



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter March 2018

News

You will all remember the December meeting when Hayley Douglas talked to us about the Tag-n-Track project, tracking 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls to investigate their summer and winter movements from the Clyde area. At this meeting the society decided to sponsor *Flyback* and here is his story so far....

Flyback reached his wintering grounds in Casablanca on the 13th of August after leaving Linwood 25 days earlier. His journey started when he flew for 24 hours from South Ayrshire to Brittany in Northern France, spending a week at the fishing town of Penmarch where it is believe he was following the fishing boats and feeding on worms inland.

After feeding up in France *Flyback* then made the 13 hour journey over the Bay of Biscay to Northern Spain following the coastline towards Portugal before flying down to an area south of Lisbon. While in Portugal, enjoying the 40 degree heat, he was photographed twice!

After spending a week in Portugal he then made the 11 hour journey to Morocco, a journey of 396 miles and achieving a top speed of 56 mph!, although the wind would have helped across this stretch of sea.

In Casablanca *Flyback* settled in to a routine of feeding at the city's dump and a local fish processing factory but, after spending two and half months there then moved further south to another Moroccan city, Safi on the 24th of October. Again he settled in to a regular routine of foraging at the local dump and off the coast.

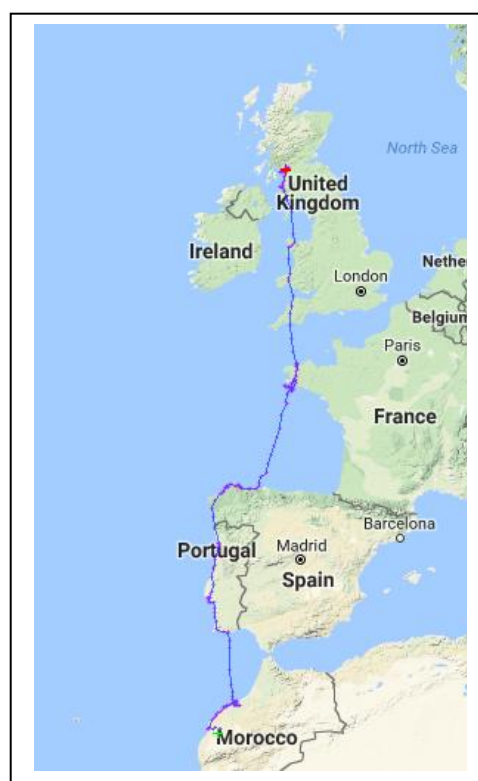


Photo taken by Gilberto Pinelas on the 7th of August on Costa da Caparica beach, Portugal

On the 13th of November *Flyback* moved inland to Youssoufia and has been travelling between there and Chemaia. Unfortunately we haven't had an update from his tag since the 13th of November due to a network failure in Morocco however once he moves out of Africa we should regain contact with him.

You can keep up to date with *Flyback* and the other 10 gulls on the tracking website www.movebank.org. Simply head to the 'Tracking Data Map' area and type 'Clyde Muirshiel' in to the search bar to see all the gulls' movements. Additionally visit the Clyde Muirshiel website for updates and dedicated gull information pages or follow us on Facebook 'Tag-n-Track'.

Important Information!

As you should be aware Paisley Museum is closing after the summer for a four-year major redevelopment and will not open again until 2022. This means that our meeting venue will change.

Although the new venue has not yet been finalised we will keep you updated on developments and inform you as soon as possible of our new meeting place.

Spring Talks Programme

Paisley Museum

7.30pm

Thursday 5th April

AGM and Members Evening

The business of the society will be discussed followed by:

Could we live with lynx? by Dr David Hetherington

The Eurasian Lynx lived in Scotland for thousands of years until its demise at the hands of humans and was similarly pushed out of most the rest of Europe, clinging on only in the wildest areas. However, with changing attitudes, the lynx has made a comeback and there is growing discussion about its potential reintroduction to the U.K.

Copies of David's book "The Lynx and Us" will also be available for purchase at a cost of £25. This lavishly illustrated, 170 page hardback tells the story of the relationship between people and Europe's most elusive large carnivore, the Eurasian lynx. The final chapter focuses on the likely issues concerning the reintroduction of the species to Scotland.

Also bear in mind that following our discussion on disposable coffee cups at the January meeting, if you want to bring your own reusable cup for tea and coffee afterwards then please do.

Summer Outings Programme

Monday 14th May

**Green Hairstreak Butterfly
Saltcoats**

**Contact: Tom Byars
01294 466 393**

Meet at Watermill car park at 12 noon to organise car-sharing for the trip. Please note this trip is weather dependent so if in doubt contact the leader before to find out if it's going ahead.

Sunday 24th June

Dragonflies at SWT Glen Moss

**Contact: Norman Tait
0141 885 1951**

Meet at Watermill car park at 12 noon to organise car-sharing for the trip

Sunday 19th August (TBC)

Dragons at the Greenock Cut

**Contact: Kathleen McMillan
07875 121060**

Meet at Watermill car park at 12 noon to organise car-sharing for the trip

www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk

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Nicola Macintyre