

The movements of chick 21250 in 2008

25 August 2008: Migration has started

The first signal for many days came in overnight. The day's flight in sunny conditions had charged the solar battery and she had flown over 50 miles east of my office in Dunphail, near Forres to a location near Troup Head, between Banff and Peterhead. She roosted for the night in a riverine woodland called Tore of Troup, about 3 miles from the coast at Pennan. An interesting first flight and surprising she has travelled in that direction.

27 August 2008

Overnight near New Aberdour.

28 August 2008

At 6pm close to Milltimber, possibly woods to south of the River Dee, just west of Aberdeen.

30 August 2008

At 7am this morning, she was roosting in woods on the hill of Morrone just SW of Braemar in upper Deeside.

03 September 2008

The honey buzzard was low down in woods on the north slope of Morrone at 1pm today, still near Braemar.

06 September 2008

Latest information at 1pm; she was in or over woodland about one mile south of the loch east of Caldercruix, east of Airdrie.

07 September 2008

7th Sept at 7pm, last evening, she was 3/4 mile SSW of Palnackie, Kirkcudbright; about 5 miles SW of Castle Douglas

14 September 2008

The transmitter had charged up with the good weather over the weekend, and last night the young honey buzzard roosted in small deciduous woods between Nook and Lupton beside the A65, SE of Junction 36 on the M6 Motorway in Lancashire; 7 miles SSE of Kendall. Slowly moving south through the country.

17 September 2008

One position came in for 8pm this evening, about 8 miles NW of the centre of Manchester, and between Bury and Bolton. There's been a very big influx of Scandinavian migrant honey buzzards into the UK; wonder if she will join up with any of them and continue her migration in company.

18 September 2008

I was told that it was a lovely sunny day around Manchester, and this resulted in the honey buzzard migrating south to the Coventry area and also the transmitter being charged by the sun and a series of good overnight fixes coming in. This bird is fitted with the old style - non GPS transmitter, so the accuracy is less and there are no readings for speed, direction or altitude. Two people from the Bolton area emailed in about the bird's position on the 17th/18th, and thanks to Danijela Bogdanovic, who checked her local area and sent the photo below of Outwood Country Park, part of a Millennium Wood project, which seems the most likely place for the honey buzzard to have roosted. The trees in the background could certainly have provided a roost site for a migrant.

19 September 2008

Signals during the night and a very accurate one at 07.39am this morning were from close to a wood about a mile east of Wolston and about 3 miles SSE of the Coventry eastern bypass. With good weather she should start migrating south more strongly. Later in day more signals came in. She was still in the main wood

at 8.12am and later in the afternoon, we received three different positions but they were all rather poor in accuracy - 11am near Burford, 12am south of Chipping Norton and 1pm near Clackton on Sea, but my hunch is that she had flown down over Oxfordshire in the excellent weather, and we'll have to wait until tomorrow to find which way she went. 18/19th Sept roost site nr Coventry

20 September 2008

At 6pm she was half a mile north of Polegate bypass in Sussex, possibly in Abbot Wood. This is about 7 miles north of the English Channel at Beachy Head. Forecast for tomorrow is fog, then sunny, with light east wind. Good conditions for flying to France.

22 September 2008

The young honey buzzard crossed the English Channel on 21st, and roosted that night in a small wood just NW of Goron, to the NE of Fougères, at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula.

23 September 2008

She had a good day's migration through France; at 11.44am she was just offshore of the French coast to the west of Bordeaux, and at 3.45pm was just north of Soustons, and she then turned towards the Pyrenees, and at 7pm was in forests north of Auteville-Saint-Martin-Bideren, on the north side of the mountains. Probably by now she will be travelling south with other honey buzzards.

24 September 2008

The honey buzzard crossed the Pyrenees yesterday and roosted last night 8 kilometres south of Molina de Aragon on a scrubby hillside; forecast for today is bright sun, clear skies and a light north wind - ideal for migrating honey buzzards.

25 September 2008

She roosted overnight on a scrubby hillside near Olmeda del Rey, Castilla la Mancha.

26 September 2008

She carried on flying slowly south and by early afternoon was near Villarrobledo, to the east of Madrid.

27 September 2008

She settled to roost in a wood near Casa Huerta de los Ojos, 7 kilometres south of Jaen, after heading more to the SW.

28 - 29 September 2008

Still in same area - poor weather for migration

30 September 2008

Crossed the straights to Africa today, probably at the western side near Tarifa, and then out over the sea and blown west of Moroccan coast. At 12.25am was 40 kilometres west of the Moroccan coast and four hours later had crossed the coast near Kenitra, just north of Rabat. Continued migrating south into the foothills and at 6.40pm was roosting in a wooded hill near Ain Guernach.

01 October 2008

The young honey buzzard made great time today and at dusk was roosting in sparsely wooded mountains just north of Amizmiz, about 50 kilometres south of Marrakesh. (Very close to Morven's roost in September). The High Atlas mountains were just to the SE and it looks as though she will skirt round the western side to head south.

03 October 2008

At 11.30am, she was on the western flanks of the Anti-Atlas mountains, heading for Imzilene; 60 kilometres SE of Agadir, Morocco.

04 - 11 October 2008

She had moved 60 kilometres to the south-east near Tameguert and then was along a river valley in these mountains.

12 - 18 October 2008

She is still in the river valley area, with fixes being up to 6 kilometres apart north to south near Tameguert. It seems a strange place for her to stay.

19 - 24 November 2008

Signals are still coming in for the same place on mountain ridges. This is an earlier model transmitter without GPS or activity meter, but it is now pretty certain that the transmitter has either detached or the honey buzzard has died or been killed in the mountains.

20 December 2008

Signals are still coming from same area, so the bird or radio must be out in the sun in an open area in the mountains. If anyone is going birding there this winter - please get in touch and I'll give an accurate location - in case you could solve the mystery.

There's no doubt the bird is dead - the site is not far from a village and may be she was shot or killed.