

# Nimrod's Movements in 2011

## Spring Migration

### 22 March 2011: Nimrod starts migration

Nimrod flew to River Gambia

### 23 March 2011

Nimrod just flew 73 kms today into Senegal.

### 26 March 2011: On slowly in Senegal

Nimrod flew 158 kms NW through Senegal on 24th and roosted SE of Thilmaka. On 25th he flew 122 kms and roosted for the night in Djoudj wetlands in Senegal. On 26th, he changed direction to the east and flew 151 kms during the day and by evening was roosting south the N2 road and some 26 kms S of the Mauritania border. His migration is rather slow and not direct, but the wind has been NE to N 12 mph blowing against his flight north.



March 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

### 29 March 2011: On through the desert

On 27th, Nimrod crossed the Senegal River at 1300GMT and headed NE into Mauritania, by 1830 he had stopped in the desert after a day's flight of 182kms.

On 28th, he set off at 1000 and changed direction to NW into the Sahara Desert and after a rather dog-legging course he stopped to roost south of Fort Repoux after a day's flight of 223 kms.

On 29th, he had a slower day and made only 150 kms NNW before stopping again for the night.



March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> track

### 30 March 2011: Another slow day crossing into Morocco

Nimrod made a curved track north of 246 kms, into a N wind of 15mph. This is a more westerly track than normal.



### 31 March 2011: On through the deserts

Nimrod made another curved track north in Western Sahara of 153 kms; again into a N wind.



#### 04 April 2011: On through Morocco

Nimrod making better time - flying up the Moroccan coast and the map shows the flight from 1st to 4th April. He is a long way behind Red 8T. Nothing at his nest in Scotland yet - and he needs to do a bit of nest building when he gets home - the old eyrie got blown about a bit in the winter's gales and deep snow.



April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

#### 06 April 2011: Closing in on the Straits

Nimrod was 140 kms south of the Straits of Gibraltar at 1400GMT on 6th April - he should have arrived in Europe today. May be he will increase his speed now.



### **10 April 2011: Slowly through Spain**

Nimrod roosted last night 80 kilometres south west of Madrid, on the River Alberche. He is going rather slowly, but not all the data is in yet to see how fast he was travelling through Spain, because the last data was for 6 April, when he was in Northern Morocco. Today at his nest in Scotland, I saw the female back for the first time - they need to do a lot of nestbuilding this spring because the nest has been damaged by the winter snow and storms.

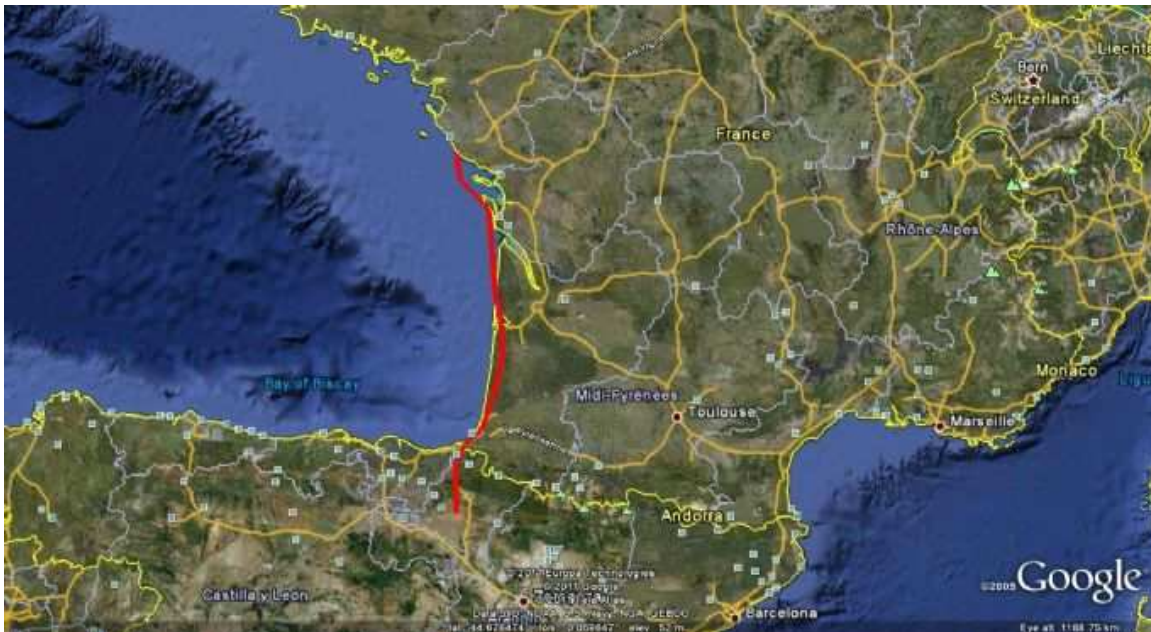
### **13 April 2011: Near Pamplona**

Nimrod roosted last night on the River Arga, near Mendigorria, about 30 kms SW of Pamplona. He was still there at 0700GMT today - hopefully he should cross the Pyrenees later today. He flew 132 kms yesterday, 182 kms on 11th and 115 kms on 110, so is not making great speed travelling back to Scotland.

Later found out he flew 464 km today. He was already underway by 0800 GMT and flew around the western end of the Pyrenees at 1100. At 1600 he was flying at 67 kms/hr N at 1062 m altitude at Arcachan. He then flew off shore up the coast and passed the mouth of the river Gironde at 1800, flying N at 53kms/hr at 1293 m altitude. He was well west of Ile de Re at 2000 and came ashore to roost in woods near Les Sables d'Olonne at 2100 GMT.



Nimrod's route through Spain: 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April



#### 14 April 2011: Arrives in England

Nimrod was already flying north by 0800GMT and at 0600 was fishing in the day of Noirmoutier, an hour later he was probably eating fish and then at 0800 he was leaving the bay flying north. He departed the French coast at Cap Frehel just

after 1300 when he was flying N at 56kms/hr and 1133 m above the sea. He passed over Jersey at 14:30 hours north of Cherbourg peninsula at 1600. He was at 1347 m above the channel and reached the English coast near Anvil Point on the Dorset coast, and quite quickly went to roost to the west of Corfe Mullen after a day's flight on 486 kms.



### **15 April 2011: Up through Western England**

Nimrod flew up through Wiltshire and passed over Gloucester at 11:30 AM, he continued up by Bridgnorth and at 5 PM was over the River Mersey, north of Ellesmere Port, flying north at 33kms/hr some 44 m above the sea. He then roosted for the night in a copse on farmland near Mere Brow after a day's flight of 333 kms.

Later: Email from Janice Dickinson:

"Keith and I went up to Mere Brow yesterday lunch time (on the way to Martin Mere) and took these shots of the copse where Nimrod roosted on the 15th April 2011, If you go into google maps and zoom in you can see the copse is just behind an arable farm (Moss Side Farm) Moss Side Lane is just off the main A565 road which runs from Southport to the A59 to Preston. The farmer came out to us and we told him about your website and all the work the Foundation carries out and he was extremely interested. In fact we had made his day! He could not believe there had been an Osprey in the trees just behind his house. He was telling us he had seen them at Loch Garten a few years ago on holiday. The copse where Nimrod roosted was pretty small but very dense and the trees

were very tall. To the side was a huge field full of onions and by that was a wheat crop. The land surrounding this area of many square miles is very flat and is an arable farming area." Thanks very much for the photos.



Night roost site



## **17 April 2011: In Scotland**

Yesterday, 16th, Nimrod continued north and crossed the Scottish border at 1 PM and was near Long Newton an hour later flying north at 13kms/hr. he was still 240 km away from its nest, and it was unlikely he would arrive during the day. I visited the nest first thing this morning and found the old female nest building but no sign of Nimrod, I expect him to arrive sometime today.

Nimrod flew north over the River Spey at midday and arrived at his nest just before 1pm on 17th April. Another long migration completed and now he has to rebuild the nest damaged by the winter storms - his mate has started the job but hasn't done much yet.

# Summer

## **19 April 2011: Local flights**

Nimrod has been mainly around his nest site, roosting at night either there or in a clearing a little to the north. He has made several flights to the Glenferness fishery but no trips yet down to Findhorn Bay.

## **26 April 2011: Rebuilding his nest**

Nimrod has spent most of his time around the nesting area and when I made a check this morning, I found that he had been building up the nest. Still quite a long way to go and I did not see his mate, but she was probably in the area. He has not yet gone to the coast to fish.

## **10 May 2011: Failed to get a mate**

Nimrod has been building up the nest but has so far failed to attract a new mate to his nest. He is still regularly at the nest and roosting close by overnight. He has recently spent more time on the Moray coast at Culbin forest and Findhorn Bay. His range in the last ten days has been 210 square kilometres. There is still just time to find a new mate and turn an unsuccessful start into success, but it shows that late arriving males are at a disadvantage.



Range May 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

### **17 May 2011: Possible mate?**

Satellite tagging shows that Nimrod is still spending a lot of time at his old nest and then mainly fishing at Culbin shore or Findhorn Bay. Today there was a bit more nest-building visible and Nimrod was circling the nest area with a second osprey - hopefully it was a possible mate.

### **22 June 2011: Non-breeding summer**

Nimrod failed to attract a mate but has been regularly using his nest area. He has ranged from the Moray Firth coast and Findhorn Bay to Glenferness Trout Fishery in an area 140 square kms.

### **21 July 2011: Alive and well but transmitter failed**

Nimrod has continued to use his nest area, and done some nest-building, but failed to find a mate this summer. On 30 June, we received a full set of data showing that he was fishing in Findhorn bay and on the coast at Culbin, and frequently roosting at or near his nest site. But on the next transmission date in early July there were no signals at all which concerned us. We went several

times to try to locate him near the nest without any luck, but on a monitoring trip on 14 July we found him perched on a dead tree. He flew over the top of his nest and landed on another dead tree, where with the telescope we could see that he had lost the main section of the aerial on his transmitter. It had broken off at the end of the thicker section and this is why we were receiving no signals. Disappointing really as the transmitter has only been on for 3 years. There may be a chance of trapping him again at Findhorn Bay, like we did on the initial capture, so that the transmitter can be recovered and repaired. So I'm afraid we will not have further data this year, except to record the last date we see him and hopefully we record him returning next year and finding a new mate.

### **21 August 2011: He has a new mate**

Earlier in the month I thought there was an extra bird in the area, but today I saw an unringed female perched in the tree next to the nest, calling for a fish from Nimrod. So things look better for next summer. It's probably why I've not seen him down on the saltmarsh.