

Red 8T's Movements in 2009

Autumn Migration

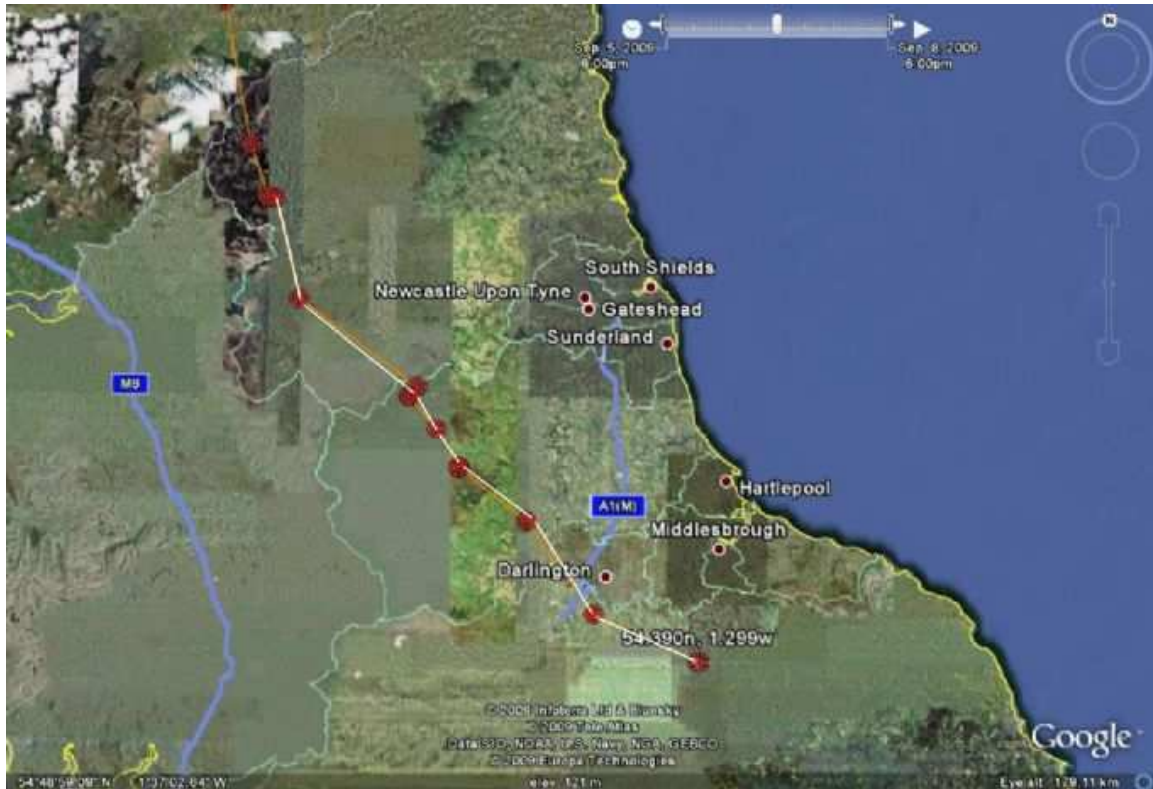
07 September 2009: Migration started today

Red 8T off on migration. He was still at his nest area at 8am and 9am; at 11am he was flying S at 32km/h at 1187 metres above the mountains on the east side of Glen Feshie. At midday he was just west of Ballinluig in Perthshire and an hour later flying due S at 57km/h just west of Perth. At 2pm he was heading through the eastern Ochil Hills and the next non-GPS locations were at 6pm when he was somewhere near or at Kielder Water in Northumberland. A first day migration of 160 miles.

It's always exciting on the first day to imagine where they are going - will Red 8T have a firm idea of his last winter's wintering site as his goal? I guess so but we do not know where that is - could be anywhere from Iberia to Guinea Bissau!

08 September 2009

Roosted last night in Kielder forest, 2.3 miles south of Kielder Water. At 7am he was flying east near Haltwhistle, and an hour later was south west of Blanchland - this was a very poor day for migration. At 9 and 10am he was perched nearby, but at 11am it was flying over the moors near Stanhope. At midday he was perched again in a wood south of Frosterley. At 3pm he was flying SE over the grouse moors at 43km/h to the south west of Bishop Auckland, and an hour later was flying at 51km/h to the south of Darlington, but by an hour later had come to rest on a wooded hillside north-east of Northallerton, and that's where Red 8T is spending the night after a difficult 73 miles.



09 September 2009: Master class in migrating

The weather had cleared overnight to clear skies and northerly colder winds, Red 8T was off at dawn and by 6.30am was 25 miles south heading for York. At 7am he was flying south at 65km/h east of Knottingley, an hour later he was near Calverton in Nottinghamshire, and 9am he was near Walton-on-the-Wolds. He flew on over Leicester and at 10am was near Lutterworth, he then flew over Draycote Water and at 11am was near Banbury flying SSW at 64km/h at 372 metres altitude. At midday, he was near Buscot, Swindon with a flight speed of 72km/h - the tail winds were really pushing him on down through England. At 1pm, Red 8T was near Shrewton in Wiltshire and then an hour later was south of Blandford Forum when he was travelling SSW at 87km/h at 551 metres altitude. He turned south for the Dorset coast and headed out to sea at Worbarrow Bay. He had already flown 266 miles.

At 3pm, he was 27 miles out to sea, heading due south at 66km/h 79 metres above the sea and an hour later he was 8 miles north of Sark in the Channel Islands, still flying fast 73km/h due south to the French coast. He came over Fleneuf-Val-Andre and at 5pm here is near Pontivy, in Brittany. He did not rest he just kept on flying and at 1900 hours GMT he was already out over the Bay of Biscay, heading SSW at 77km/h at 209 metres - he had crossed the coast at La Magouer. At 2000 hrs GMT he was worn out into the ocean and during the day

had already flown 513 miles (835 Kilometres) in 15 hours. At this heading will he hit the north west Spanish coast or miss it.



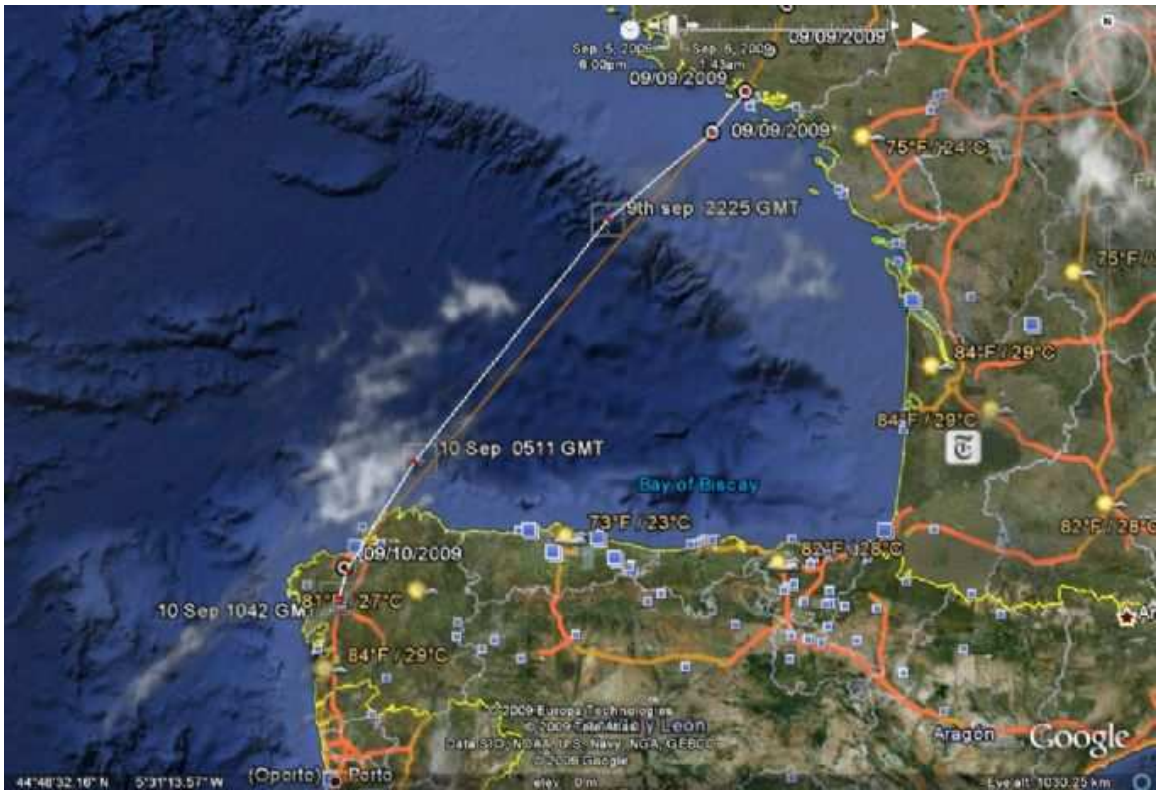
10 September 2009: Made it

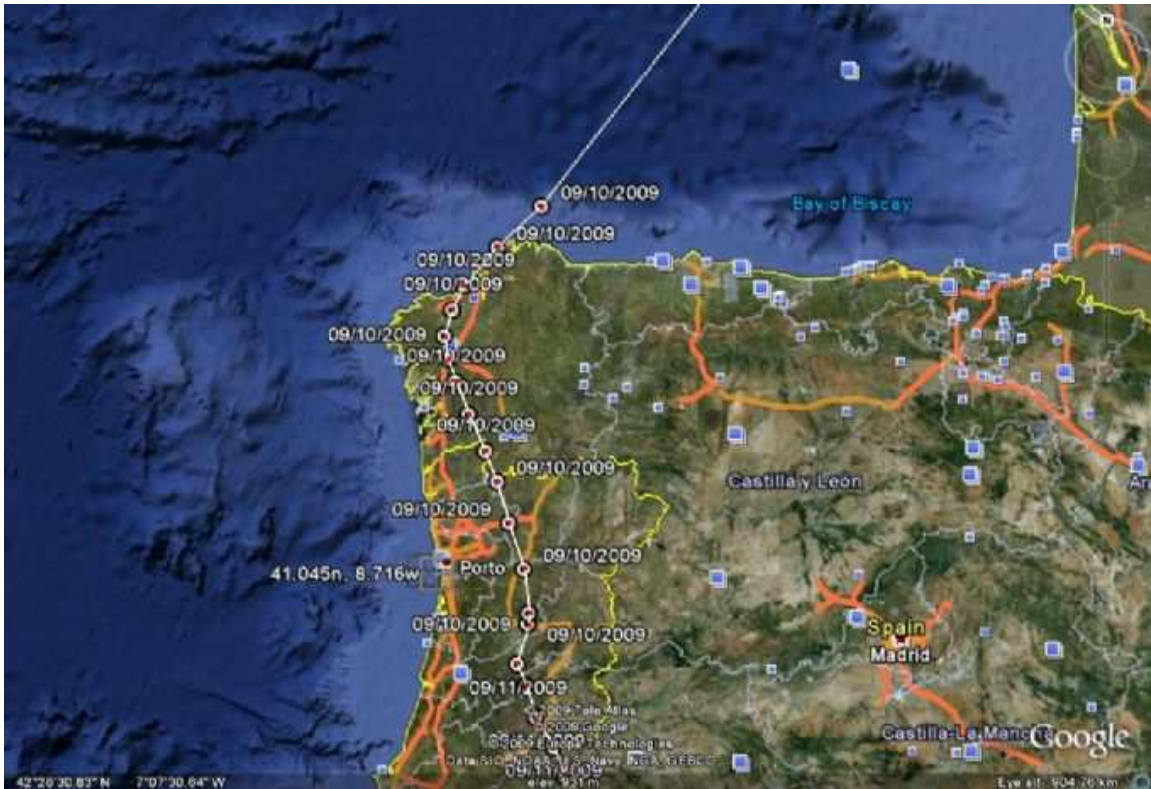
Red 8T migrated over the Bay of Biscay last night in clear skies, but the wind had turned to the east and was pushing him further west. By 2245 hrs GM last night he had covered 604 miles and at 0511 GMT he had increased this to 799 miles - 1286 kilometres non stop.

He was 31 kms north of Cap Ortegal on Galician coast NW Spain at 0600GMT when transmissions restarted - flying at 59km/h SSW; he came ashore at the North westernmost point of Spain, north of Vilar, and then turn down the coast and at 0800GMT was flying SSW at 63km/h at 506 m altitude over La Coruna. He continued south and slowly moved more to the SSE over the land and at 1100GMT he has passed Santiago de Compostela.

His overnight flight of the Bay of Biscay did not deter him and he continued flying south and arrived in North East Portugal at 1400GMT, when he was flying at 69km/h at 1175 metres near Castro Laboreiro. He continued in a SSE direction and just before 1700GMT he crossed the river Douro and was flying SE near Lamego. An hour later he was still flying at 46km/h and by 1900GMT he had settled to roost in trees by a small river, just north west of Germil.

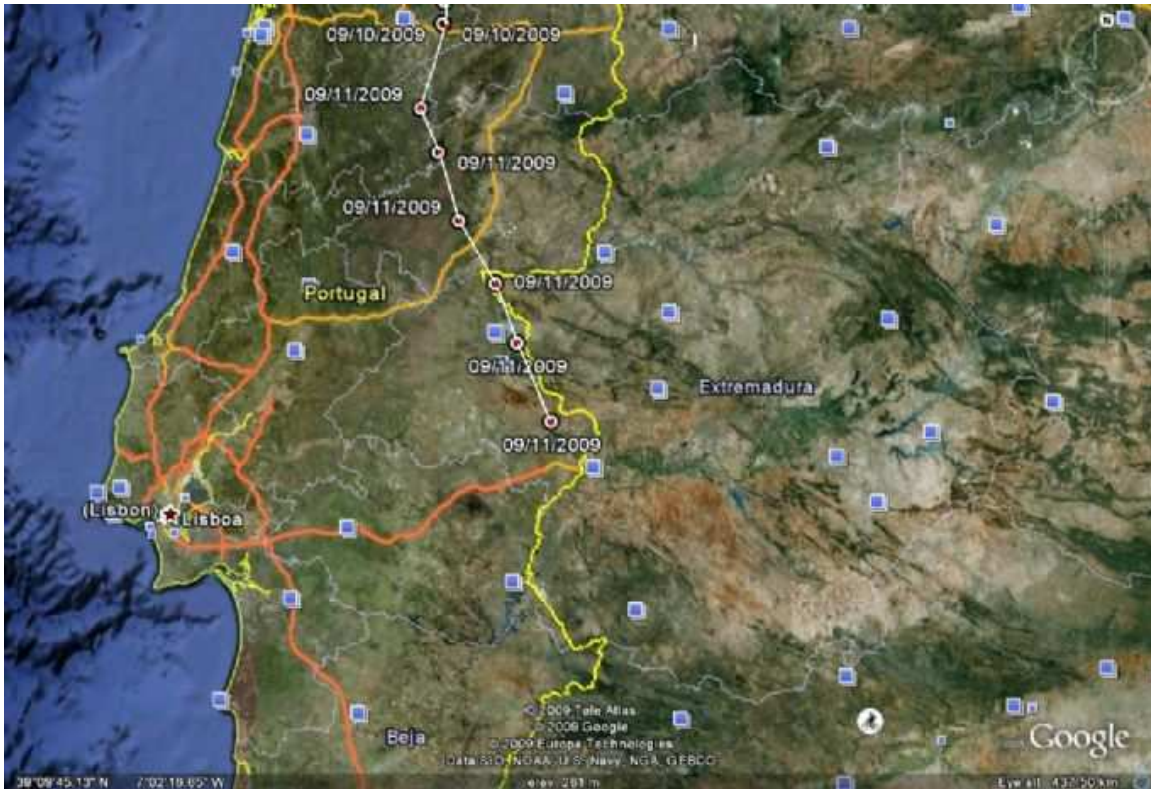
His epic journey was 1067 miles, 1718 kms, in 37 hours of continuous flying; the easterly winds over the Bay of Biscay had considerably increased the distance. During today he started to compensate for that drift.





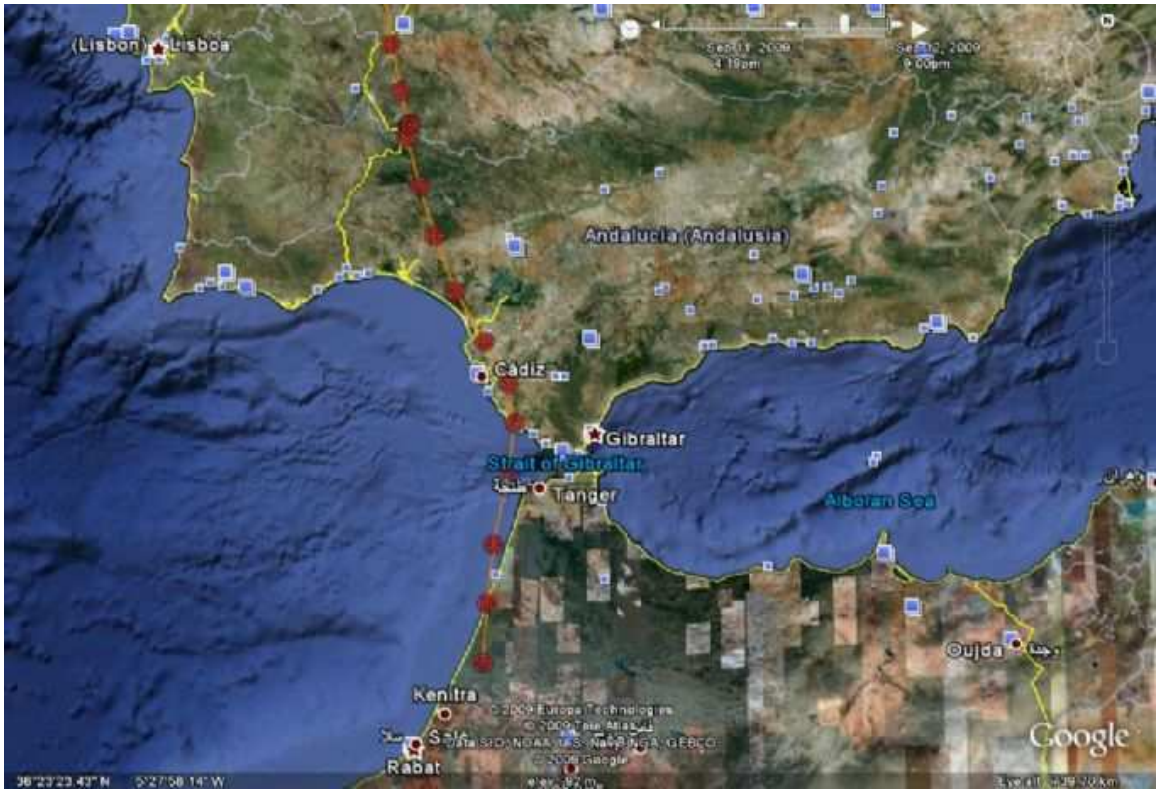
11 September 2009

Red 8T was well on the way by 0900GMT and was flying south east at 23km/h over Chao Sobral in Portugal; an hour later he was passing over and massive mine at Barroca Grande, flying SSE at 57km/h. He continued SSE and at midday past briefly into Spain, at Cedillo. At 1300GMT he was high over Marvao in Portugal and an hour later he was heading for a large reservoir at Campo Maior. This was the last signal the day and I do not think he would stop, he seemed to be heading for the southern end of Spain. Today's flight so far was 186 km.



12 September 2009: Arrival in Africa

Red 8T roosted last night on the River Ardila in Spain, just before it flows into Portugal. He started migrating early in the morning and by midday was flying over Niebla and heading out of the Spanish mountains. At 1300GMT he was flying south over the Coto Donana National Park, flying Southeast at 52km/h. He crossed the river Guadalquivir and over the salt pans (where I've watched ospreys) north of San Lucar; and then he headed on south. He passed east of Cadiz and at 1600GMT he flew over the pinewoods east of Cape Trafalgar (one of the last nesting places for ospreys in mainland Spain) and set off across sea to Africa. An hour later he was flying at 51km/h low over the sea well west of Gibraltar. He flew down the Moroccan coast but well offshore, and came across the coast at 1900GMT after flying 123 kms over the Atlantic Ocean. An hour later he had come to rest in farmland north of Kenitra in Morocco. His day's migration was 419 kilometres.



Migrating to Africa



Route and the white line shows his intended track with no East wind drift

13 September 2009

Continued south towards the mountains in Morocco.

14 September 2009

Red 8T continued south through Morocco, and made a detour towards Agadir to skirt the highest mountains. His day's journey was 364 kilometres.



15 September 2009

Red 8T flew throughout the day passing through southern Morocco, then into Western Sahara and on out into the deserts of Mauritania, where he roosted way out in barest plains. His day's journey was 543 kms.



16 September 2009: On through Mauritania

Red 8T changed his main direction to SSW through the deserts of Mauritania and at 1400GMT he flew to the east of the Fderick iron ore mine, and an hour later crossed over the rail and road links. He crossed back into Western Sahara and roosted in the open desert just north of the border, and North West of the distinctive rock outcrop of Sauoda Belle. The day's journey was 531 kms.



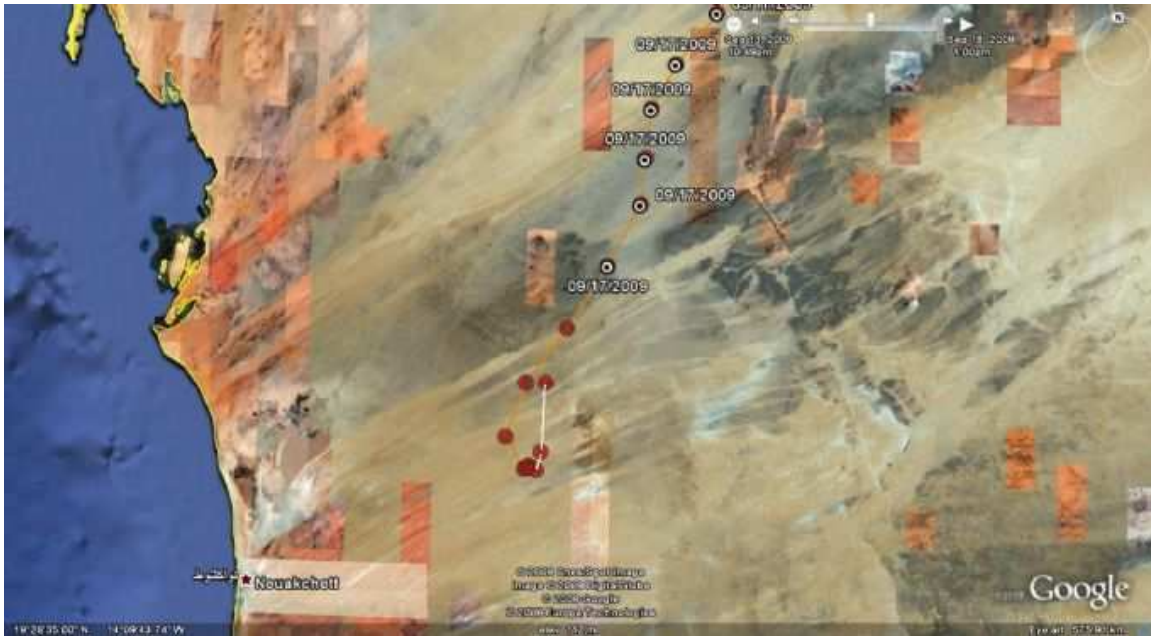
17 September 2009

Red 8T flew on into Mauritania travelling SSE.



18 September 2009

Red 8T made good speed through the deserts yesterday and appears to be heading for Senegal. He roosted last night in the desert, but this morning has turned back north for 51 kilometres, where he was perched at 0900GMT. The weather is mostly cloudy, with rain on the coast, and light NW wind, so he might have got disoriented. We'll see when he turns back south.



19 September 2009

After his confusing wander in a circle; Red 8T got going in the correct direction again this afternoon. He was still in much the same place at 1100hrs but 4 hours later had flown 101 kilometres SSW and is now just over a 100 kilometres to the Senegal border, with Djoudj National Park about 200 kilometres.



Sept 18th-19th – bad weather or dust storms?



At last underway South

21 September 2009

Red 8T carried on south into Senegal and is now heading towards the south coast. He roosted last night SE of Linguere.



22 September 2009

Roosting on north side the River Gambia at 2334GMT opposite Tendaba.

23 September 2009

At 0938GMT, he was in the marshes NW of Ziguinchor in southern Senegal, and he was in the same area near Elora at 1720GMT this evening. Maybe this is where he will winter as it looks a good place.

25 September 2009

Red 8T does look as though he is going to settle in the Elora marshes, where he has been now for two days.

27 September 2009

Red 8T looks as though he will winter in southern Senegal near Ziguinchor.



Last section of migration to southern Senegal



Wintering area

Winter 2009-2010

12 October 2009

He has continued to live in the same location, although on 9 October at 1600GMT he was 9 kms to the north, and he has also flown 4 kms to the east to the main channel of the Casamanche River.

17 October 2009

Now very settled in the mangrove swamps



Last few days of locations

08 November 2009

Very settled in the mangroves north side of Casamanche river



Locations late October - 2nd November



Range 4th-8th November

22 November 2009

Very settled in wintering site and little movement away from roost sites.



Extent of locations - less than one square kilometre

28 November 2009

All fixes within an area of 0.7 sq kms based on main roost site, with exception of one flight 7.2 kms to the north at 1100GMT on 20th.

06 December 2009

Remained in local area throughout the last week except for an 8 kilometre trip to the north at 1300GMT on 3rd December, when he was perched beside a small river.



Locations 1st to 7th January

24 January 2010

Very settled at wintering site, in a range of just 0.33 sq kms.

08 February 2010

All locations close to the wintering site, with flights north to fish in marshes - 5 kms NNE on 31st January and 4 kms north on 7th February.

17 February 2010

Still in same locality.

26 February 2010

He is still wintering in the same site, with one new visit to the SW into the mangrove swamps, which extended his range, 18 -22 Feb, to 1.78 square kilometres.

