

Movements of Chick 21197 in 2006

The chick wandered quite widely, spending much time near Lundie Loch, north of the Tay, and was then near Bridge of Isla on 29th August, Kirriemuir on 30th August and between Alyth and Glamis on 2nd September. It then went back to the Tay reedbeds for a few days and then on 9th was along the River Isla east of Meikle. Then its migration started.

10 September 2006: Start of migration

Back at Lundie lochs.

11 September 2006

Still there near Long Loch.

13 September 2006

0500 hours very good signal -.roosting in fields by Hill of Baldowie, north-west of Long Loch.

15-16 September 2006

Roosted overnight east of Newtyle - same area.

19 September 2006

Again roosted Newtyle - same area.

21 September 2006

Very good signals - roosted overnight along the Carse of Gowrie near Errol on the shores of the Tay.

22 September 2006

At 9am the bird had flown inland and northwards to the east of Blairgowrie.

23 September 2006

Roosted overnight on moors north of Darvel, midway between Kilmarnock and East Kilbride.

25 September 2006

4.30am very good signal - roosting north of Penwhopple Reservoir, 8km east of Girvan (today the other marsh harrier 21251 migrated down the Ayrshire coast and they must have been close to each other).

26 September 2006

Close to Turnberry golf course on Ayrshire coast in the afternoon.

28 September 2006

Moved 25 km north-east to north of Kirkmichael.

29 September 2006

Roosted overnight just south of Newton Mearns, south of Glasgow – the bird was midway between Eastwood and Bonnington golf courses.

30 September 2006

Same location.

07 October 2006

One very poor signal with no co-ordinates.

08-09 October 2006

Two poor quality B signals from widely separated places at 11pm last night - Shannon estuary, Ireland or in East Lothian - but it could be anywhere from examination of these signals. But the data suggests the bird is still alive and it's the radio which is not transmitting well - so fingers crossed for a good signal.

12-13 October 2006

Again very poor signals - starting to get concerned that something is wrong.

14 October 2006

Another poor quality signal - an examination of the activity sensor readings is starting to suggest that this bird might have been killed or died.

15-27 October 2006

Unfortunately the bird is dead. Occasional signals received so radio is still transmitting on 401.650 MHz in short bursts of data lasting less than a second every 60 to 70 seconds; it is probably somewhere just south of Newton Mearns. If anyone finds it or a radio enthusiast picks up the signal we'd like to hear.

February 2007

Occasional signals continue to be received, presumably when the solar panel is activated; we think the bird and radio are in thick vegetation. Several people have tried to find it without success. Many thanks to them.