

Glen's Movements in 2008

Autumn Migration

Resume: The chicks hatched from about 12th June; and two of them survived; they were ringed on 24th July and Glen flew for the first time about 8th August. The two chicks ranged much more than last year's female young and were to be found, when away from the nest, in trees surrounding the area up to 700 metres away. The male regularly brought in fish, while Logie protected the nest site and sometimes fed the young. In the last week, at least one and once two intruder chicks sat on the nest and tried to scrounge food. Glen departed on 26th August, nearly three weeks after fledging. This is quite short post fledging period.

26 August 2008

A nice warm day in Moray, and I checked Logie's nest at midday, no sign of either chick, but there was an unringed chick on the nest hoping to scrounge fish from the male. I had another look at 5pm, and then the male 6R was perched in the dead Scots pine eating a medium sized flounder, and the unringed chick was squeaking for food on Logie's eyrie. Data received early today showed that both chicks departed their nest area during yesterday, and by evening Glen was roosting in a pinewood in Glen Livet near Tomintoul.

27 August 2008

At 11am he was flying ESE above half a mile off the coast at Fowlsheugh, south of Stonehaven; an hour later he was 17 miles SE out over the North Sea, but turned back and from midday to 1pm was perched on the coast near Kinneff. Glen then headed back inland and roosted the night on the River North Esk near Auchmull.

28 August 2008

At 10am set off SSW, west of Ogil at 11am and reached a little river south of the Loch of Lintrathen in Angus at 1pm. He was north of Blairgowrie at 2pm and an hour later was just NW of the Loch of the Lowes SWT reserve in Perthshire; she roosted overnight in forests on the west side of the River Tay just north of Dunkeld.

29 August 2008

He carried on slowly in a SW direction, spending time on Loch Earn and by evening had reached Loch Venachar, just north of Aberfoyle, and he stayed to roost overnight. The Forestry Commission have several nests on their land in this area and have an osprey centre in the Queen Elizabeth Forest nearby.

30 August 2008

Roosted overnight near Loch Vennachar, then set off south-west after 9am to reach area south of Loch Ard, where stayed from 11am to 2pm. At 3pm he was flying north, almost certainly in rainy overcast weather, at 34km/h to the west of Kinlochard; at 4pm was further north travelling N at 37km/h and reached a roosting in woods area just north of the A85 road just 2 miles west of Tyndrum. Today 31st, it's forecast overcast with light rain but no wind. Sadly, Glen has run into poor weather conditions for migration, just like his brother, - they should have stayed at their nest and waited for good weather.

01 September 2008

Glen has spent the day at Loch Tulla, near Black Mount in Argyll.

02 September 2008

Glen has spent the whole day around Loch Tulla.

03 September 2008

Glen was at Loch Tulla until 11am, then with improving weather he set off flying SSW at 37km/h some miles away at midday; at 1pm he was north of Bonawe, crossing Loch Etive, passed over Lismore and reached SE corner of Morvern at 2pm, when he was flying N at 24km/h. At 3pm he was very close to the Mull Sea Eagle site at Loch Frisa, where Breagha and Mara - the two chicks are flying - he probably saw them, turning SW he was flying S over the sea south of the Isle of Ulva at 4pm and at 5pm had just crossed the Ross of Mull and was flying S at 51 km/h some 1800 feet above the sea – at last heading south in the right direction for Africa. Flew over Colonsay and reached the north tip of Islay at 6pm, when flying S at 43km/h. Glen finished his day's flight by 7pm, when he was roosting in wooded cliffs north of Caollia whisky distillery on the east coast of Islay. Day's flight 166 kilometres.

04 September 2008

Glen was at the roost until 8am, then flew south along the shore to Rubha a'Mhill, south of Bunnahabhainn and was there from 9am to 10am, and midday, while at 11am he was back at her roost site. I hope he was fishing along the shore. At 1pm he was further north along the coast north of Port Askaig, and at 3pm was near the Lighthouse at Carraig Mhor on Dunlossit. Then he set off on migration; flying S at 54km/h over Glas Bheinn at 4pm and flying SSE over Loch Kinnabus, on The Oa, southern tip of Islay. He crossed the 19 miles of sea to reach Rathlin island in Northern Ireland by 6pm, where he roosted overnight on the north coast of the island.

05 September 2008

First signals showed he was on the SW corner of Rathlin between 7am and 9am, and the latest non GPS signal was on the Northern Irish mainland, north of Ballymoney. Where will he go in Ireland - will he try to fly from the south coast to Spain, or hopefully back via Wales. Latest! 3.30pm - he is heading in wrong direction - flying downwind (NE wind 12mph with rain and poor visibility) and headed for Newtown Stewart, Strabane.

06 September 2008

Glen flew on SW into Ireland, and by 5.30pm had reached the southern end of Lough Allen, in County Leitrim. This is an excellent area of lakes for ospreys and is a good place for fishing. The weather has improved and stopped raining, with a fresh north wind. Glen now needs time to catch fish and feed up. He is in a difficult predicament because he is at such a western longitude, and if he continues with his present heading he will end up out in the Atlantic Ocean. Ideally, he needs to spend a good number of days feeding up and then fly SE back towards Wales or SW England and onto France. It is possible for him to fly from Ireland to Spain, but it is about 1000 kilometres of open ocean and needs good weather and luck to make a successful landfall. We wish him well.

08 September 2008

Glen was still at the south end of Lough Allen until 11am. Hopefully, he had caught a fish. Don Cotton telephoned and said they would have a look for the osprey, and told me these lakes are excellent for coarse fish, such as rudd and bream. At midday he was flying at 15km/h along the river south of the Lough, and an hour later was perched in trees at the west end of Fin Lough. At 2pm he was perched a couple of hundred metre from another small lake, and at 3pm had moved further SSW and was perched on the edge of a small wood by another small river. At 4-5 pm he was perched south of Lough

Gara and just over one mile NW of Bellangore in Co Roscommon, about 8 miles NW of Tulsk. Glen roosted the night a little further south.

09 September 2008

Contacts in Ireland report it poured with rain all morning, but later improved and today (10th is overcast but clear). Data didn't give more information other than that Glen roosted over night in the same area south of Frenchpark, and then moved a small distance to a daytime perch in the morning.

10 September 2008

No signals today but a really overcast grey day with rain. Micheal Casey checked out the roost area today - he reports "I had a look in the afternoon at the site near Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon which the references lead to, using my car's Sat-Nav to find it. It is a small line of cypress trees in a large young Sitka Spruce plantation, on the edge of a bog (see attached pics). The Sitkas are about 12' high, the Cyprresses approx 25'-30'. It looks like a shelter belt that may have been planted around a farmhouse which is now derelict/demolished and whose farm has been planted all around it in the past decade or so. The undergrowth is very dense (a mass of brambles), and the heather is quite high and dense in the bog, so it is not easily accessible. I did not approach the roost, but could see nothing with binoculars."

11 September 2008

Still no signals but I gather it's been three days of overcast weather and heavy rain - and a similar but larger transmitter on a golden eagle in Donegal has given no signals because of the lack of sun. So hoping for improved weather soon.