

# **Nimrod's Movements in 2008**

## **Winter 2008-2009**

### **18th October 2008**

Nimrod roosted again in mangrove swamps along the estuary close to last night's roost and in the morning moved out onto the edge of water; after midday he flew north again to the small inlet, and at night returned to the same roost. His day's movement point to point of his hourly GPS positions was 4.56 kilometres. This is looking very much like his wintering site.

### **19th - 20th October 2008**

On both days Nimrod had the same activity, roosting overnight in the southern mangroves, and then moving a few kilometres north during the day, presumably to fish. On the 20th, he was in mid channel of the estuary of the River Cassini, and by nightfall was back at the usual roost site. It is certainly looking as though this will be his wintering site, and from his behaviour I would guess he was here last winter.

### **21st - 28th October 2008**

Nimrod is now settled firmly in his winter quarters - his routine is very similar from day to day; roosting at night in the southern mangroves and visiting the creeks a few kilometres north during the day; his furthest flight was a few kilometres across the river.

### **1st November 2008**

Nimrod fully settled into winter quarters - roosting at night in same trees on edge of woodland on south site; spending part of day up in the creeks, and one fix on probable fishing activity - flying north over the estuary at 36 km/h at 21 metres about 500 metres from the shore at 8 am on 29th October.

## **2nd - 10th November 2008**

Settled in wintering area; on 3rd he was on the other side of the river 3.2 kilometres from main roost; at 4pm on 6th he was 3 kilometres to the north and last evening he was fishing in mid river.

## **22nd November 2008**

In usual haunts; at 3am was in the main roost tree on edge of mangroves.

## **4th December 2008**

Nimrod is still in same area and with same daily routine. I was looking across his fishing sites at Findhorn bay yesterday; the edge of the salt marsh was ice covered with a thin covering of snow on the sea wall (some difference to Nimrod's winter home 3250 miles to the south) - lots of wildfowl and waders, and there were 6 Greenland white-fronted geese, which is unusual for our area.

## **27th December 2008**

Nimrod is using a regular routine and regularly roosting at night in same tree on edge of forest over looking mangroves.

## **5th January 2009**

At 2am Nimrod was roosting in his normal tree.

## **23rd January 2009**

Recent weeks he has been following same daily routine in same area of mangroves and river; at 6pm on 21st he was close to the usual overnight roost.

### **3rd February 2009**

Nimrod is still located on the same part of the river estuary - good data has been coming in daily showing a regular night time roost in a big tree in the south of his winter range then an early morning move out to the edge of the mangroves, followed by a flight to the northern section and a late afternoon fishing trip on the river. In just over a month he should be thinking of heading back north - today it's a cold winter's day with snow in Scotland, but the first signs of spring have been showing in the last week.

### **17th -27th February 2009**

Continued to use the same area and routine. At 10am on 12th was out over the river probably fishing, while at 2pm that day he was at a new location 2.56 kilometres to the NE over mangroves swamps, he was flying SE at 78 metres at 56 km/hr. In a few week's time he should start his migration north.

### **5th March 2009**

Nimrod continues to use exactly the same wintering area, but he must be close to setting off north. Guinea Bissau has been in the news this week with the assassination of the President and the Army Chief.

### **14th March 2009**

Still no movement and Nimrod has been much more focussed on the main roosting area - he should be off soon.

### **20th March 2009**

Nimrod is still waiting to start his migration - today he spent all his time close to his main roost in the mangrove swamps in Guinea Bissau. He should start north soon - he has not been an early arrival in Scotland so there is no need to worry.

### **23rd March 2009**

Nimrod's behaviour has changed; he spent most of the day at his main roost, except for flying out to fish in the river at 3pm and 5pm. He will probably leave soon.

### **27th March 2009**

Nimrod was at his main roost until 6 am, then out of the river at 7 am presumably hunting, back on the edge of the marsh at 8 am and back to his main roost at 9 am. It looked like a normal day but by 10 am Nimrod had started his great migration north and was flying N at 30 km/h. At 11 am he was much further up the river and at midday was flying NNE at 58 km/h at 678 metres. He crossed the river Corubal and headed inland and at 4 pm was still flying NNW north of Gaba. An hour later he had crossed the Senegal border and was soaring at 862 metres altitude. By 6 pm he had settled to roost SW of Kounkane in Senegal. His day's flight was 220 kilometres.