

A tale of three eagle wanderers

In late June 2015 tags 148632, 148633 and 148636 were fitted to two females and a male. The two females (148632 & 148633) are siblings fledged from a nest on the western edge of the Cairngorms. The male, 148633, was fledged from a nest near to Glen Affric. 148632 was the first to disperse in late November but her sibling waited until early February. 148636 left it until even later, not dispersing until 13th April which is the second latest of all of our records.

148632 settled onto a range whilst still quite young in February 2017. The other two birds are unusual in that they have shown no sign of settling into a range and have been in their dispersal phase for almost six years. The two wandering birds show similar movement patterns which broadly involve spending winters to the west of the Great Glen and summers in the Monadhliath and Cairngorms. They move between the two areas in long and largely uninterrupted flights. The female from Glen Affric spends summers furthest to the east in the Cairngorms. 148632 had quite a different dispersal phase. Generally, she spent her dispersal phase in a relatively compact area of the Cairngorms but two days before settling she had a long excursion into Caithness. She settled into a range almost 100km to the south. Sadly, her tag ceased sending signals in July 2018 for reasons that are unclear.

The continuing dispersing flights of 148632, 148633 and 148636. Lines connect night roosts. (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021)

