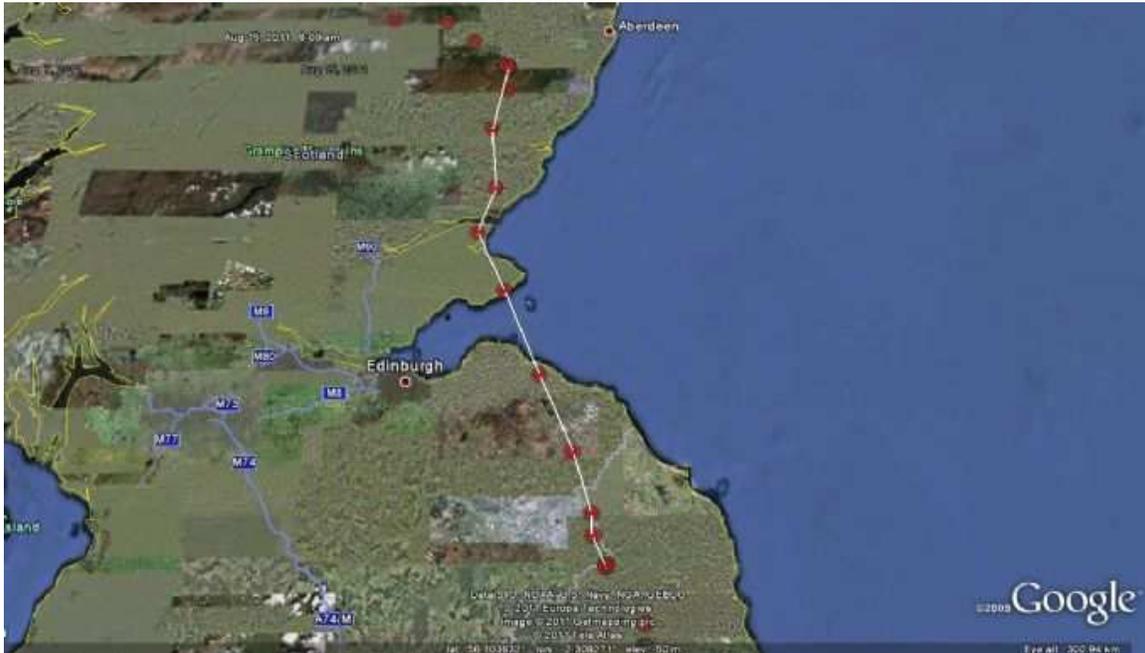
Beatrice slowly moved up the River Avon during the morning and at 1pm she was in Inchroy before turning east over the mountains. Crossing the Lecht ski area she reached Candacraig in Strathdon at 2pm. An hour later she was flying at 37km/hr over Logie Coldstone and then crossed the River Dee, upstream from Aboyne, before settling for the night in the hills west of Finzean. A first day's flight of 68 kms.



14 August 2011: England by late evening

She potted about on the small river until 10 AM and by an hour later was crossing Mildren Estate in Glenesk, Angus. Flying at 19 km/hr, she was nearly 1000 feet above the grouse moors on her way to the lowlands. At midday she was over Kirkton of Menmuir flying SE at 34 km/hr at an altitude of 628 metres. Before 2 PM she crossed the Tay estuary to Tentsmuir, and continued down the coast over the Eden estuary and St Andrews. At 3 PM she was 526 metres above Anstruther before heading out to sea, the fresh south-west wind pushed her eastwards and she came ashore at Dunbar just before 4 PM. Beatrice then headed SSE over East Lothian and by 6 PM was near Town Yetholm and by 8

PM was roosting in a forest in England, East of Windy Gyle. Her day's journey was 185 kms and she's following her usual track through eastern Britain.



15 August 2011: On South

By 10 AM she was already on her way and was flying SE at 47 kms/hr over the Otterburn ranges in Northumbria. At 11am she was flying SE at 43km/hr at 359m above Ponteland Road, NW Newcastle; passing down over the towns of the NE she was just NW of Durham at midday and an hour later flying SSE at 42km/hr 1286 metres above the west side of Middlesborough. At 3pm she was NE of York and then at 4pm was setting off over the River Humber at Brough and by 6pm had settled for the night near a wooded lake near Legsby, south of Market Rasen. A good day's migration.

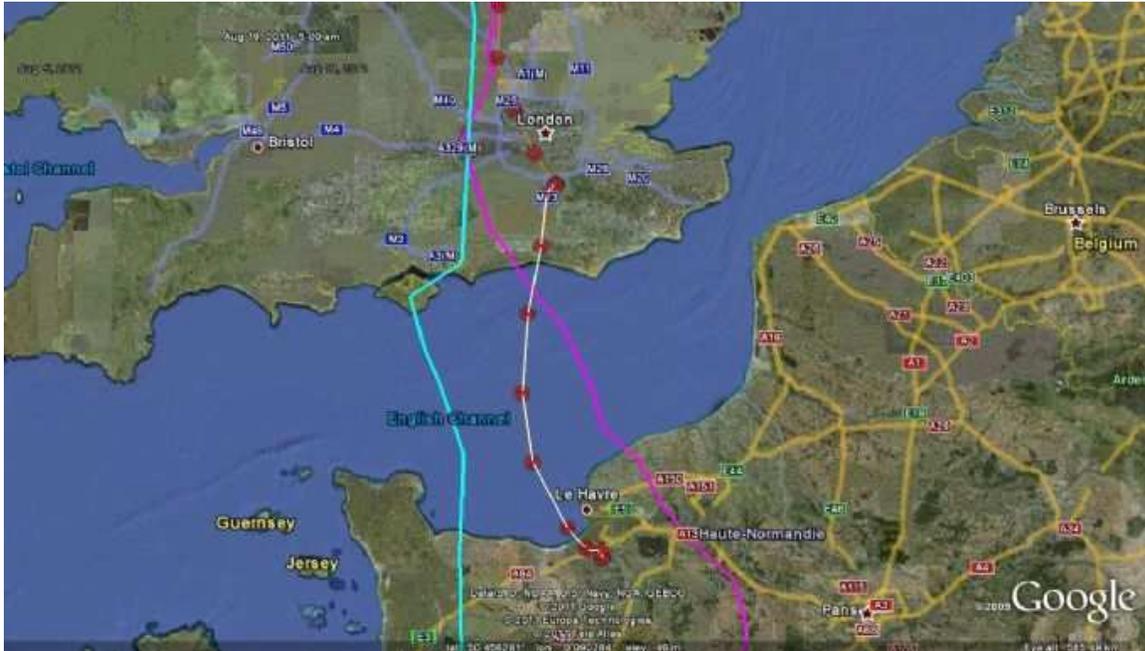


Night roost near south Godstone

18 August 2011: Over to France

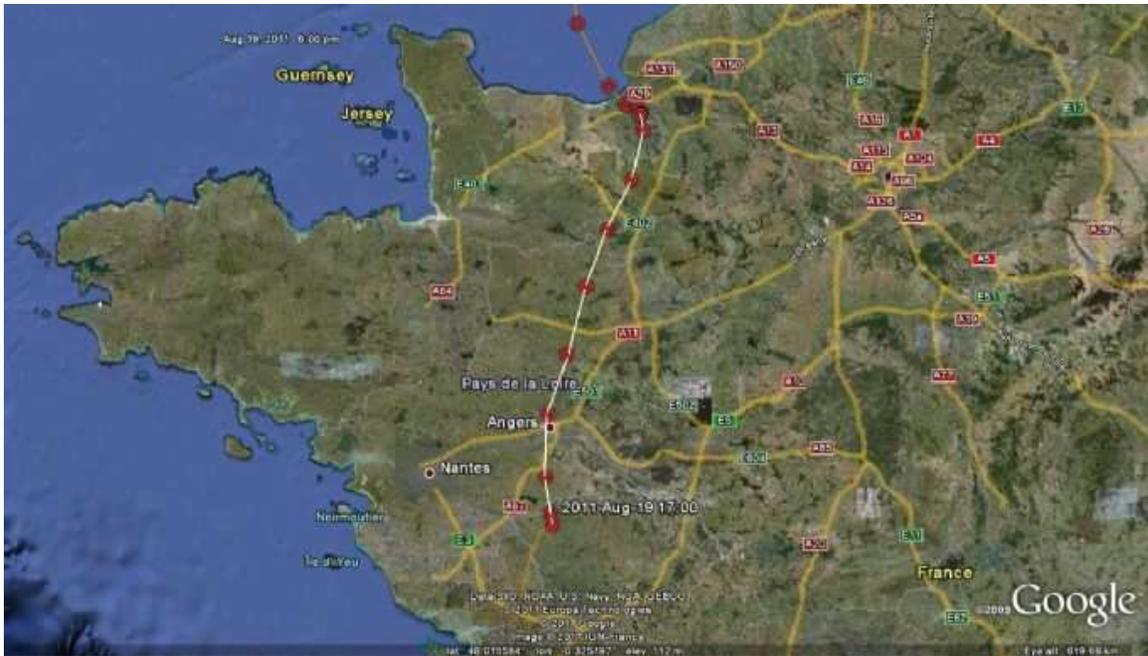
Beatrice left her roost area after 8am and 9 AM was close to Gatwick airport and an hour later was over the downs just north of Hove, before flying out over the English Channel. At 11 AM she was well out of the sea flying SSW 61 km/hr

some 33 m above the sea; 2 hours later she was in sight of the French coast and changed to a SE track, flying low over the waves, to reach the French coast just south of Le Havre. She flew a little inland before coming to rest by some lakes, and spent the night on a wooded lake near Le Breul-en-Auge. A flight at 243 kms - the attached map shows 2008 (pink) and 2009 (blue) crossings for comparison.



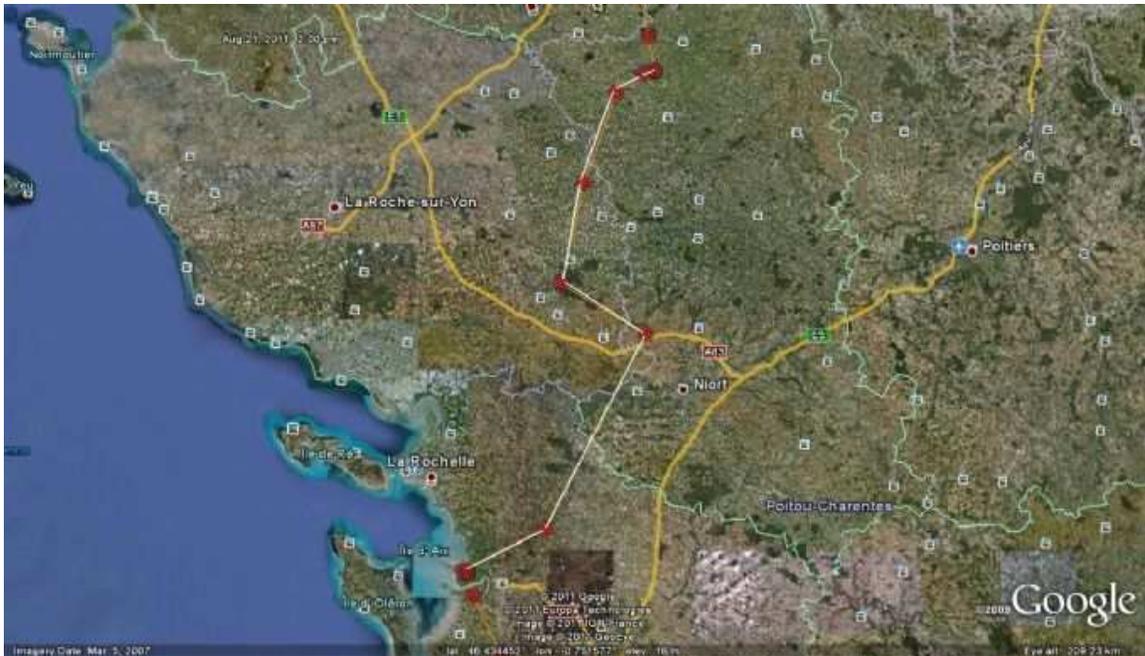
19 August 2011: Moving south

Flew 270 kms through France today - on the way at 1000GMT flying S at 41km/hr over Lisieux. Just north of Sangers at 1500hrs and came down to roost in a wooded parkland at Les Dorides near Nueill-les-Abiers at 1800hrs



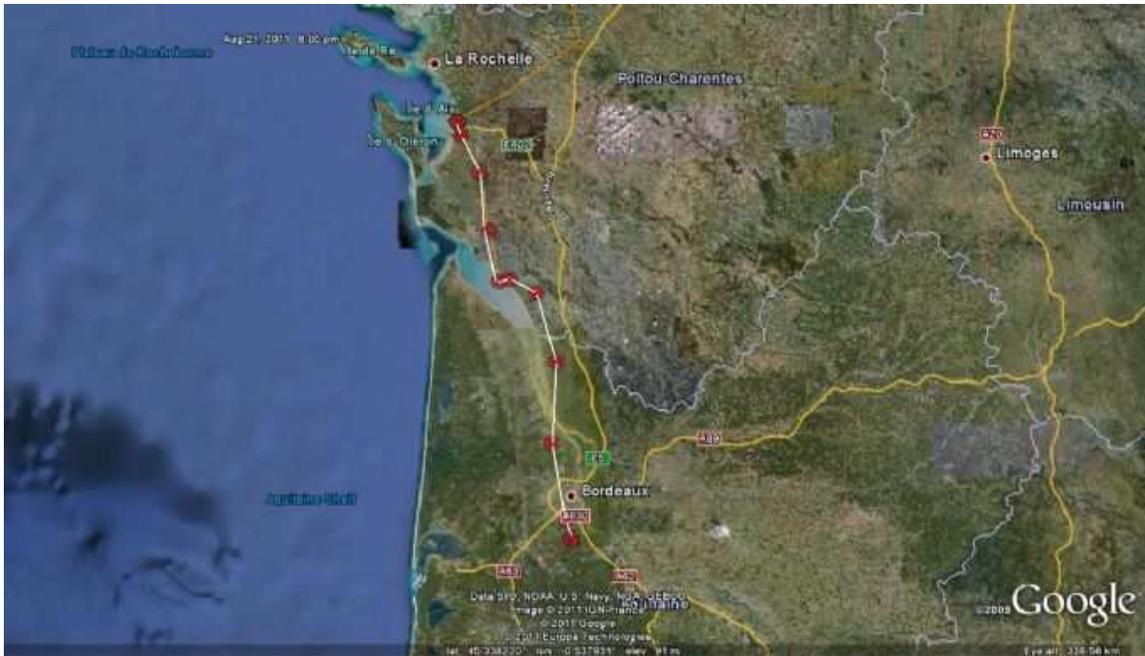
20 August 2011: Slowly on

Beatrice was perched some kms west at 0900hrs, and then flew SW - over Le Peu at 100hrs and at 1200hrs when she was over a large forest at Mervent, she changed course to SE. The last position in this batch of transmissions was near Villiers-en-Plaine at 1300hrs after a flight of 72kms. New data showed that she flew on SW and reached the Atlantic coast near Fouras at 1600hrs and then roosted in woodland just to the east of the town.



21 August 2011: Arrived Bordeaux

At 0900hrs she was south of Charente estuary, and kept heading south down towards the Gironde estuary. At 1200hrs she was 2 kms out over the estuary but had turned back to the east and an hour later was resting on the north bank. She then set off down the side of the estuary and in hot sunny conditions at 1400hrs was flying E at 36km/hr at Saint-For-sur-Gironde. She set off south across the river at 1530 from south of Blaye to Margaux and then flew south over Bordeaux at about 200 metres. At 1700hrs she was flying S at 219m over Parc de Maudavit in the southern suburbs. By 1800 she was stopped near a small lake south of Leognon and roosted nearby in scattered trees after a day's flight of 157kms. It's 105 kms to her favourite River Adour stop-over - so she should reach there tomorrow.

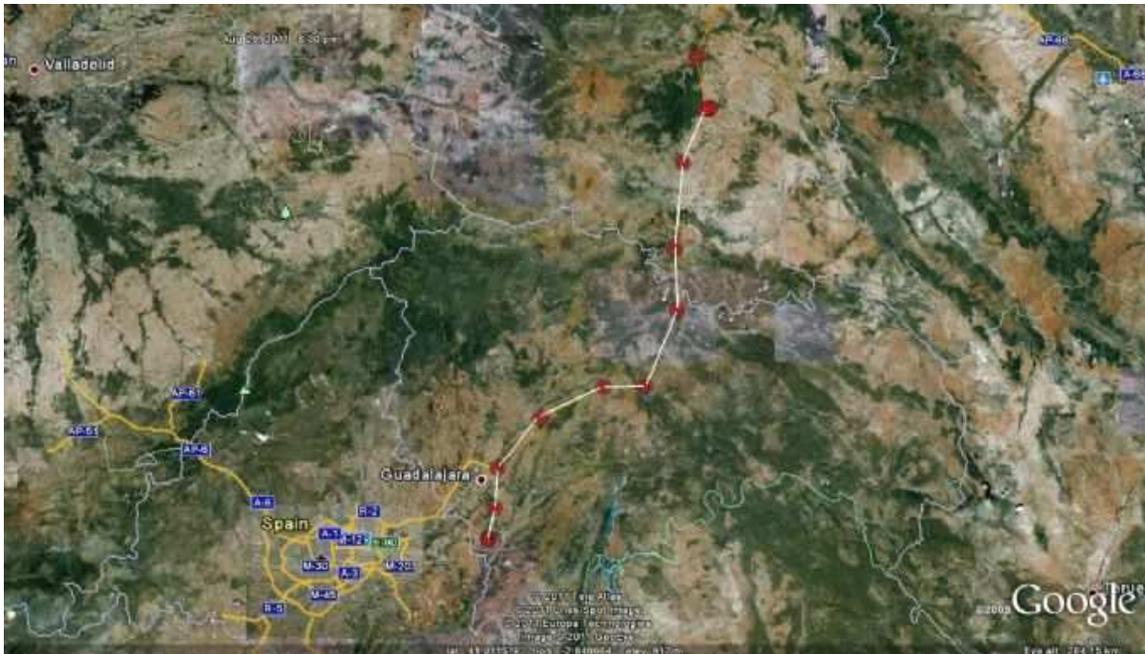


28 August 2011: On over the Pyrenees

After a week's rest in her favourite haunts along the River Adour, Beatrice set off today in great weather (clear skies, light N wind) and by 1000hrs was flying SSW at 70km/hr near Clermont. She made a straight flight to the mountains and climbed over the Pyrenees near Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and soon crested the high mountains and set off down into Spain. At 1300hrs she was on the southern side at 1076 metres flying S at 52 km/hr. As like previous years she passed close to Pamplona. The last signal of the day was non-GPS but she was somewhere just north of Soria after about 240 kms of migration.

29 August 2011: Reaches Madrid

Beatrice headed off about 0900hrs, and was south of Almazan an hour later. At 1200hrs she was east of Sigüenza and an hour later over Sotilla she turned west to reach the A2 motorway and then tracked it south towards Madrid (like she has done in previous years). Further south she flew east of Guadalajara and roosted the night east of Madrid in isolated trees in farmland, after a flight of 154 kms.

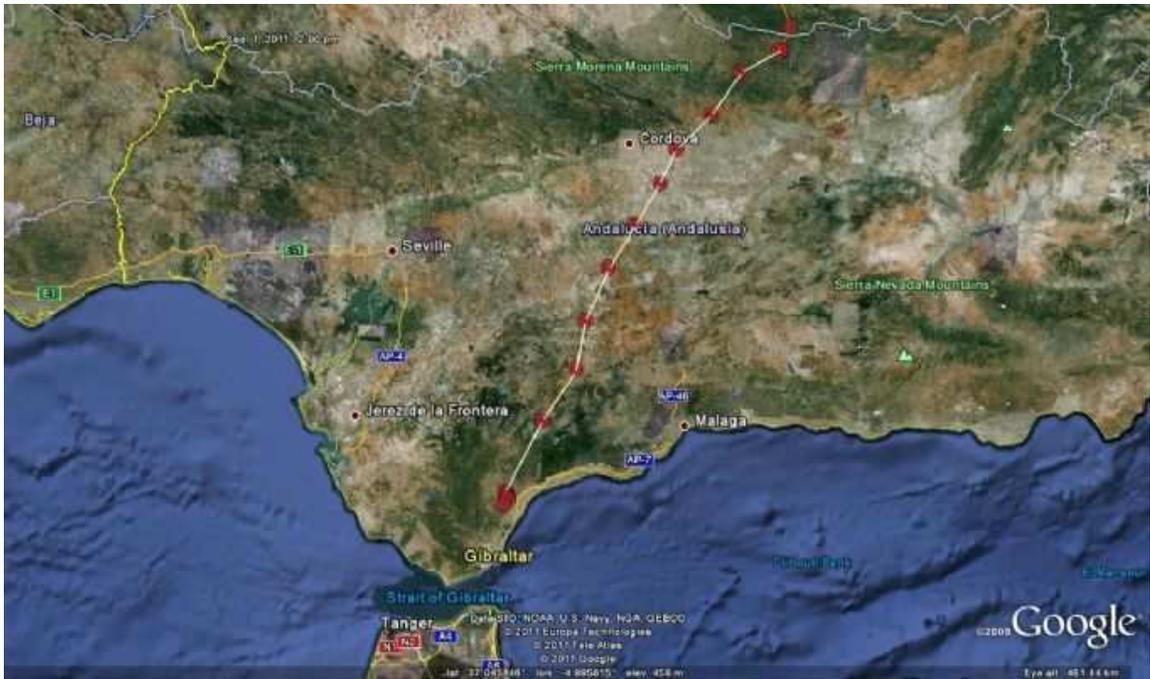


30 August 2011: From Madrid south

Beatrice tracked over the mountains SSW of Madrid and by evening roosted in the Sierra de Andujar - in the land of the Iberian Lynx.

31 August 2011: Back home on the River Guadiaro

Beatrice set off at 0900hrs and flew strongly SSW - at 1100hrs she was over Montoro and then set off over the farmed lands passing over the Malaga to Seville motorway before 1400hrs. She passed Puente Genil at 1500hrs and at 1800hrs was flying over Ronda at 1529 metres altitude 33km/hr south. She could probably see her winter home from that height and within the hour she was roosting in the big river side Eucalyptes on the Guadiaro back water among the orange groves. Back to her winter home after a day's flight of 247 kms.



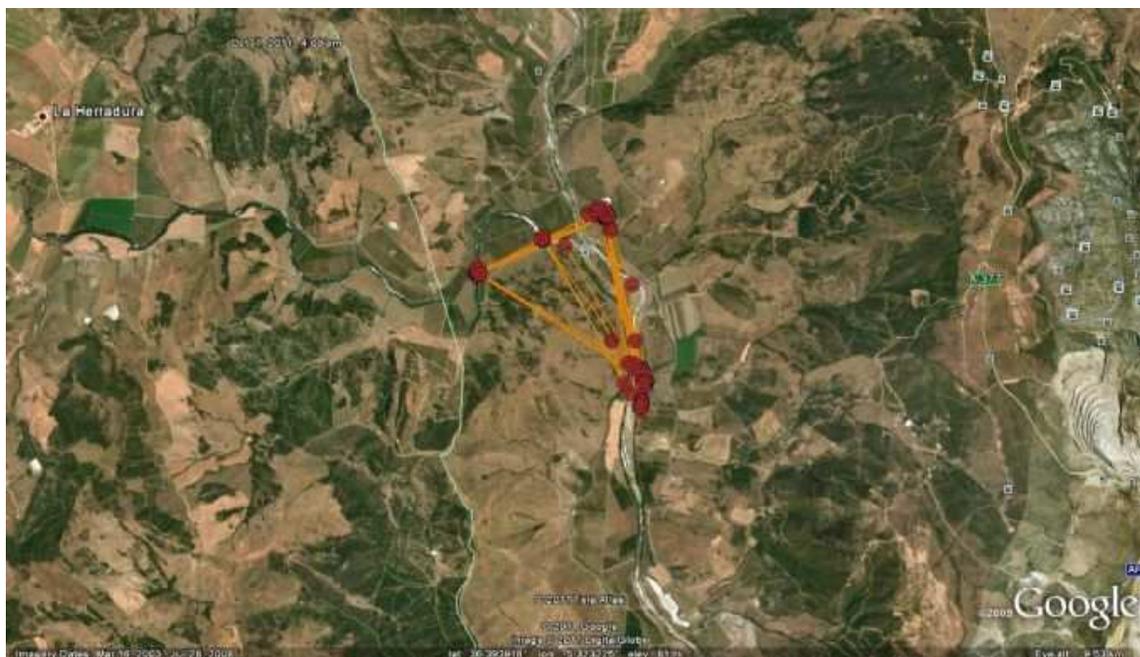
Winter 2011-2012

06 September 2011: Not really winter

It's not winter even in northern Scotland but Beatrice is now settled in her wintering area on the River Gaudiaro in Spain. Her fishing, loafing and roosting behaviour is as previous years.

07 October 2011: Usual place

Beatrice has been roosting on the River Genel and then spending the day at lower down the River Guadiaro and in the ponds among the orange groves. A range of 5.5 square kms.



September 27th-October 7th

28 October 2011: Settled down

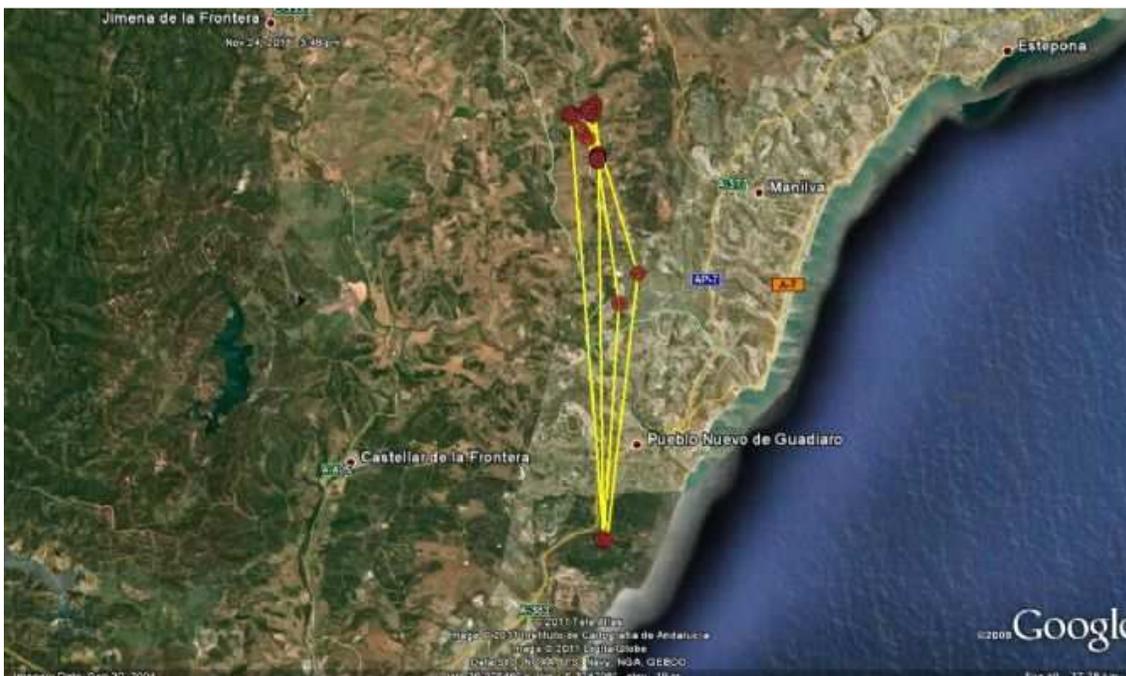
Beatrice has settled down to a very fixed daily routine - fishing on the lower river, loafing near the orange grove pools and roosting on the backwater.



October 15th-26th

27 November 2011: Same routine with a few changes

Beatrice continues to roost and feed on the Rivers Guadiaro and Genil, and on 21st and 23rd November she flew during the day to roost in woods south of Soto Grande. The same area as used in previous winters. She may have fished off the coast during these visits.



November 10th-24th

14 December 2011: Very settled

Beatrice has hardly moved these past two weeks - just up and down the river from roost sites to fishing areas. You can see a video of my visit to find her on the BBC Autumnwatch website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00m61jf>

26 December 2011: No change

Beatrice remained in same usual haunts.

14 January 2012: No change

Beatrice remains living in the same area on the River Guadiaro - just 2 square kms.

05 February 2012: Very settled

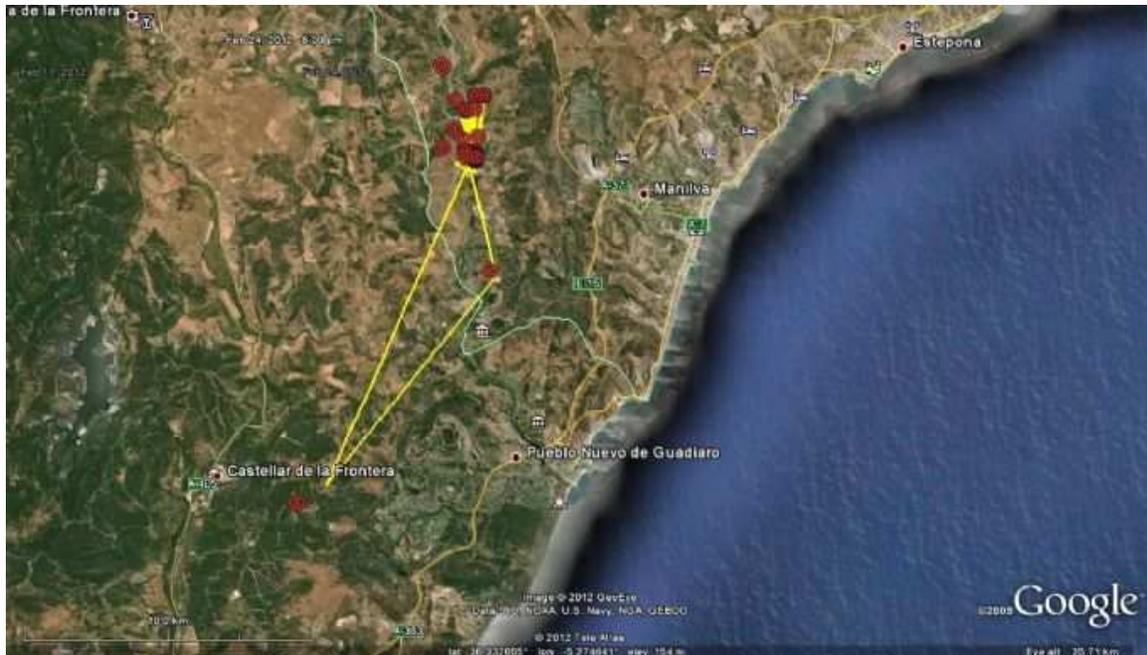
Beatrice very settled on the rivers this winter - living in a range of 2.65 square kms.



January 22nd – February 5th

25 February 2012: One flight out of the winter range

No change in daily life except on 17th February when she flew at least 14 kms SW and back - at 4pm she was east of Castellar de la Frontera.



February 15th – 25th