

Movements of Tom in 2009

06 January 2009

Yesterday morning a couple of poor quality signals came in to show that Tom was still in his parents' home range.

23 January 2009

Tom was on the hills just to the west of the nest cliffs on afternoon of 22nd and early this morning before light he was roosting in low cliffs down from the nesting cliffs - he is still very much staying with his parents in their home range. Six GPS fixes shows that the slightly lengthened days and bright sun are starting to charge up the solar panel.

31 January 2009

On the 31st January, he was still in his home range close to the old nesting site, on 22nd he was 2km SE, on 23rd 2km NE and on 25th 6km west of his old eyrie. If he has departed, prior to his parents getting ready for the new breeding season, he has been flying free in the natal area for 6 months.

03 February 2009

Tom may have left his parents at last! Yesterday there was a class 1 signal (one kilometre accuracy) near Loch Ericht, Dalwhinnie, which is about 40 miles SW of Tomintoul. I need a couple more signals to be sure he has moved.

17 February 2009

I now think the 3rd February report was a mistaken fix, it was not a GPS reading, and when strong signals came in on 5th - 6th he was in a glen a few miles from his natal location, and then he returned there and on several nights was roosting within several hundred yards of his old nest. But on 14th he did at last travel in completely new areas. He left home sometime after 10am, and at 11am was flying west at 31 km/hr at 640 metres altitude about 2 miles NE of Ben Bynach, an hour later he was perched below Cnap Leum an Easaich, before flying over the snowy summits of Beinn a'Bhuird. At 1pm he was flying over Carn Eag Dubh in the upper Quoich area, and spent the next three hours in that area south of Carn Eas. There were no further signals until dawn on the 15th, which showed that he roosted overnight in the native pinewood at Quoich Water. He was at the roost until after 7am, and then from 8am to 9am he was half a mile east in the glen, before flying back northwest over Beinn

a'Bhuird. At 10am he was perched on the Aberdeenshire side of the county boundary near Coire Ruairidh, and then slowly moved north and at midday was on the eastern slopes of Beinn a'Chaorainn Beag. By 1pm he was back home and was still in the main parts of the home range today (17th).

26 February 2009

Tom remained in his parents' home range - with movements up to 1.75 miles to the north, 2.5 miles to the SE and 2.65 miles to the SW.

12th March 2009

Tom remained in the area to the south and east of Loch Builg, in much the same locations used by Alma in previous months. He was present between Cullardoch to Brown Cow Hill, and north to Glen Avon. On 5th March, after spending the last days of February in his parents' home range, although not close to his old nest, he moved out early on the 1st March (in spring like weather) and spent that day in Glen Avon. Next day he moved further south and by midday was just east of Loch Builg. During the next two days he was in the Corndavon lodge area, as far east nearly to Bridge of Gairn, and then yesterday moved to the eastern slopes of Ben Avon, spending last night roosting below Big Brae. Tom has spent 7 months in his parents' home range, which must be close to the limit of parental care for golden eagles.

14 March 2009

Tom made his first big foray. He was still in the Loch Builg area at 6 to 8am on 13th, and the next signal was at midday when he flying SW at 22km/h over the Moine Mor near Glen Feshie, having traversed the Cairngorm range. At 1pm and 2pm he was on the south flanks of Braeriach, and at 3pm was flying NNW over the Moine Mor at 54km/h. By 5pm he had moved down into the slopes of upper Glen Feshie (on the edge of the home range belonging to Alma's parents) and he roosted overnight in the gully of the Eidart river. On the 14th, he moved a little east into the upper catchment of the River Geldie, and at 10am he was flying east at 62km/h on the county march west of An Sgarsoch. Tom then moved south into Perthshire, at 2pm he was flying north at 58km/h over the summit of Conlach Mor. Crossing Glen Tilt, Tom was at Stac na h-Iolair (gaelic for eagle rock) at 3pm and then he moved a little north and at 4pm and 5pm he was on Meall Gharran between Glen Tilt and Glen Loch. His two days covered at least 87 miles and he is now in areas frequently used by Alma in 2007 and 2008.

15 March 2009

Tom spent the day around Loch Loch, east to the Fearnach hill road, and then moved north to the other side of Glen Tilt; roosting at night on the north end of An Sligeanach.

17 March 2009

At 11am on 17th March, he started a real journey around the mountains in beautiful clear weather - the first real day of spring. At 11am he was perched on the south side of Carn Ealar and at midday was flying at 50km/h above the river Eidart in the Cairngorms. At 1pm he was flying SE at 76km/h along the north slopes of Glenfeshie - I wonder if he was being chased off by the breeding pair of adult eagles. At 2pm he was perched west of Geldie Lodge, and at 3pm was back over the River Eidart flying SW at 15km/h at 1187 metres - high above the hills. He continued south and at 4pm was flying over Meall Dubh Chlais and then an hour later was over Aonach na Cloiche Moire; he then flew west over Glen Bruar, and finally settled for the night in the hills north of Dalnacardoch in North Perthshire. The day's flight was at least 33 miles.

18 March 2009

Tom stayed in the Glen Tilt area on 16th March and roosted overnight on Braigh Coire na Contaich and he was there until 10am.

26 March 2009

He has settled in the Glen Bruar to Gaick area of mountains

06 April 2009

Tom has remained in the SW side of the Cairngorms; starting south of Cairntoul in the Geldie; he flew on 3rd south to An Sgarsoch and the west to Gaick and on to Glenfeshie; remained on the south part of Glenfeshie until 5th and then moved east back into the Geldie.

08 April 2009

On 7th April, Tom was along the Geldie valley all morning, and then flew west, crossing the Highland boundary between 3pm and 4pm; he was then in the upper river Feshie hills, before moving NW and at 6pm was on Meall an Uilt Chreagaich. He then slowly moved further north and was close to a conifer plantation on Glenfeshie Estate at 9 pm, and then roosted there for the night. On the 8th, I visited the location with a film crew from the BBC The One Show, filming a story about the eagle project. Knowing the exact location, we walked to the lower side of the plantation and I located the tree he roosted in during the night. It was a larch tree with a bent top of about 20 year old on the side of the wood. With a strong west wind with snow overnight it was a good sheltered roost. We found pellets, droppings and a moulted feather showing it has been used by other eagles (in fact Alma has roosted there in the past) and just outside the wood the remains of a freshly killed red grouse,

probably Tom's meal last night. We were there at midday, and later signals show that Tom was at the roost until 6am, and then moved south to An Elrig and then to Coire Bhran, so when we were filming he almost certainly could see us but we did not see him.

12 April 2009

He has spent all the time in an area at south end of Glenfeshie estate, between Gaick and Glen Geldie, and on 10th he was over the Perthshire border.

25 April 2009

Tom has settled down in an area of mountains ranging from Gaick in Badenoch south across the county boundary into northern Perthshire. The map below shows the extent of his daily movements between 21st and 23rd April, and he is still there today.

03 July 2009

Tom has spent all his time on the boundary of Perthshire and Badenoch, with some days visiting just south of the A9 trunk road. These two GoogleEarth maps show his range between 27th June and 2nd July, which is similar to many previous periods, and secondly his positions on 27th June, when he moved around more than an average day. The GPS data is for hourly positions from dawn (5am) to dusk (11pm), during which he travelled more than 14.5 kilometres.



10 July 2009

Tom has spent more time in the north of his summer range, mostly in the mountains east of Loch Seilich in Gaick. His most northern flight was to his previous roost site in a conifer plantation on Glenfeshie on the night of 8th - 9th July.



Tom's range 9th – 11th July

29 July 2009: Still summering on the Inverness-shire/Perthshire border

Tom remains in the southern edge of Glenfeshie estate, and westwards in to Gaick and south into North Perthshire. He will be in his first moult now and not really doing a great deal of flying. The maps below show his range from 25th to 28th July, and his day's movements on the 28th July, when he roosted near the upper River Feshie, moved about 16 kilometres during the day and returned to the same roost site on the south side of the river.



Extent of summer range 25th -28th July



Tom's hourly movements in upper Feshie on 28th July

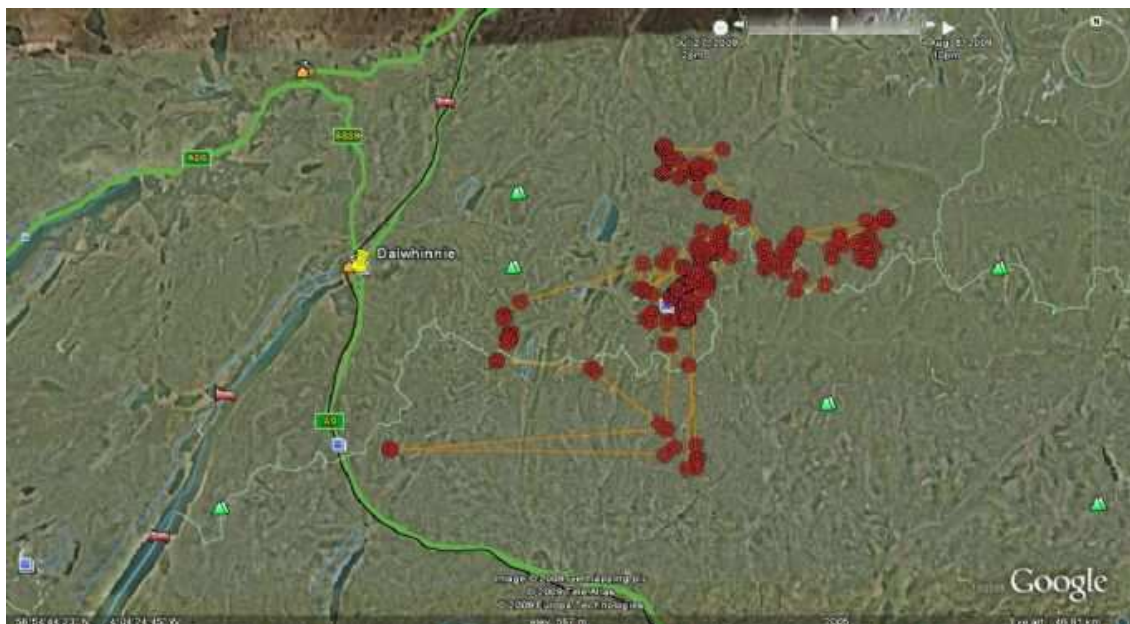
04 August 2009

He moved north to the area around plantations on the west side of Glenfeshie estate from 30th July to 2nd August, and roosted there on one night, then he moved back to the Gaick hills.



09 August 2009

Tom wandered a bit more in the last week, on the 5th August he moved down into North Perthshire and on 6th was just 1.4 miles east of the Pass of Drumochter at 5pm and 6pm. With deer stalking well under way there will be increasing amounts of 'grallochs' (deer stomachs etc after the stags have been shot and gutted). Then he moved back north into Gaick again.



17 August 2009

Tom remains in the Gaick - North Perthshire area, and in the last few days has moved north on to Glenfeshie Estate.

22nd August 2009

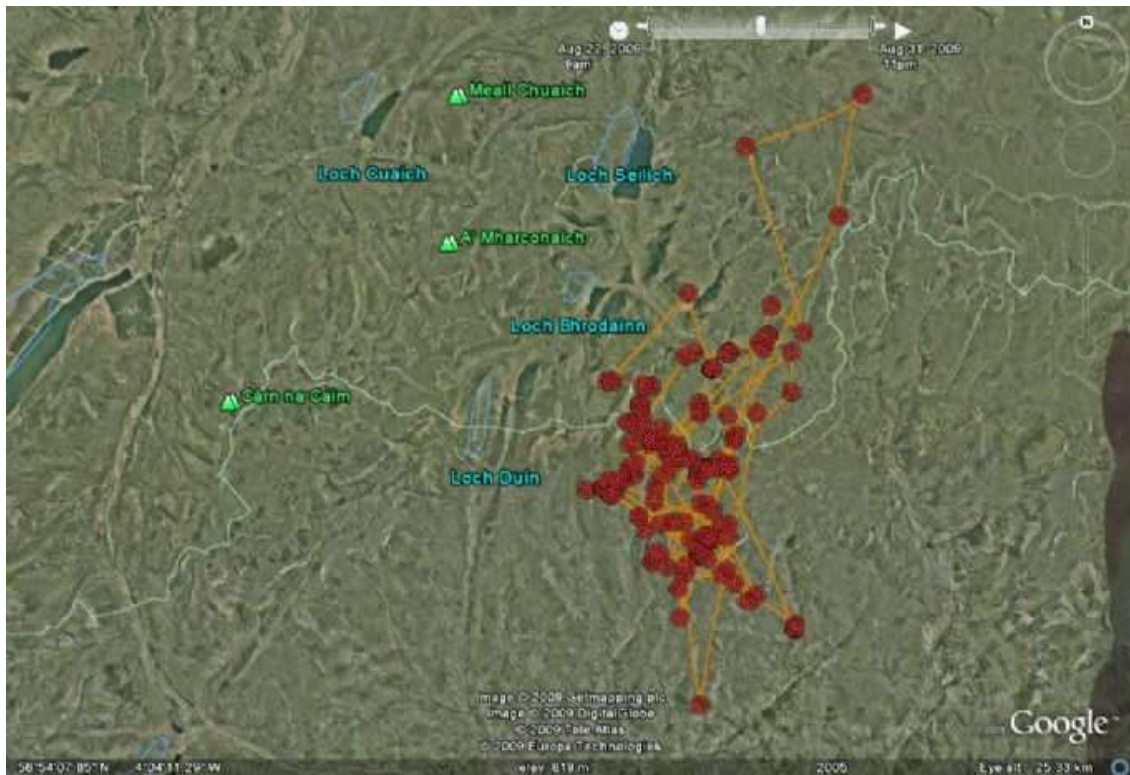
Tom has moved into the southwards facing glens of North Perthshire over last couple of days.



20th to 23rd August

01 September 2009

Tom remains in the same area of Glenfeshie & Gaick south into north Perthshire. He seems very settled and has nearly always lived in the remotest parts of the mountains, unlike Alma, which used to visit lower altitudes and more populated places. Maybe there is something in our cultural behaviour ideas.

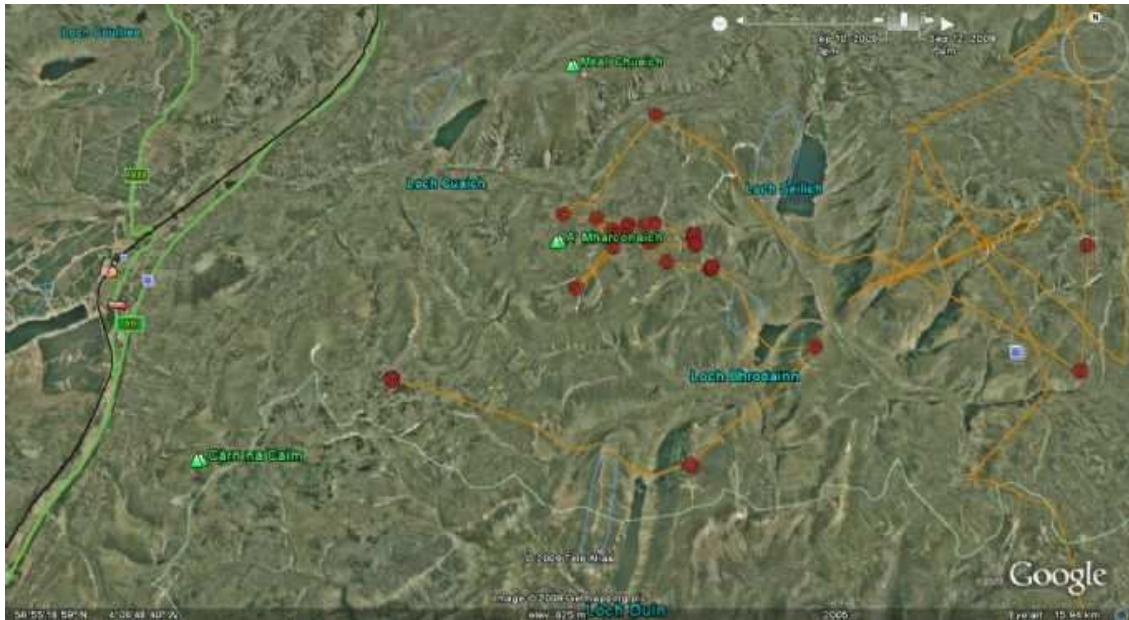


Tom's locations 23rd to 31st August

12 September 2009

Tom remains in the Drumochter, Gaick, Glenfeshie and north Perthshire mountains





September 6th to 9th

13 September 2009

Keith Duncan sent the following email for Sunday 13th September:

Catherine and I went in search of Tom on Sunday 13th; the weather was dreadful at Nethy but glorious south of Drumochter. We walked north in to the hills from Dalnamein Lodge (NN752695) and up a track to overlook the southern part of the area Tom appears to be frequenting.

We saw one young bird (about Tom's age) but despite good views could not see a satellite pack so not sure if we saw Tom. The sightings were in square NN7574 at 1610hrs and on NN7478 at 1720hrs. The latter sighting was the same eagle (identified by plumage and that it was dragging a talon on its right foot) included an interaction with a juvenile sea eagle (untagged), which was having a serious attempt at attacking the goldy. Was Tom in this area on the 13th?

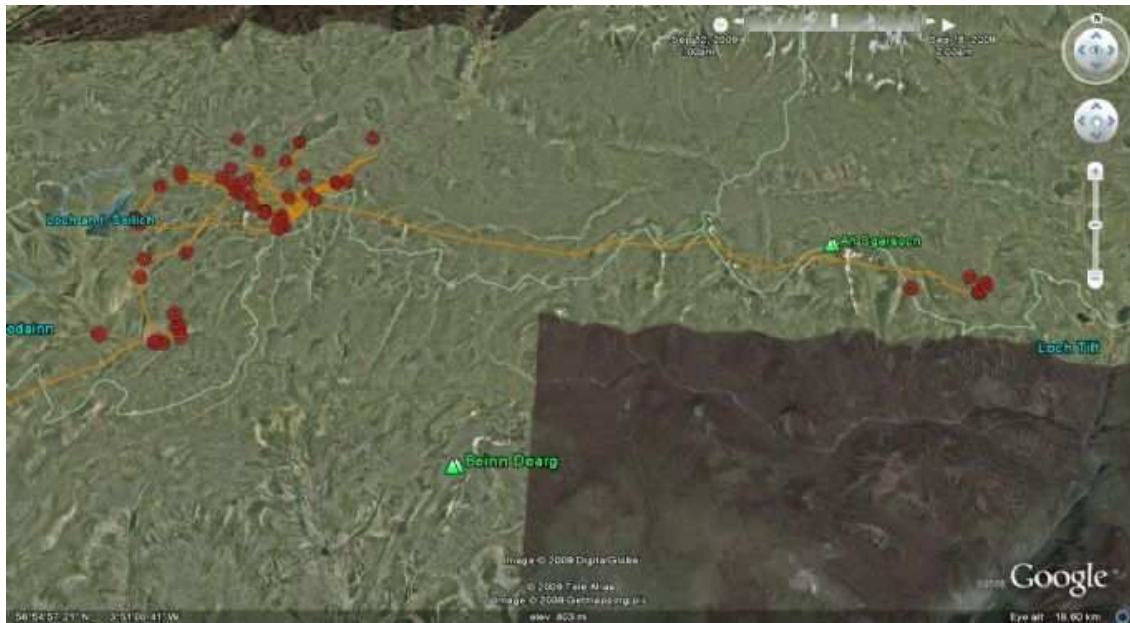
The second sighting was very close and was probably Tom, and the earlier one could have been when Tom was flying, because the locations are on the hour and an eagle can do a lot in between GPS positions. The map below plots Tom's location throughout 13th September - quite often they change night roosts.



Tom's locations on 13th September, with two sightings marked.

17 September 2009

Tom moved much further east this afternoon and this evening is east of An Sgarsgoch



Tom moves east

22 September 2009

Late this evening 23.04pm Tom was back in his usual haunts in North Perthshire.

01 October 2009: Tour of the Cairngorm Mountains

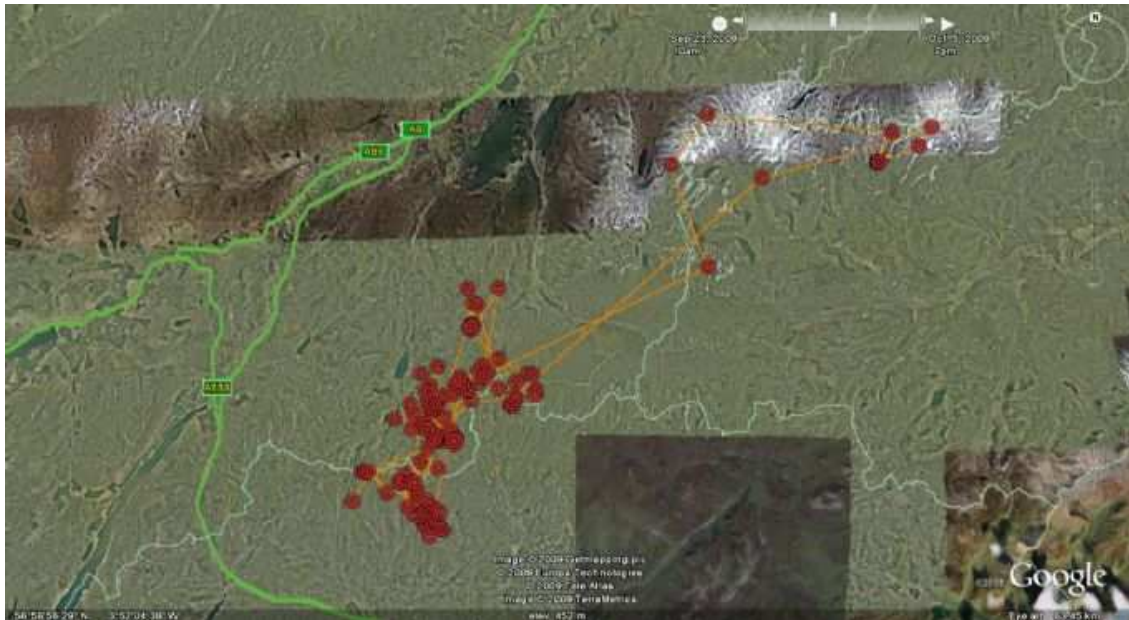
Tom has been living in his normal haunts and on night of 29th/30th September was roosting in a corrie in Gaick. At 10am he had flown across the glen, and the day was improving to a lovely quiet sunny day. He flew NE to the eastern parts of Gaick estate, and then at 3pm was flying at 1025 metres heading ENE. An hour later he was further east, heading north towards Braeriach. At 5pm he was over the cliffs to the east of Loch Einich flying NE at 12km/h at 1169 metres. At 6pm he was flying fast at 77km/h to the NE at 1346 metres to the north of Braeriach. He crossed the Cairngorms and at 7pm he was perched to the west of Beinn a Bhuid and then went south to roost overnight in the top of the glen north of Mar Lodge. He had travelled at least 38 miles.

Next morning, he left the roost after eight and at 9am was perched on the west flanks of Beinn a'Bhuid, and at 11am was perched at the summit. Tom then flew west and at 1pm (transmitter now on winter schedule of very two hours) was flying WSW at 64 km/h over the Larig Ghru just south of Ben Macdhui. By 3pm he was back in Gaick and that night was back in his roost site of 28/29th September. His round trip was at least 58 miles and was his first big movement for many months.



07 October 2009

Tom has settled back in his normal haunts.



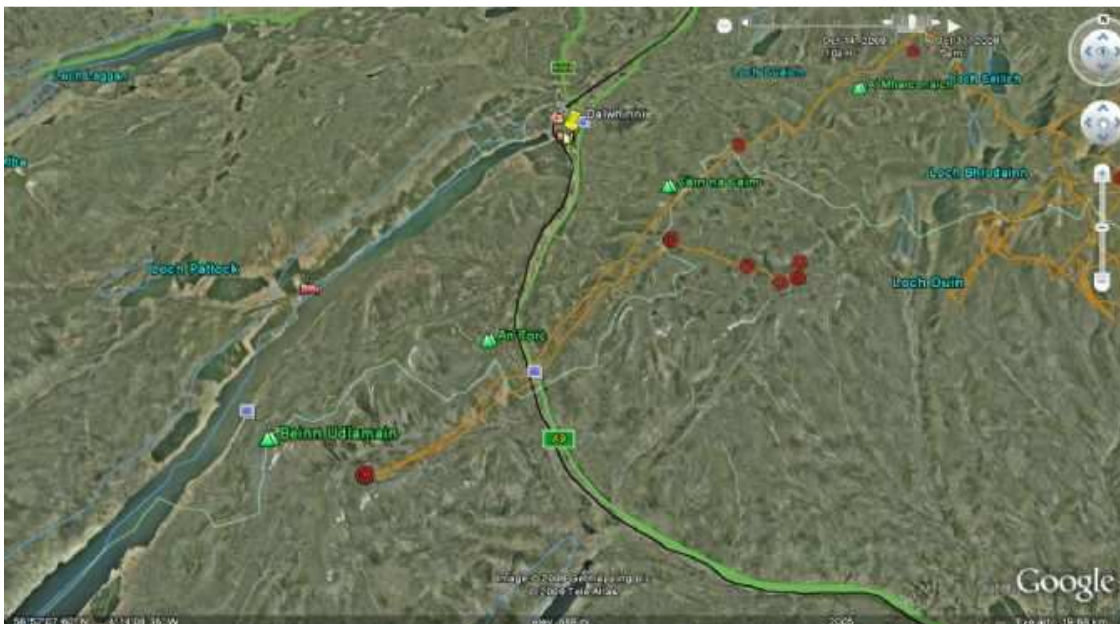
Tom's locations late September to 6th October, also showing his longer trip

12 October 2009

Tom in usual area either side of Perth/Badenoch march; and today is a little to the east, being just SE of An Sgarsoch.

17 October 2009

On 15 October, at 5 PM Tom was heading for Carn na Caim, and then crossed the A9 road at Drumochter and roosted that night in Coire Creagach on Sgairneach Mhor, the mountain behind the Sow of Atholl. Next morning between 7 and 8am he flew back over the road to his usual haunts in North Perthshire.



24 October 2009

Tom has been mainly in the SE part of Gaick estate in the last week.

31 October 2009

Tom has remained in same area, and last few days has been in the southern end of the Glenfeshie Estate.

12 November 2009: South to Glen Tilt

Tom moved south on 11th November to Glen Tilt in North Perthshire and was still there on the 12th, after roosting on the cliffs NE of Forest Lodge.



23 November 2009

Tom has remained in same area, and at 11.49am today was between Glenfeshie Estate and Gaick.

29 November 2009

Tom's transmitter has been lacking in charge due to poor weather conditions but on 28th he was in his usual locations in Gaick Estate and last night was close by in the same area.

14 December 2009

Tom remains settled in the mountains at Gaick. The bad weather and shortness of the days has reduced GPS signals. Good locations were obtained for 11th and 13th December, when the weather was frosty but sunny and clear.



27 December 2009

Only a few non GPS positions - on 25th December he was in north Perthshire near Beinn a Ghlo and on 27th was north of Loch Loch.