

Red 8T's Movements in 2011

Spring Migration

19 March 2011: Migration starts

Red 8T had a trip north to catch fish in morning and then set off on migration before 1000GMT, by 1300 he was closing in on the Gambia flying at 26km/h NE 567 metres. An hour later he was in Gambia and crossed the Gambia River at 1600GMT. At 1700 he was in northern Senegal flying NNE at 51kms and had climbed to 1890 metres. He roosted further on in Senegal after a day's flight of 163 kms, in a dry farmed landscape with sparse trees near Keur Al Gassary.



21 March 2011: On across Mauritania

On 19th, he roosted near Rennda in Senegal after a migration of 224 kms; today he set off north about 1100GMT and crossed the River Senegal into Mauritania just after 1400GMT. At 1700 he was flying NNE at 75kms/hr at 1246 metres near Boutilimit and an hour later was still heading NNE at 58kms/hr at 1334 metres, and soon after settled in the open Sahara to roost for the night. Migration during the day of 275 kms.



24 March 2011: Nearly across desert

Rather dog-legged track across Sahara



26 March 2011: Heading North through Morocco

On March 25th, Red 8T flew 193 kms N during the day in northern Mauritania, and roosted for the night just south of the border. Today, 26th, he set off before 1000GMT and crossed into Morocco before 1100. He made a good flight north, against a NE 15mph wind, and by 1800 had flown 223 kms before roosting in the desert.



25th March



26th March

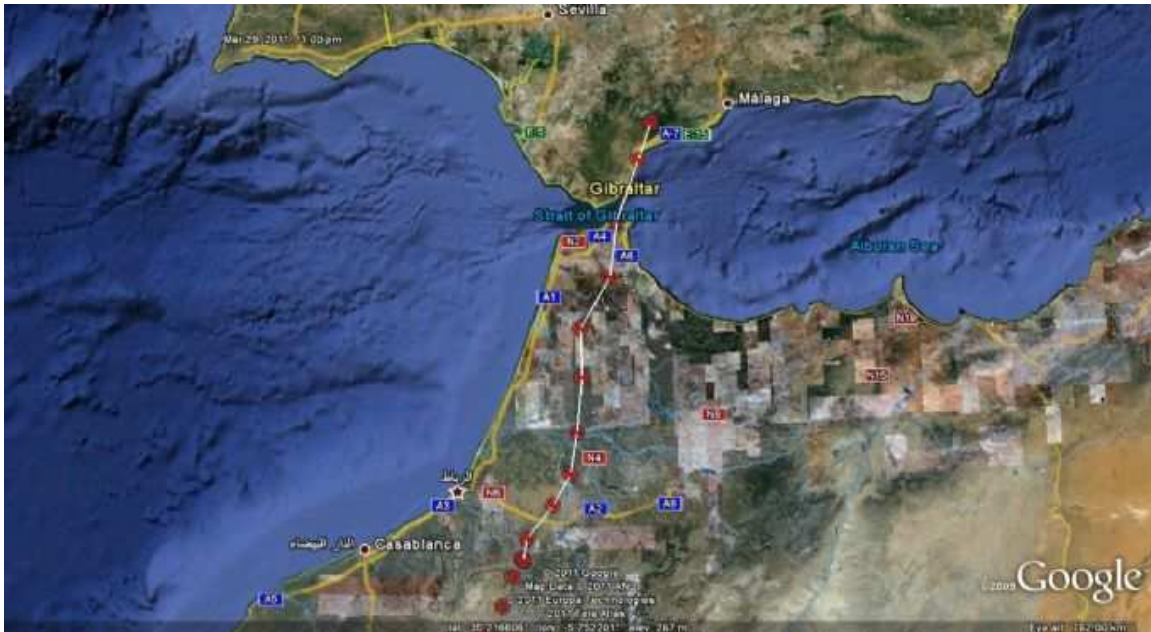
28 March 2011: On through Morocco

Red 8T started his migration after 0600GMT he was in the mountains at 2000 metres, 100 kms SE of Marrakesh. By 1500 he was flying N at 18kms/hr near Khouribga and after 1900 settled to roost at Qued Bouregreg, east of Rommani after a day's flight of 343 kms.



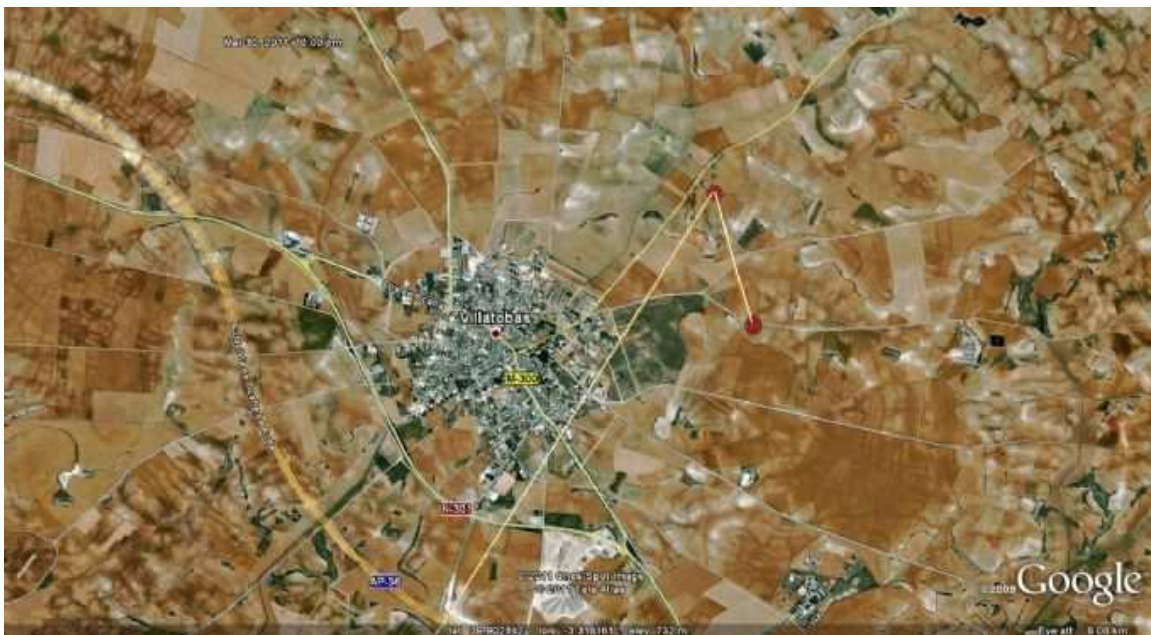
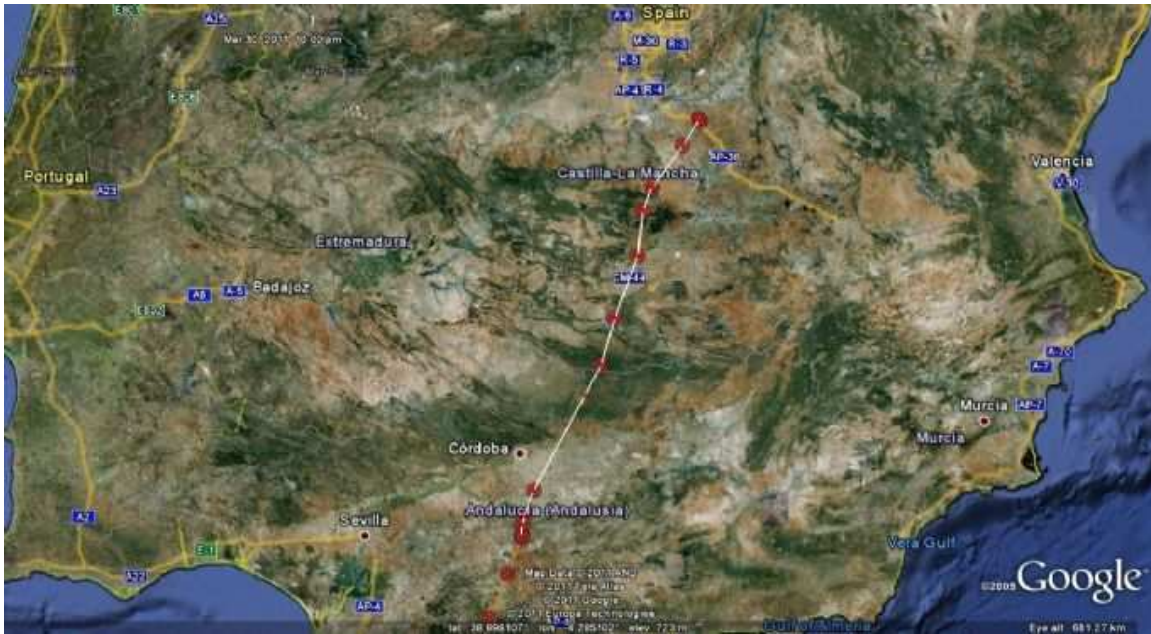
29 March 2011: Crosses into Europe

He was flying by 0700GMT and made good progress in the morning; at 1400GMT he was flying N at 74km/hr at 594 metres above the coast near Jebel Huse, west of Ceuta on the start of the crossing of the Straits. He headed for Gibraltar and kept flying along the coast - being 800 metres off the beach south of Manilva an hour later, and then headed inland west of Estepona to the Spanish mountains south of Ronda. The last signal of this batch at 1600 and he had flown 264 kms. Later: he flew another 94 kms before stopping to roost just S of Puente Genil.



30 March 2011: On North through Spain

Red 8T was already 7kms north of the roost at 0700GMT and at 1400 was flying NE at 30kms/hr at 1558 metres east of Purtollano. He kept heading north and came down to roost in farmlands just east of Villatobas, after a day's flight of 313 kms.

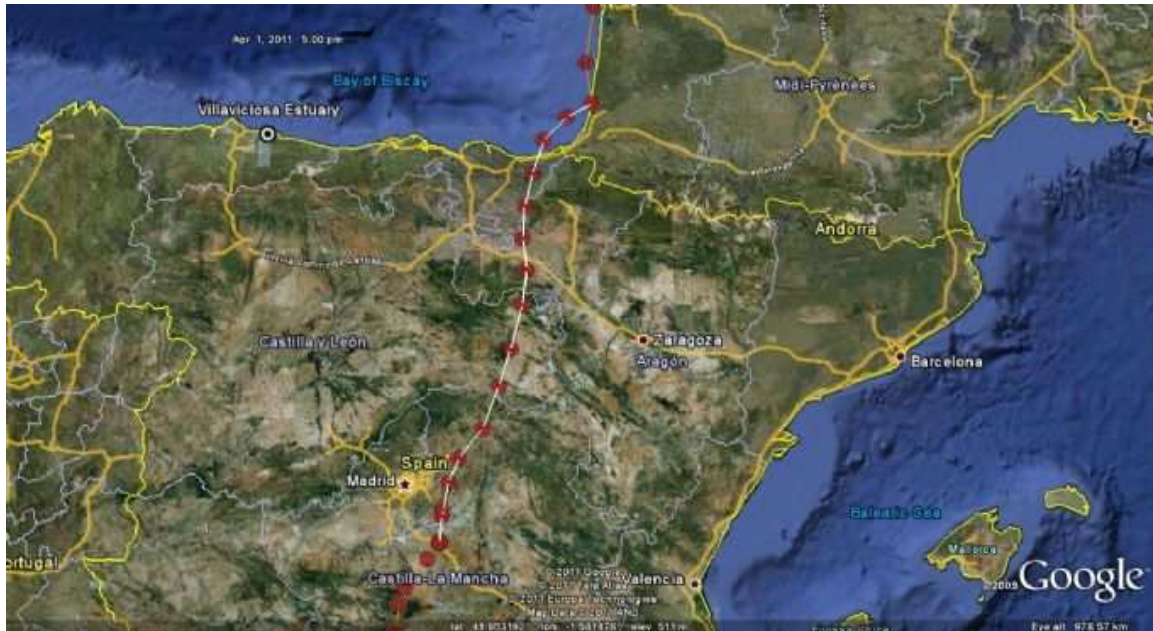


March 30th roost site

31 March 2011: Strong migration

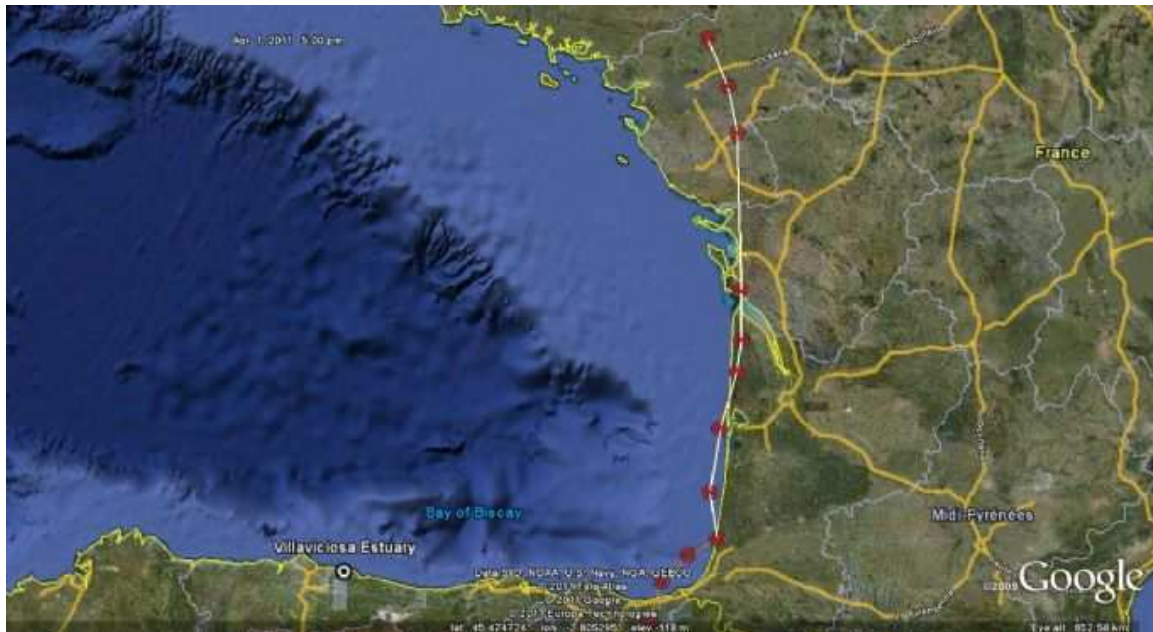
Red 8T was on migration at 0600GMT and flew east of Madrid and on north - at 1500 was approaching Logrono after regular hourly speed of 55kms/hr. At 1800 he was over the Mountain Hernio in Basque country and flew out over the Bay of Biscay west of San Sebastian. He cut the corner and came ashore on the Landes

coast of Spain at 2100hrs after a flight of 437kms. He roosted in woods near Soustons.



01 April 2011: On through France

Red 8T set off about 0530GMT and headed out to sea tracking the coast; he crossed the Gironde estuary before 1000 and at 1400 was in southern Brittany flying N at 62kms/hr at 246 metres altitude. He crossed the river east of Nantes and the last signal at 1600hrs he had flown 437 kms and was flying strongly north. He will probably rest off the north coast of France and cross tomorrow.



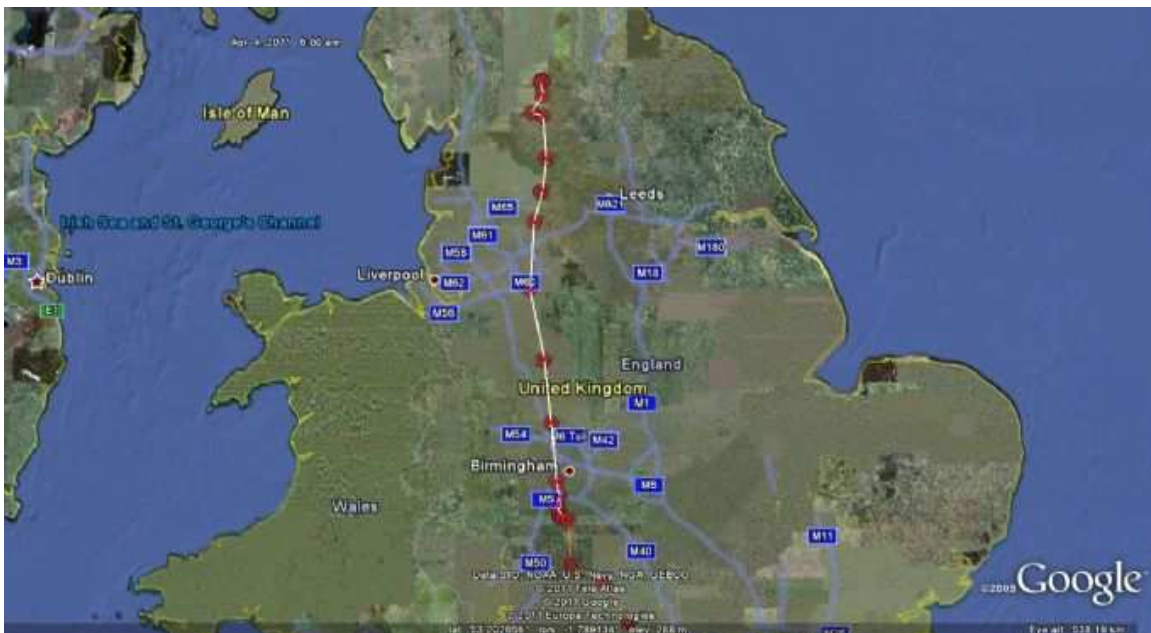
02 April 2011: Crossed English Channel early

Red 8T crossed the Channel 0600 - 0730GMT and then made good migration through England and at 7pm was flying N at 33kms/hr, 113 metres altitude just NW of Redditch after a flight of 360 kms.



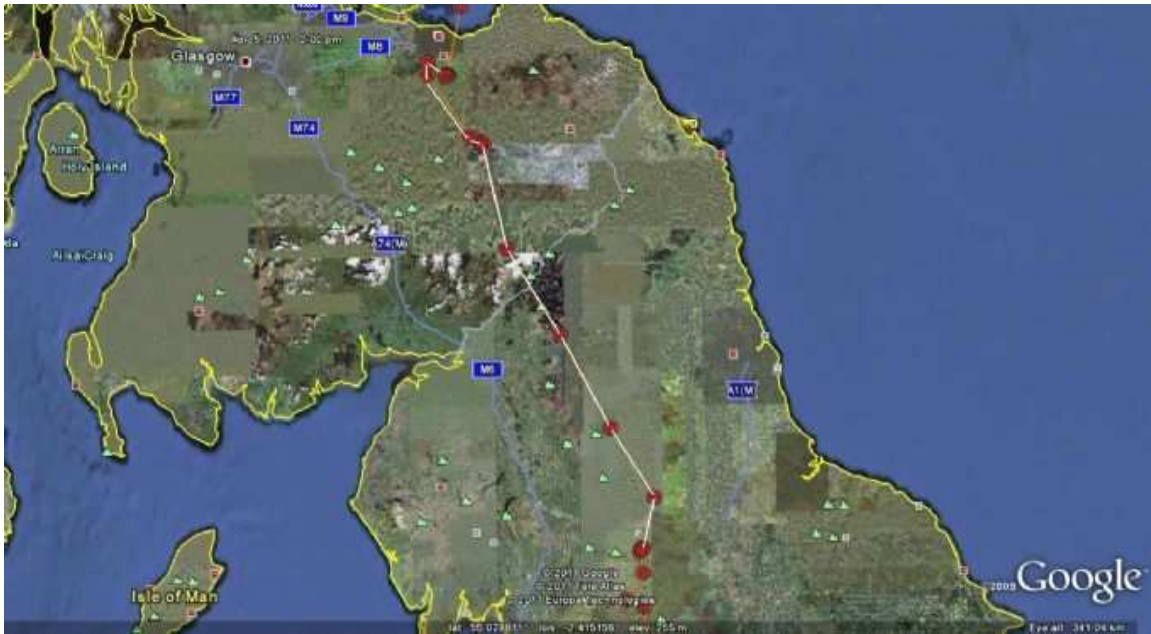
03 April 2011: Calls at Bittell Lakes

Red 8T roosted last night near Feckenham, and at dawn moved to Astwood Bank. He then flew north and at 8 AM was perched at Bittell lakes on the south side of Birmingham. He was observed there by a local birdwatcher, who saw his satellite transmitter and thought it interesting that this was also the place where Logie called by one spring. An hour later he was flying over Bartley reservoir, just to the north. He then set off flying north and at midday was flying N at 43 kms/hr 700 m above Manchester. At 2 PM and 3 PM he was perched on open lands south of Wycoller and then headed north into the hills, being West of Buckden Pike at 5 PM and then roosted for the night by a small river between Ivelet and Gunnersyde. His day's flight was 247 km.



04 April 2011: In Scotland

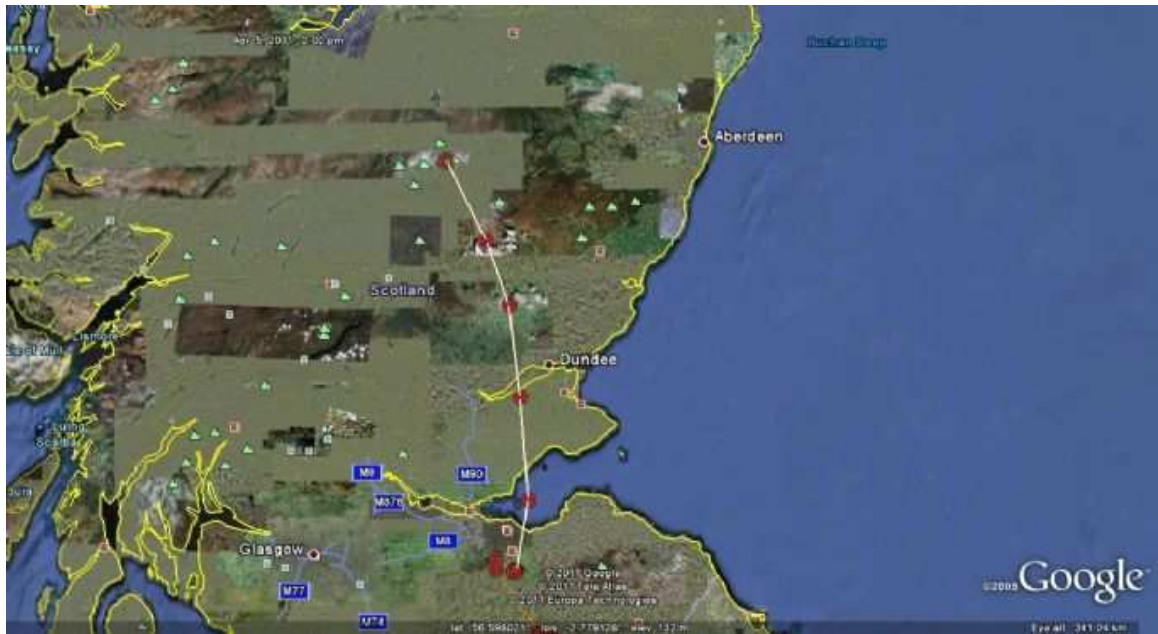
At 8am he was west of Barnard Castle and then headed for the Scottish Border near Old Castleton. At 11am he was flying N at 67kms/hr at Greatmoor Hill and from midday to 3pm was resting (fishing) on the River Tweed east of Walkerton. At 6pm he was over Glencorse Reservoir but turned back and settled to roost in farm shelter belts near Rosewall, near Roslin. Flight of 196kms.



05 April 2011: Flight home

Red 8T flew over the Firth of Forth from Portobello to West Wemyss, and was east of Inchkeith Island at 10am. An hour later he was ready to cross the Tay Estuary and at 1pm was heading towards the Glenshee ski area. At 2pm was starting to climb over the Cairngorms flying towards Cairngorm. This was just 20 kms from his nest so when I check tomorrow's data I should find he got home about 3pm or earlier.

Later on 6th: Red 8T was at Rothiemurchus Fishery at 3pm on 5th, and then at his nest 4pm onwards - so he seemed to stop to get a fish before going to the nest - good move!



Summer

10 April 2011: Settling down

Red 8T has settled down at the nest he used last year and in the past week he has been within 7 km of the nest.

19 April 2011: Settling down

I was at his nest today and saw Red 8T come in with a fish for his mate. She is the same bird from recent years. They have rebuilt their nest which was badly damaged during the winter snow and winds. I expect the female to lay eggs in the next few days.

24 April 2011: Settled

Red 8T is not well settled with the same mate from last year. They had not laid eggs when I last visited on the 19th April, but I expect to find them incubating when I visit later this week.

18 May 2011: Summer routine

Red 8T has been ranging for fish within a range of 16 square kms, but mainly visiting the Rothiemurchus fishery. He did make a visit to his old nest where a new pair of osprey have taken over, but had not laid by 10th May - a young pair.

23 June 2011: Not sure

The weather has been so bad that many nests have failed but when I visited Red 8T's nest today I couldn't make up my mind if his mate had young or not. She flew off without calling loudly but then returned, but I did not see young. I need to check on a dry or sunny day but they are scarce this June!! Red 8T has been at the Rothiemurchus Fishery but twice this month has made trips to Loch Seilich in Gaick - a round trip of 55 kms to fish!

24 June 2011: Photo

Garry Ridsdale sent me excellent photos of Red 8T at Rothiemurchus Fishery, which showed his satellite transmitter very well. He said he dived into the water so close, that the splash hit the hide! The photo shows him just before rising out of the water.

**10 July 2011: No change**

Red 8T is rearing young, probably two chicks in the high nest. He has been fishing in a 17 square kms area.

11 July 2011: Photo

Chris Wilson sent me this nice photo of Red 8T fishing at Rothiemurchus fishery recently. This one would have been appreciated by the chicks!



21 July 2011: Failed

We checked the nest on 12 July and found out there were no young, and they had died in the very poor weather recently. It's been a very bad year for ospreys, including in Badenoch & Strathspey. Today I was at the Rothiemurchus fishery very early in the morning, helping the BBC The One Show, and Red 8T was hunting several times from 6 AM and then caught fish and flew off.

01 August 2011

Red 8T living in area of 23 square kms - but usually at nest site or at Rothiemurchus Fishery or in the larches nearby.

07 August 2011: No change

Red 8T was flying over his nest with a fish this morning with two other ospreys. His satellite data shows he is visiting Rothiemurchus fishery frequently and ranging within an area of 33 square kms.

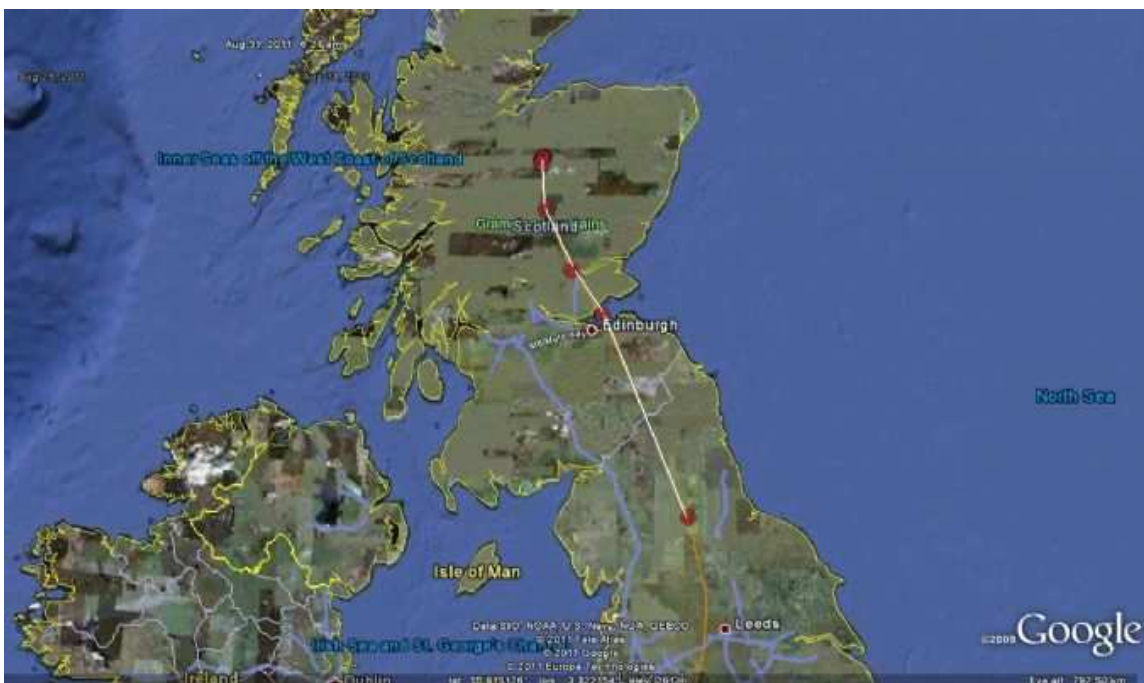
12 August 2011: No change

I was at Red 8T's nest site on the 8th August, and he was circling over the nesting area with a fish. Two other ospreys were flying overhead as well but I didn't think his mate was there - maybe she has set off south. His data shows he has been living in the local area with no big fishing forays.

August Migration

30 August 2011: Late start but he's off

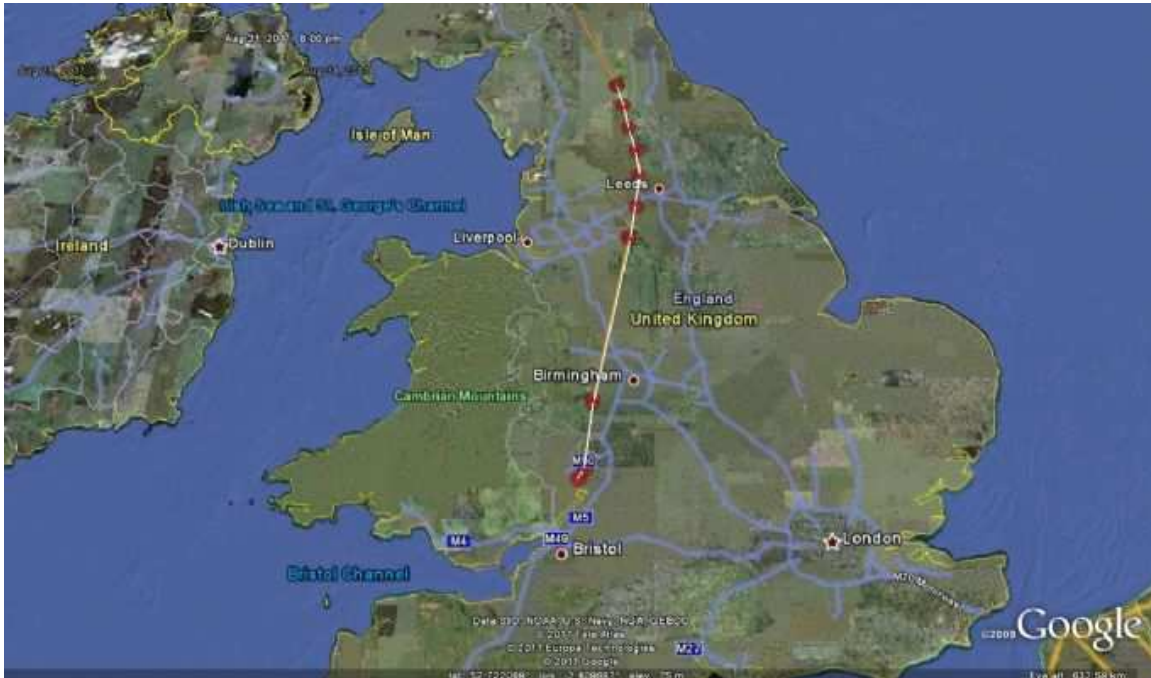
This morning at 7am and 8am Red 8T was at Rothiemurchus Fishery, and then back to his nest site and at midday was perched at Inshriach. Soon after he set off south through Glenfeshie (where he sometimes fishes) and headed south over the Perthshire moors cutting west of Ben-y-Ghlo, he was just N of Blair Atholl at 1pm flying SSE at 94km/hr at 937 metres altitude. At 2pm he was over the ring road south of Perth, and set off over the Firth of Forth from Kirkcaldy and was mid channel at 3pm, flying SE at 61km/hr some 475 metres above the sea heading for East Lothian. He roosted in a wood just east over Eggleston, Barnard Castle, after a flight of 312kms. This is earliest start in three years (7 September in 2009 and 8 September in 2010) but this late summer he was not feeding young.



31 August 2011: South to Gloucestershire

Red 8T set off at 9am from his roost and an hour later was flying south over the moors at 36km/hr. He flew over Nidderdale at midday and an hour later was just south-east of Ilkley. At 2 PM he was flying over Huddersfield at 48 km/hr at an altitude of 600 m above the town. He was flying over the Peak District at 3 PM.

He passed to the west of Birmingham and at 7 PM was flying south at 43km/hr over Stourport-on-Severn and at 8 PM was just north of Newent. He soon after settled to roost for the night in woodland on the east side of May Hill, a distinctive landmark in Gloucestershire. He had flown 302 kilometres.



01 September 2011: Redirected migration

First data coming in showed that Red 8T left May Hill and flew SE to a lake in a big wood just NE of Kintbury, and west of Newbury. He was there by 4pm. Interestingly he was at the same location on 10th and 11th September 2010 but reached it after a more eastwards migration south through England. Early this morning Red 8T obviously decided to get back on track and head for Kintbury.



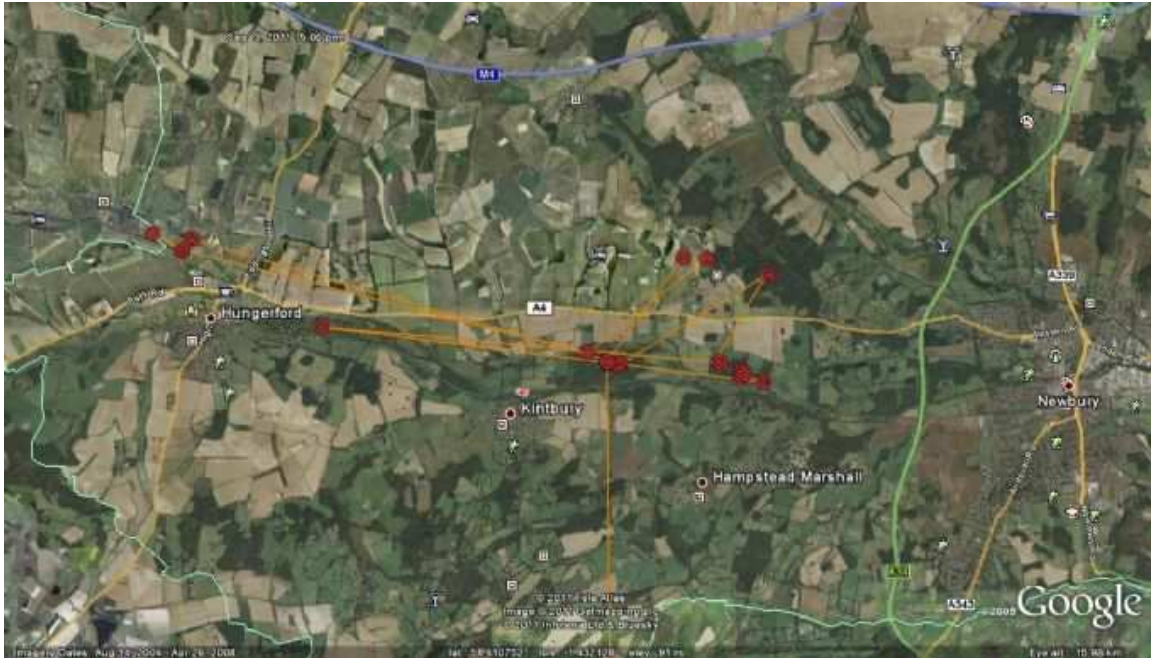
Route on 1st September



Kintbury stop-over site

06 September 2011: Stopping over

Red 8T remains in the Kintbury area, east to Newbury. Clearly it's proved a good stopping off place for him, just as well with the bad weather today. I expect him to move on once the weather improves.

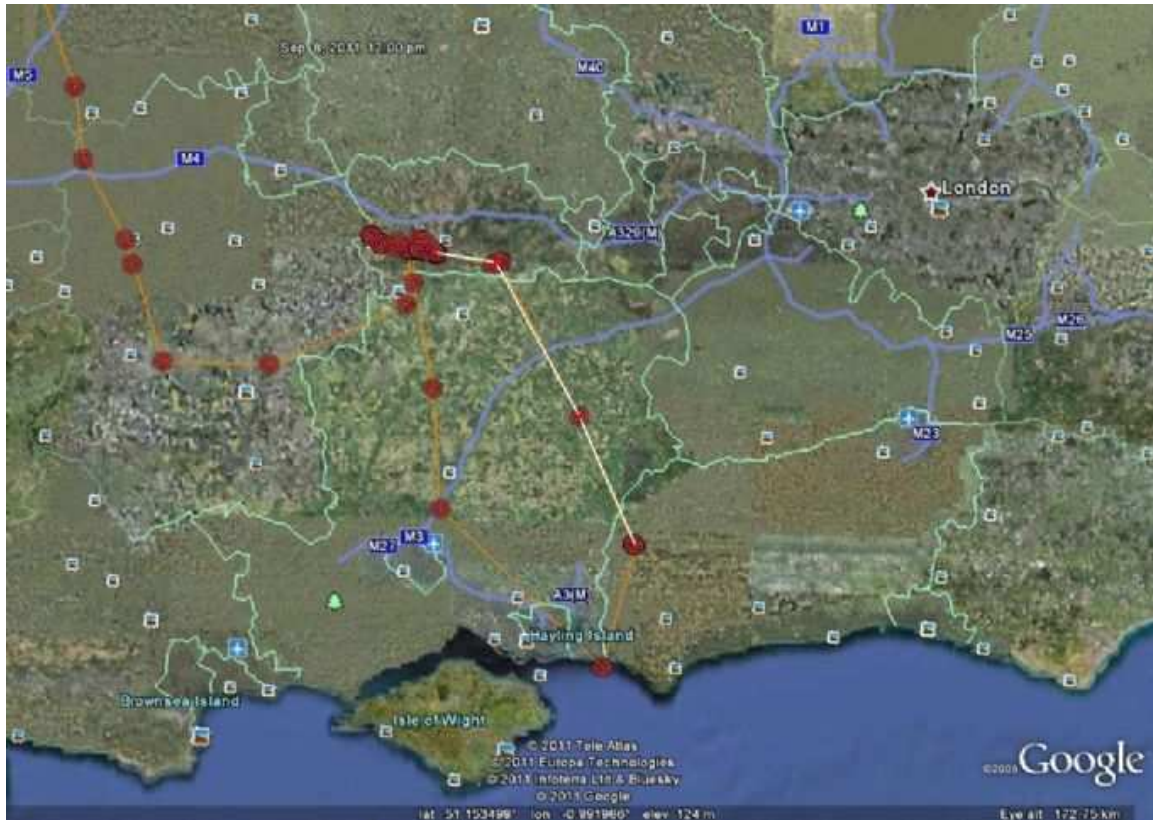


07 September 2011: Off again

At midday he had left the Kennet and was heading south over Pilot Hill. at 1pm was flying SE at 44km/hr over Bullington, Hampshire and an hour later over Eastleigh, where turned eastwards and at 3pm was one mile offshore of the east end of Hayling Island. But he turned back from a channel crossing probably a wise move considering the weather. He roosted overnight at Harting Down in West Sussex.

08 September 2011: Backtrack to the Kennet

Red 8T was already flying back to the River Kennet at 7am when he was west of Alton flying NNW at 30km/hr. By an hour later he was beside the River Kennet, SE of Thatcham, and just before midday flew up the river to Benham Park, west of Newbury Bypass.



11 September 2011: Off over France

First signals coming in this morning suggest Red 8T set off from the Isle of Wight and is crossing the channel this morning.

14 September 2011

Roosted overnight on 13th east of Niort, then this morning set off SSW from La Rochelle into the Bay of Biscay and headed for the Spanish coast. On night of 12th/13th September roosted between Le Mans and Tours. He left the French coast south of the Ile d'Oleron at 0630 GMT and headed out SSW. They flew direct route to the Spanish coast, generally heading SSW at speeds of 50 to 70 km/hr. at 14:00 hours he was north of Santona on the north coast of Spain and changed his heading to SSE to compensate for the westerly drift. He flew on into the mountains and at 18:00 hours was north of Miranda de Ebro and an hour later roosted in woodland on a hillside NE of Burgos, after a migration of at least 543 kms.



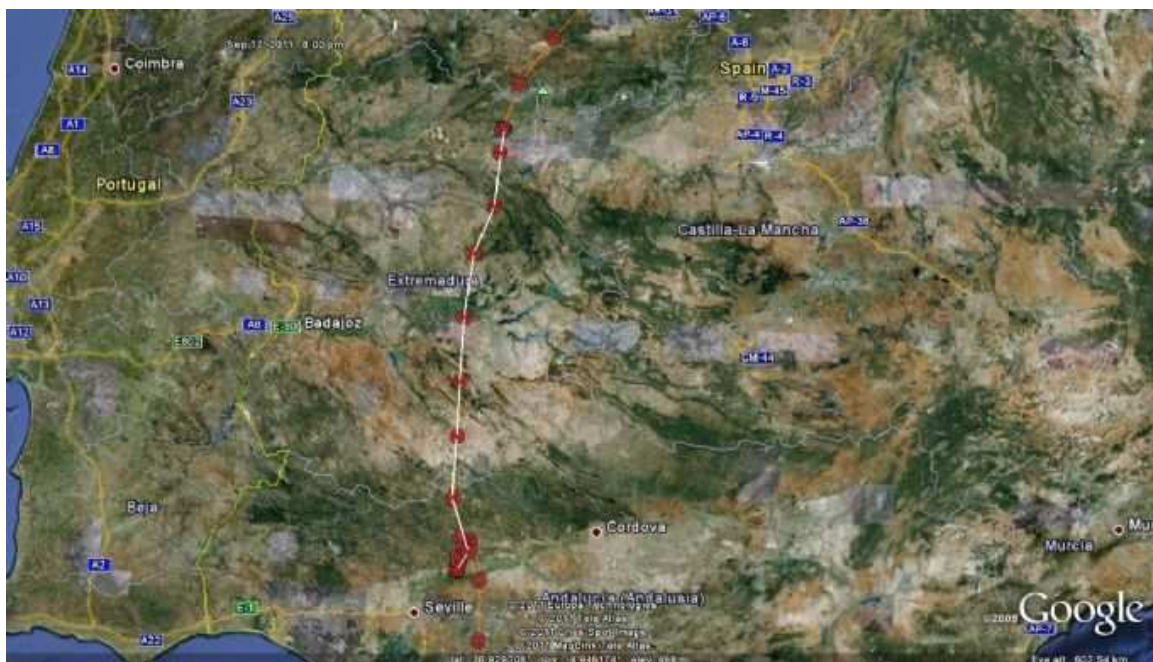
15 September 2011: South to Extramadura

Red 8T had set off and flew SSW by 08:00 hours and at 13:00 hours was at an altitude of 1631 metres east of Valladolid. At 16:00 hours he was between Salamanca and Avila and an hour later was flying still at 42 km/hour at 1964 metres above Piedrahita. At 18:00 hours he was roosting beside the river Tietar, just north of Talayuela. 334 kms today.



16 September 2011: South towards Seville

He headed south after 9 AM and at midday was passing just east of Trujillo in Extremadura. At 17:00 hours he flew over the reservoir of Hueznar and an hour later was on the banks of the River Guadalquivir at Villanova Del Rio. This is where he roosted the night in trees beside the river. Day's migration of 273 kms.

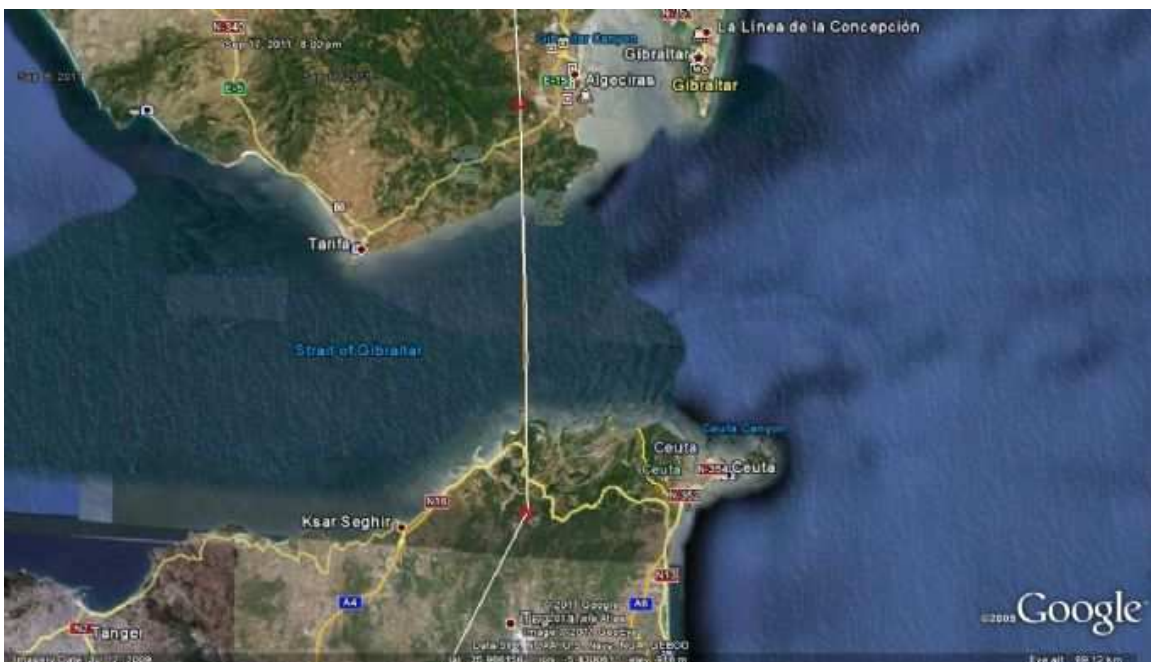
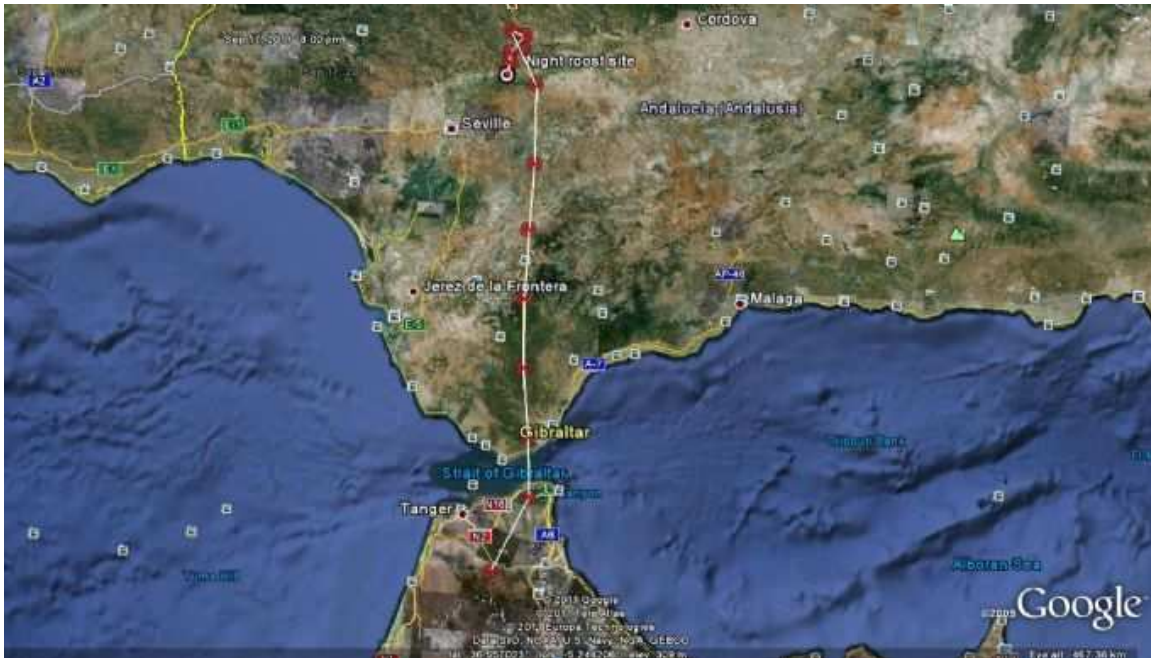




Night roost on the Guadalquivir River

17 September 2011: Crosses from Spain to Morocco

Red 8T flew back to the reservoir and spent the morning at Hueznar, before setting off South at midday. At 14:00 hours he was over Arahal and 16:00 hours was over the big reservoir, de los Hurones, west of the Ubrique. At 18:00 hours he was flying straight south at 30 kms/hr over Pelayo just west of Algeciras. It was absolutely beautiful clear weather, with no clouds, - I had left Malaga airport that morning - and Red 8T flew in the direction of the Straits of Gibraltar to Tangier in northern Morocco. He changed heading at 1900 to SSW and was still flying in that direction at 2000 hrs near Dar Caoui, helped by the moonlight.



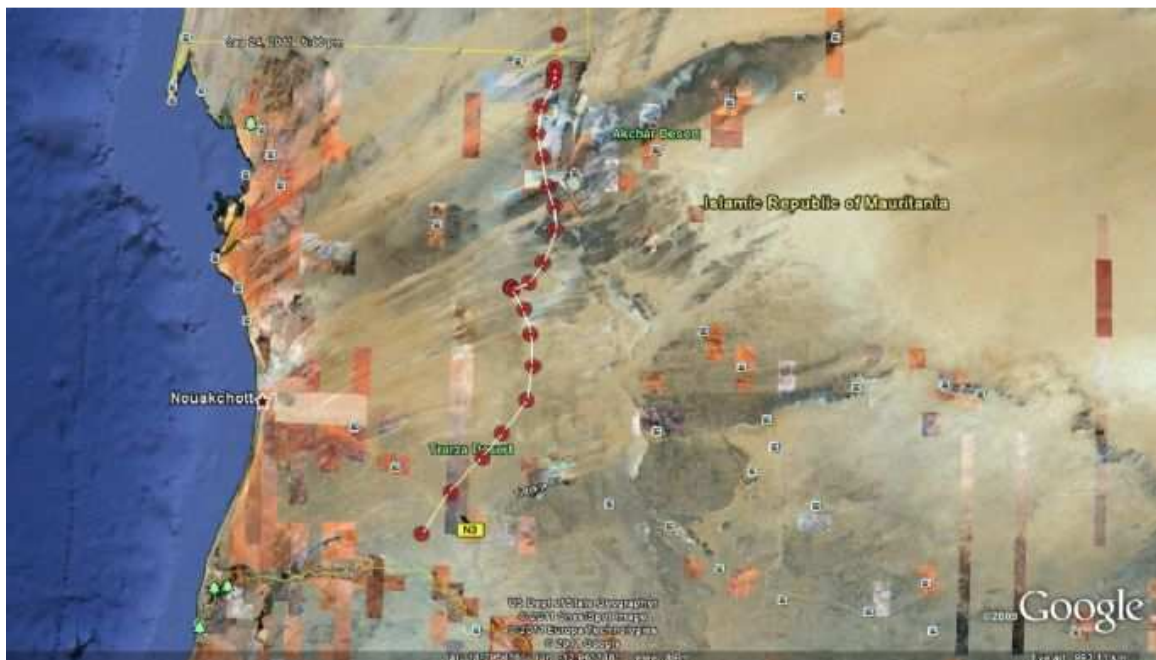
21 September 2011: Strong migration through Morocco

Red 8T made a strong migration through Morocco covering 1360 kms in 4 days, 18th to 21st September. On the 21st he flew 403 kms and just after 1600hrs he flew across the border in to Mauritania to start the major desert crossing. At that time he was flying SSW at 72km/hr some 1580 metres above the desert south of Tifarti. At 1990 hrs he was roosting in open deserts in NW Mauritania.



24 September 2011: Migrated through Mauritania

Red 8T was flying south at 56km/hr in southern Mauritania at 1700hrs today and should reach the River Senegal. He has made good time although his migration has not been direct. At 1900hrs he had reached the Senegal River and was perched in Senegal some 4 kms south of the river, where he roosted.



25 September 2011: Through Senegal to The Gambia

Red 8T flew 218 kms today through Senegal to reach the north bank of the River Gambia, opposite Tendaba Camp, where he roosted for the night.



26 September 2011: Back at his winter home

He left the Gambia River early and at 0700hrs was flying SW at 39km/hr. He stopped by a tributary in southern Gambia probably to eat a fish at 0800hrs. At midday he was NW of Zinguinchor and changed his track to WSW to reach his winter quarters by 1300 hrs. He went straight to his favourite trees in the mangrove swamp - the exactly same place as previous winters. Another excellent migration from the Scottish Highlands.



27 September 2011: Migration route

The map shows Red 8T's migration route in September 2011 - completed in 28 days.

