ALLADALE

WILDERNESS RESERVE



ALLADALE WILD FLEDGED GOLDEN EAGLE

A satellite data report reflecting the first two years of life for a wild Golden Eagle since fledging the Alladale Wilderness reserve in 2024

Roy Dennis
Wildlife Foundation

Introduction – Roy Dennis OBE

I first met Paul Lister before the turn of the millennium, when we discussed the possibility of restoring the large carnivores to Scotland. He has been a good friend ever since and I have been an enthusiastic supporter of the Alladale Wilderness Reserve since Paul purchased the estate. Working with Innes MacNeil has helped further the vision of restoring the ecology of these fantastic glens and mountains. Paul Lister funded our joint project on the successful reintroduction of red squirrels, while Innes, and his assistant Ryan Monro, have been involved with me on a range of wildlife projects.



"Two decades on, I applaud the incredible success of the rewilding of the glens. Paul you have achieved great ecological change: I love returning to see what's new."

Golden eagles have been a particular interest, starting with the ancestral pair at the far end of the glen, where we satellite tracked an eaglet in 2014 as part of a project involving 21 eagles in Scotland. That pair is now so old that their eggs are no longer fertile. Two more pairs now breed on Alladale Wilderness Reserve; one young pair started in 2024 and reared one young (the subject of this report) and a new pair began breeding in 2026: the eaglet was tagged in July.

Frequent observations of the Alladale eagles are made by the estate staff, aided by Norman Strachan, a retired TV cameraman, who has obtained remarkable photos and videos from his vehicle on the estate tracks.



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Image: Adult Golden Eagle feeding young in the Eyrie, photo by Laurie Campbell

Golden Eagles

Adult Golden Eagles are dark brown with a golden sheen on the top of the head and neck. Juveniles have a white base to their tail and white patches on the undersides of their wings, meaning they can sometimes be confused with the White-tailed Eagle.





Image: Martin Shaw

Adult Golden Eagle (left) compared with an adult White-tailed Eagle (right).

However, the best diagnostic tool is the shape of the tail: distinctively wedge-shaped in white-tailed eagles but just slightly rounded in golden eagles. From a distance, adults can also sometimes be confused with buzzards, but golden eagles are much bigger, with a wingspan of up to two metres, almost twice that of a buzzard. The tail is also longer than a buzzard's and the head protrudes more prominently in front of the wings. They have a

yellow base to their powerful bill, and yellow legs and talons. In flight, the wings are spread in a slight 'V' and the tips are spread like fingers.



Populations of Golden Eagle were depleted to near extinction in the UK because of persecution, degradation of habitat and contamination from organochlorine pesticides. The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation undertook the first extensive Golden Eagle satellite tagging study in the UK and assisted the reintroduction of Golden Eagle to Ireland.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

In Scotland they inhabit mountains, high moorlands and remote islands, but before persecution by man would have been much more widely distributed, including in low-ground forests. The golden eagle has a very wide distribution, being found across much of the Northern Hemisphere. Within the UK its stronghold is Scotland and it's found mainly in the Scottish Highlands and islands. It has recently been reintroduced to Ireland but remains absent from Wales and is found only in very small numbers in northern England.

DIET

Golden eagles take a range of prey items, both birds and mammals. Most commonly they feed on medium-sized prey such as rabbits, hares, grouse and ptarmigan, but also

take young deer, as well as scavenging on carrion. Pine martens, foxes, badgers, water voles and adders have also been reported as prey items.

REPRODUCTION

Golden eagles do not usually breed until four years of age or more. An eyrie built of sticks is constructed on a remote cliff ledge or in the top of a mature tree, although they prefer to use existing nests, often decades, or even centuries, old. Eyries are huge structures, frequently being at least 2m wide and deep. The female lays 1—2 eggs in late March—early April and incubates for 43—45 days. The male shares incubation but it is mainly carried out by the female. There is normally a noticeable size difference in the chicks due to the eggs being laid over a few days, and the older chick may kill its younger sibling, especially when food is scarce. Both adults feed the chicks and the young fledge after about 65 days. They continue to be fed for a further three months or so and then leave their natal territory sometime in the autumn or winter. Young eagles roam widely in their first years of life, before finding a vacant territory and mate. They are monogamous and mate for life.

STATUS AND THREATS

Golden eagles are classified by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as 'Least Concern'. However, although they are widely distributed across the globe, they have suffered huge declines due to persecution and, sadly, this continues today, with poisoning being the most common form of killing. This century there are welcome signs of an increase in breeding numbers. As with many other raptors, golden eagles were badly affected in the 1950s and 1960s by organochlorine pesticides, which caused thinning of eggshells and so brought about a huge decrease in reproductive success. Within Scotland many former territories remain uncolonised, mainly due to illegal persecution and in parts of the Western Highlands due to ecological degradation and reductions in food availability. Within the UK they are strictly protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. They are also included on the Amber List of UK birds of conservation concern. It is an offence to intentionally take, injure or kill a golden eagle or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season. Violation can result in a fine of up to £5,000 and/or a prison sentence of up to six months.



Photo by Laurie Campbell

Satellite tagging: benefits and learnings

The fitting of satellite tags to wild raptors provides invaluable data about their movements from the point of fledging to independence, and on through to maturity and potentially future breeding. This input of data also enables those monitoring Golden Eagles to respond immediately if a tag stops submitting data, potentially indicating illegal persecution may have occurred, but providing vital information as to where the Eagle was last active, and the tag last functional.

Since the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation pioneered the first extensive Golden Eagle satellite tagging study in the UK, a new understanding of how Golden Eagles interact with and move within their landscape has been developed. This knowledge provides an opportunity to better safeguard the future of Golden Eagles in the UK, and to restore their lost populations.



Photo by Mike Crutch

Report overview: two years of movement study

The breeding season of 2024 for Golden Eagles at Alladale Wilderness Reserve resulted in the successful fledging of one eaglet, which this report follows for the first two years of its development.

Once fledged, the young eaglet remained within its parents' territory for the rest of the summer and early autumn, relying on their provision of food, before taking its first major flight out of the area ahead of the winter of 2024. Like almost all Golden Eagles before developing their own breeding territories, the Alladale juvenile was highly nomadic for the following two years. The young eagle ventured across the width of the country, undertaking flights of over 850km in as little as two days, and settling for periods in the Cairngorms National Park and the northernmost peaks of the Scottish Highlands.



Image: Ian Perks (left) and Ryan Munro (right) satellite tagging Eaglet 175, photo by Norman Strachan

Fitting the tag

After several weeks careful observation by Ryan Munro (ranger) and Norman Strachan (cameraman) the developing chick was old enough to be tagged. On 11th July 2024, under licence and special method permission, the eyrie was accessed by Ryan Munro and Ian Perks, who fitted the eaglet with identification rings and the satellite tag. At this stage the eaglet was large enough to enable the satellite tag to be fitted safely. By taking accurate biometric measurements, including the width and depth of the tarsometatarsus bone, bill depth and weight, Ian was able to estimate the sex of the eaglet as male. Female Golden Eagles, even from an early stage of development, are generally noticeably larger in size and weight than their male counterparts.



Under licence from the British Trust for Ornithology, a metal ring with a unique identification code is safely fitted, alongside a colour ring with a recognisable code that, if spotted, could be picked up with the use of a scope or digital camera long after this individual has dispersed from the eyrie. The eaglet's individual colour ring is black 175 (from now on his ID).

The satellite tag is less than 3% of the weight of the eagle and is fitted using a lightweight Teflon harness made to measure for 175 once he reaches full adult body size.



Image: 175 in the eyrie with a newly fitted satellite tag, photo by Norman Strachan

Life in the eyrie

After satellite tagging, normal life in the Golden Eagle eyrie resumes, with the parent eagles delivering prey items likely including young Red Deer, lagomorphs (Rabbit, Mountain Hare), various smaller bird species and carrion. Norman Strachan obtained this data from his vehicle on the estate track. Now at the final stage of development, eagle 175 is preparing for fledging, losing the last of his down, followed by the final development of his primary and tail feathers, crucial for flight.

Before taking his maiden flight from the nest, a period of early exploration in the immediate vicinity of the eyrie enables 175 to build basic confidence. Repeated wing beating, short hops and jumps all indicate that he is nearly ready to explore beyond the familiarity of the nest site.



Photo by Norman Strachan

Left: 175 behind a parent Eagle. Typical for many Golden Eagles in Scotland, the eyrie is a large mass of sticks and nesting material built up on the ledge of a steep-sided crag, partially concealed by growing vegetation and overhanging rock.



Photo by Norman Strachan

First ventures and early dispersal

By late July, 175 had started to make his very first maiden flights from one side of the crag to the other, regularly returning to the nest site to receive prey deliveries from the adult eagles. At this stage, the young eaglet is now more or less fully developed. As juvenile feathers are slightly longer than those of the adults, to help make arduous flights easier for inexperienced birds, he is now as large as he ever will be in life until his first moult next summer.

This first foray outside of the eyrie is a hugely important time, as he develops early flight skills, and imprints to the landscape around him. One day, when 175 reaches maturity, likely aged 4—6 years old, he will look for a landscape similar to the one he fledged from to pair with a mate and build his own eyrie.

On the evening of 31st August 175 took a brave flight 5km away from the eyrie, where he then stayed for a couple of days before returning to the ridge opposite the nest site on 3rd September. By the end of September, 175 was confidently flying up and down the crags, reaching distances up to 10km away but frequently returning to the vicinity of the eyrie to feed. This is the ideal start to life for the young Eaglet, who has now found the necessary confidence to begin dispersing further from the area, and become independent from his parents.





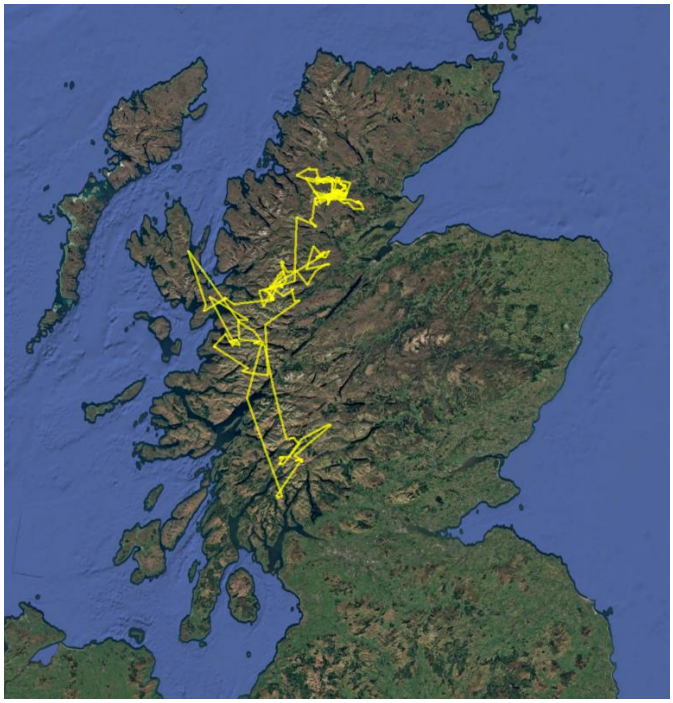
Images: Juvenile Golden Eagles, photos by Mike Crutch

The first winter

In the autumn of 2024, 175 remained well within his parents' home range, but now venturing beyond the nesting crag and likely starting to forage for himself too, alongside receiving prey from his parents. He made small ventures in this period, travelling northeast and spending two days on the hillside above Loch Morie, as well as flying west to just north of Ullapool.

Juvenile Golden Eagles are nomadic once they become fully independent from their parents, and refine their hunting skills through trial and error, typically depending heavily on carrion in their first year of life, and stealing food from other carrion eaters.

On 5th November, 175 truly began to disperse from the Alladale reserve as he headed south. He spent several days in the remote mountain ranges of the Highlands before heading further south into Argyl and then arriving in the Trossachs National Park on 3rd December, where he spent two weeks, often favouring particular hillsides for days at a time.



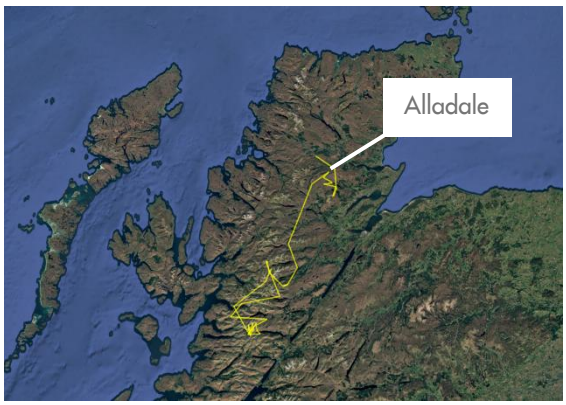
Above: the movements of Golden Eagle 175 in Scotland October – February 2025

By the end of December, 175 flew north again, returning to the west coast of the Scottish mainland just south of Skye. He spent almost a month favouring a cliffside here before exploring the east coast of Skye and, in mid-February, settling again in the mountain ranges of the Highlands that he visited on his first major southerly flight in November 2024.

The coldest part of winter is a challenging time for juvenile Golden Eagles.175 was likely saving energy by loafing in comfortable areas between foraging attempts amidst the coldest months of the year, when food is scarcest.

Spring 2025

Setting off from the mountain ranges in the western Highlands, 175 meandered north, and returned to the vicinity of the Alladale reserve on 12th March 2025. He then spent three days in the area, visiting crags and hillsides within a kilometre of his original eyrie, and visited Loch Glass and Loch Morie before moving on northwest.



Above: Satellite tracks for 175: 1st March 2025 – 16th March 2025



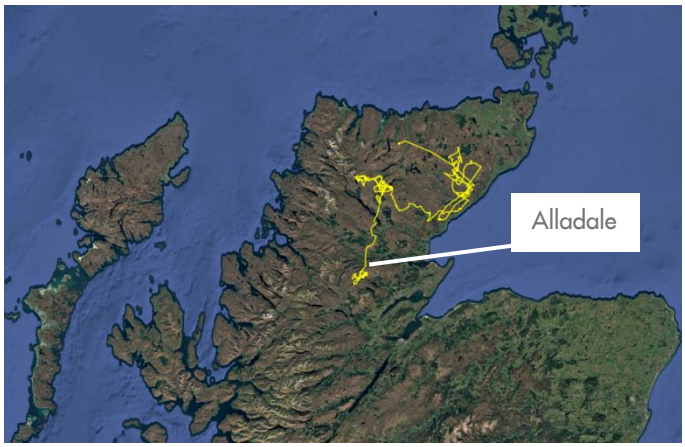
Above: Satellite tracks for 175: 16th March 2025 – 18th March 2025

Previous satellite tracking studies for Golden Eagles have shown that whilst some juveniles will periodically visit their parents' territory during their wandering phase, others disperse much further afield and sometimes never return. Typically, females are more likely to disperse further than males. But if 175 was to venture too close to his natal eyrie in the spring of 2025, he would likely have been chased out by his parents as they enter a new breeding cycle and would defend their eyrie from all other Golden Eagles, including their previous offspring.

After leaving Alladale, 175 arrived in the Northern Highlands, as he flew up from Ullapool to the mountains in Northwest Sutherland, before heading west again and settling for two days on a hillside, likely foraging, loafing and regaining energy before continuing his venture.

On 19th March, he arrived on the East coast, where he spent a week inland between Helmsdale and Dunbeath, before slowly making his way back to the northern highlands, often stopping for a day on selected hillsides or crags. At the end of March, he returned to the Alladale reserve again.

In April 2025, 175 undertook a huge 652km journey from Alladale to the highest point of the Northern Highlands, east to the coast and then back to the reserve.



Above: Satellite tracks for 175: 18th March 2025 – 31st March 2025

652km around Northern Scotland

175 set off from the vicinity of the Alladale Wilderness reserve on 5th April 2025 at 13:02, leaving at an altitude of 631 metres above sea level. He crossed Glenbeag at 13:42, and began to build altitude off the surrounding hillsides, climbing to 797 metres within the hour. He headed west then crossed Loch Achall and began to head north at 14:47. He dropped altitude flying over Knockan Crag and continued on his trajectory. Once reaching the west coast inland from Lochinver, 175 gained height again to just shy of 900 metres whilst making a steady flight north, crossing Loch Assynt at 17:42. He reached the northernmost mountain ranges of the mainland highlands by 18:27 on 5th April and roosts for the night on one of the southern facing hillsides.



Above: 175 heads north on the 5th of April 2025

The following day, 175 remains on the southerly hillsides of the mountain range until setting off out of the area at 10:49, heading north, following the River Dionard and flying over Lairg flying at 718 metres at 11:59. At 13:14 he passes the head of the River Dionard estuary, dropping to 386 metres but flying persistently northwest, until reaching the coast just below Cape Wrath at 13:59.

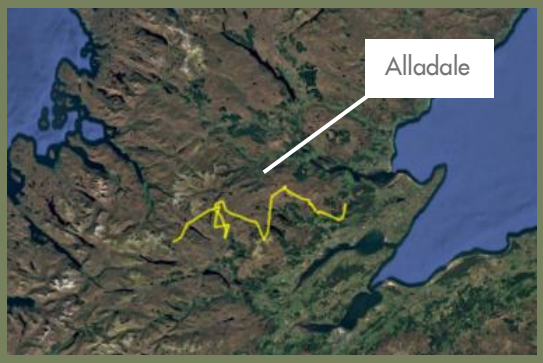


Above: 175 continues north to the coast, before returning south to roost at Loch Fiag, 6th – 7th of April 2025.

Flying south again, 175 returns to the mountain ranges where he spent the previous night, arriving at 16:34, but this time crossing through quickly to arrive further south at Loch Fiag, just north of Loch Shin. He roosted the night, and spent the following day here, before heading south again on 8th April, setting off shortly after midday. He crossed Loch Shin at 14:06 and spent the remainder of the day and night there before crossing back over the loch the following day at 12:24. By 13:09 he was passing Loch Choire at 700 metres altitude and pursued north, following the River Naver until crossing south of Archagary at 14:34. He then headed east, crossing Halladale River at Archiemore by 15:09 before turning south, passing Forsinard, then Kinbrace before arriving on the hillsides nearby Kildonan to roost, totalling 131.4km travelled on 9th April.



Above: A venture to the Noth east, 8th – 10th April 2025.



Above: 175 passes by Alladale again on the 11th of April 2025.

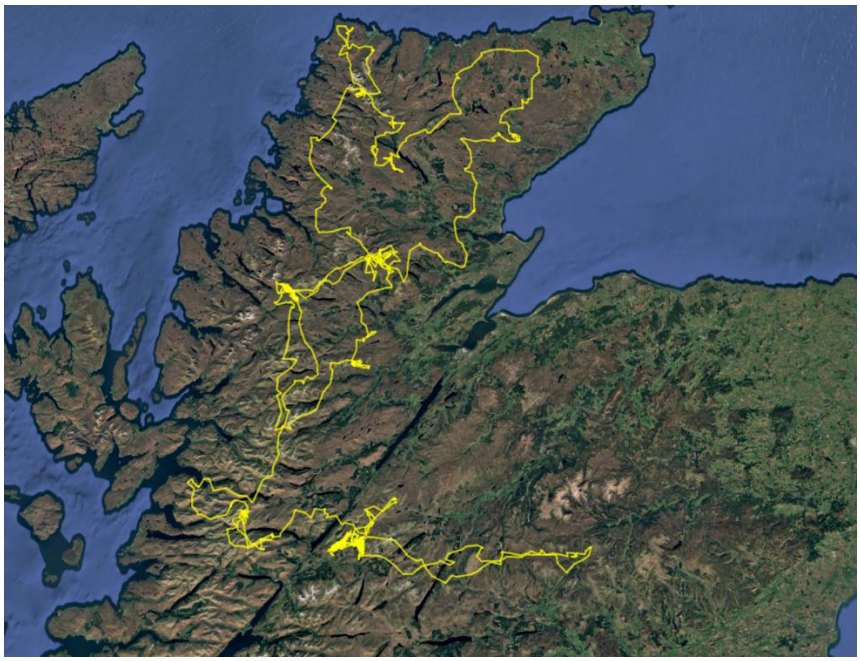
He set off west on the 10th April at 11:42, travelling 19km at 1162 metres altitude (over 500m above the height of the hillsides below), before stopping on land for 30 minutes. After that, he changed his trajectory to south, crossing the River Brora at 14:17. He now gained high altitude, enabling a rapid journey southward, crossing Pittentrail and the river Fleet at 1229 metres elevation at 14:32. (We think these high-altitude flights by juveniles may be to avoid attacks from the

resident breeding adults). He arrived at Loch Laoigh at 14:42, where he then spent much of the afternoon.

He crossed the Dornoch Firth at 19:24 and decided to roost on the edge of the Rhanich plantation for the night. By 10:42 on 11th April, 175 resumed his journey, flying south to Ardross before heading east again, crossing Loch Glass at 15:27 and returning to the crags south of the Alladale reserve by 16:02.

175 then travelled west again and spent 2—3 days in the Western Highlands before heading southeast, where he spent periods of several days in the Glen Roy National Nature Reserve, and even ventured into the Cairngorms National Park.

Below: the movements of Golden Eagle 175 throughout all of April 2025



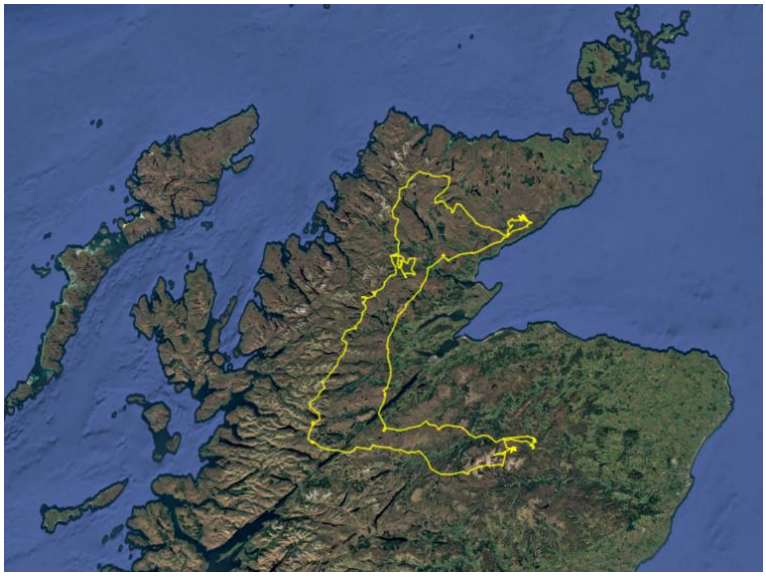
In May, 175 travelled from Glen Roy back to the Cairngorms, arriving northeast of the major peaks on the 5th of May. This is then where he stayed for the remainder of the spring and into the summer, making only short occasional ventures outside of this area.



Photo by Mike Crutch

Summer 2025

Whilst often highly nomadic in the Spring, juvenile Golden Eagles typically settle into smaller summer ranges, and 175 wasn't an exception to this in 2025. He stayed in the uplands of the northeast Cairngorms for much of June and July, making a single visit out of the area into southern Moray, and flying once out over the foothills of Ben Macdui. Providing plentiful prey in the form of Mountain Hare, Red Grouse, fox cubs and carrion including Red Deer and other birds, the Cairngorms region is an ideal landscape for a summering young Golden Eagle.



Above: The movements of 175 in August 2025.

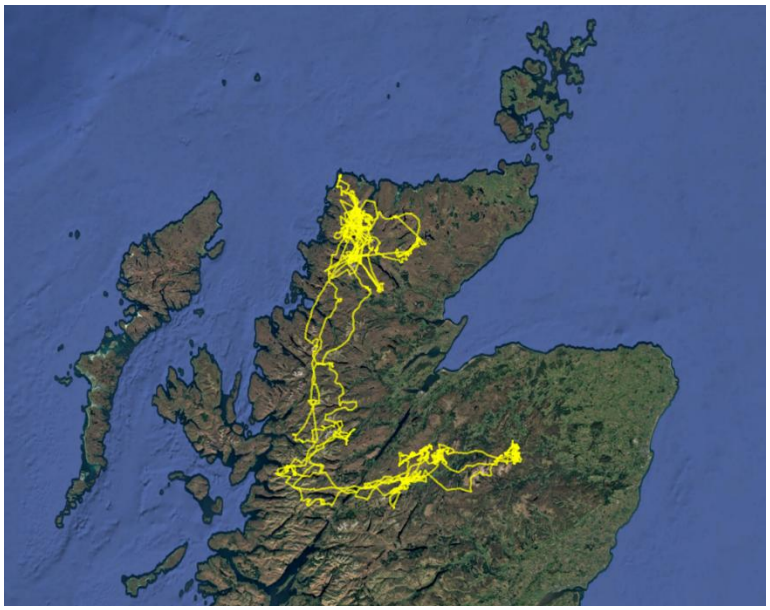
However, by late August, 175 took a 12-day 823km exploration throughout northern Scotland before returning to his preferred summer range in the Cairngorms. During his travels he followed a similar flight path to previous journeys, travelling northwards via the

western Highlands, and south via the eastern side of the Scottish mainland. He also returned to the Alladale reserve again, spending a day in the vicinity on 15th August.

Autumn 2025

By early September, 175 once again left the Cairngorms, travelling to the western Highlands before ranging up to the mountains in Northwest Sutherland. He returned south again after four days, this time selecting a flight path from one mountain range to the next until he reached the central highlands, and then back to the northeastern uplands within the Cairngorms. Golden Eagles can save energy by utilising the predictable air currents created as a result of steep slopes forcing wind upward, which is likely how 175 made his return journey south.

He spent several days in the central Highlands, before heading west again. In just 2 days, 175 travelled back to the same mountain ranges in the north, where he spent the following six weeks up until the end of November.



Left: The movements of 175 from September to November 2025. He left the Cairngorms twice to visit the Northern Highlands and spent much of the latter half of the Autumn in those mountain ranges.

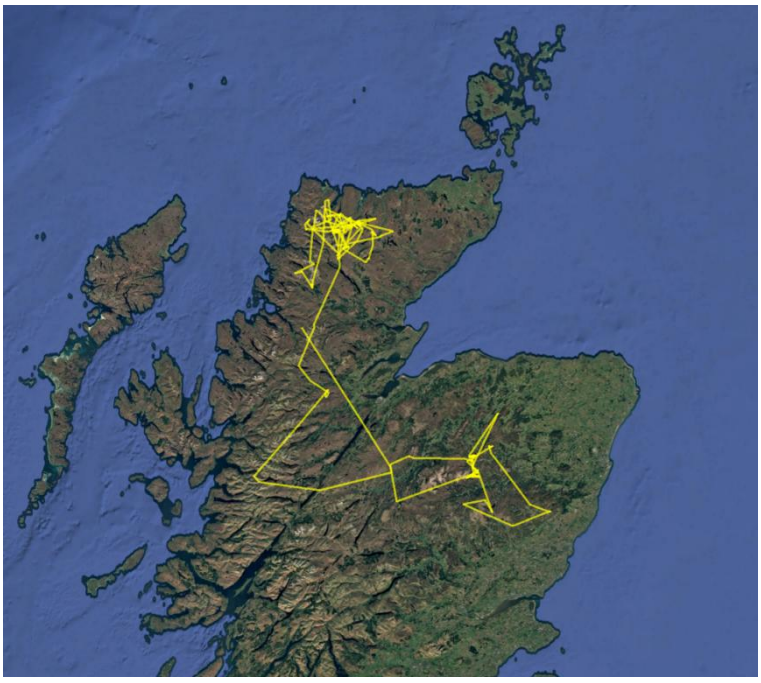


Photo by Mike Crutch

Winter 2025—26

Juvenile Golden Eagles are nomadic until they establish their own breeding territories, typically aged 4-6. The satellite data from 175 is now giving an indication of his preferred ranges, both in the Northern Highlands and the Cairngorms, and how he is moving between them, interspersed with ventures to new areas. This exploratory behaviour is normal for vagrant juveniles, and movements can be triggered by changes in food availability, weather conditions, hunting competition and the presence of other Eagles, amongst other factors. In many ways, they are learning their way round the Highlands, finding the best places, where the eyries are and any vacant nesting locations.

175 stayed in the northern mountain ranges up until early February, when he made a quick 2-day journey down the western Highlands and back across to his familiar haunts of the uplands in the north-easterly



Above: winter movements between his preferred ranges in the Cairngorms and Northern Highlands.

section of the Cairngorms National Park.

After a two-week stop here, in mid-February, he flew down to the southeasterly border of the National Park. He spent a day on the edge of the uplands before heading west, flying over Braemar, back to his familiar range over the peaks. On 28th February he took off on a long flight north, heading toward Ullapool.

Spring 2026

Long exploratory flights for young Golden Eagles often coincide with Spring. Warmer temperatures bring better thermals and soaring conditions, encouraging Eagles to gain high altitudes and cover distances quickly and easily. Mature, resident breeding pairs of Golden Eagles also become increasingly territorial as they enter a new breeding cycle and will drive any travelling juveniles out of the vicinity of their eyries. Amongst all this, the food availability and ideal prey also change. For the Golden Eagles with a year of experience, their focus may shift slightly from carrion toward live prey in the spring. These factors can contribute to major spring movements for juvenile Golden Eagles and will also help sub-adults locate or even establish potential breeding territories of their own for the future.

175 continued his journey, passing Ullapool and returning to the Sunderland mountain ranges by early March. He headed east next and settled for a few days in a favoured glen on the coast below Dunbeath. He then travelled to the north coastline, down to Loch Choire and back across to the east coast again. Returning to his preferred range in the Northern Highlands, he stopped again by Loch Choire and the hillsides east of Ben Hope. On 18th March, he began a long southerly journey across the Highlands back to the peaks of the Cairngorms, arriving on 20th March.

For the remainder of March, 175 stayed within the Cairngorms, moving between favoured hillsides, crags or peaks, where he spent several days at a time.

In April, 175 spent the early part of the month ranging in and around the Cairngorms National Park, including a short venture into Strathspey. On 4th April he set off on a 299km journey back to the mountain ranges east of Ben Hope.

299km from the Cairngorms National Park to the Northern Highlands

175 began his journey from Strathspey in the Cairngorms, just south of Feshiebridge, at 13:04 on 6th April 2026. He headed west, travelling at an altitude of 980 metres above sea level, crossing Newtonmore at 13:24. He dropped in altitude as he flew across the mountains, and reached the hillsides on the shore of Loch Ness at 14:14, where he then climbed to gain height again, reaching 824 metres altitude from 490 metres in 14 minutes. He continued west, crossing the River Moriston at 14:39 and reaching the West Highlands by 16:14. He passed Cairn Eighe at 16:39, travelling steadily above 900 metres altitude and now changing his trajectory north. He passed Balnacra at 17:19, now at 1064 metres altitude, and continued north past Torridon to the crags beyond Beinn Eighe, where he spent an hour before flying north again. He crossed Loch Maree at 18:44, and continued for almost another two hours, before arriving at 20:24 on the shore of Archmore, west of Ullapool, where he roosted and spent the night.



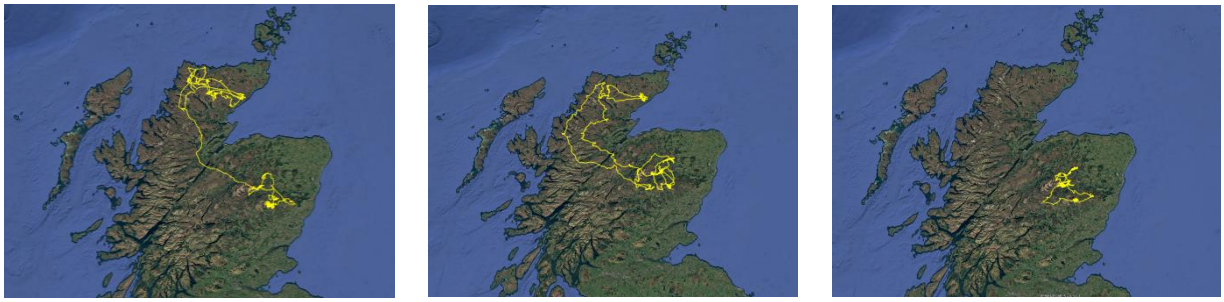
Above: travelling from the Cairngorms National Park to the Western isles, 6th April 2026.

175 set off at 10: 54 on 7th April, leaving the hillside at 158 metres of altitude, and using the crags on the opposing side of Loch Broom to quickly climb to 630 metres. He flew north along the west coast, crossing Loch Assynt at 11:54, climbing up to 923 metres elevation over the Quinag munros. He crossed Loch Gleann Dubh at 12:44 and pursued north rapidly, reaching the Northwest Sutherland mountain ranges just 15 minutes later. He flew through the mountains, reaching the north coast by 13:44.



Above: continuing north through the mountain ranges in Northwest Sutherland

From the north coastline, 175 then travelled east again to the coastal hillsides he favoured last winter, before a long journey back to the Cairngorms National Park once more. The whole round trip from the Cairngorms and back again totalled 591km. The remainder of the spring was spent ranging over the Cairngorms, with frequent stops just south of Loch Muick and the most easterly borders of the uplands in the National Park.



Above: maps displaying the movements of 175 in March 2026, April 2026 and May 2026 (left to right).

Summer 2026

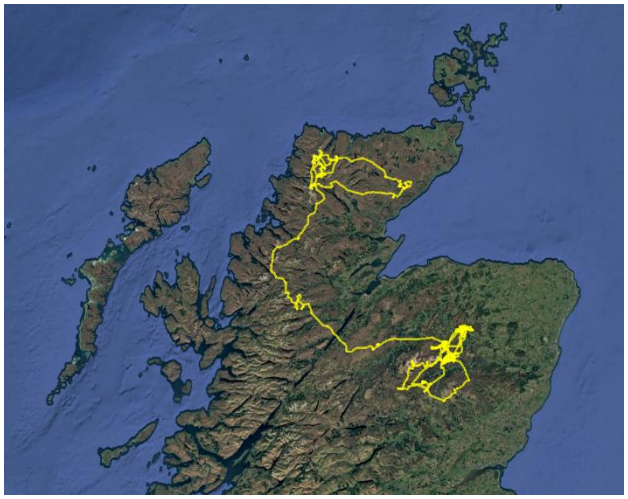
Similar to last year, 175 summered in the Cairngorms before heading northwards in August.

In June, 175 spent much of his time remaining fairly sedentary in his favourite haunts, largely over the northeastern edge of the uplands between Tomintoul and Strathdon. In late June he also spent a short spell just north of Balmoral, and then on the hills overlooking Glenn Avon.

In July, he favoured the hillsides north of the River Dee, north of the Balmoral Estate, where he spent four days early in the month, before following the Dee upstream to the Mar Lodge Estate where he spent another week. He then returned to the hills north of Balmoral to spend a further 15 days in the same area.

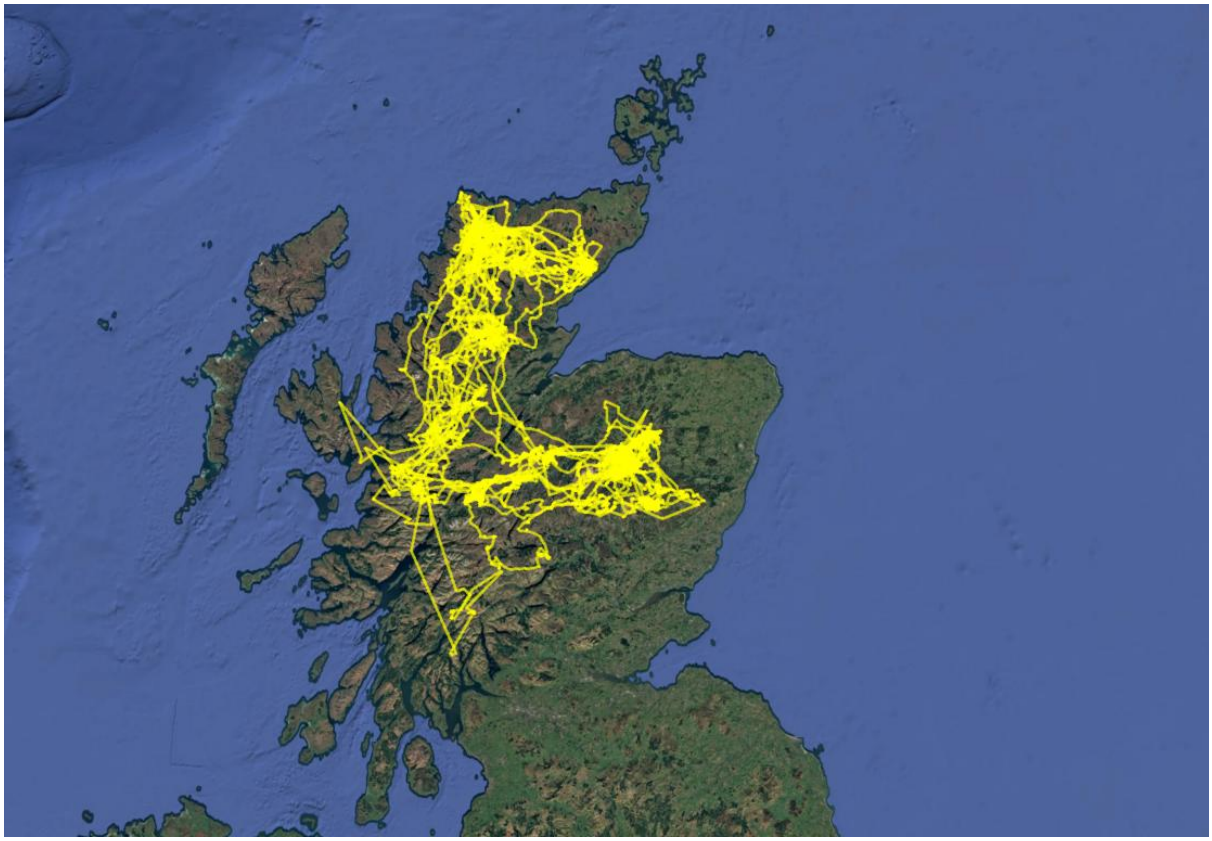
In early August, 175 moved through the Cairngorms mountain ranges to settle in the uplands just south of Tomintoul for 12 days, before embarking on another major flight out of the National Park on 19th August. He headed west, stopping for a day on the hills north of Kingussie, crossing Loch Ness and then travelling north through the Western

Highlands to reach the familiar Sutherland mountain ranges, where he had spent much of the autumn and winter of last year. After arriving there, he also travelled east, following a similar flight path to his previous ventures to the east coast and settling for a few days on the same hillsides he frequented before, just west of Helmsdale. He then returned to Sutherland, where he spent the remainder of the summer.



Above: the movements of 175 throughout Summer 2026

Below: 175s movements from the point of fledging the eyrie in 2024, up until the end of August 2026





The future of Golden Eagles at Alladale Wilderness Reserve

175 is likely to continue to wander for 2—3 more years before establishing a home-range of his own or pairing with a female which has lost its mate. But as he continues to explore and develop into a mature adult, the eyrie he fledged from in 2024 remains a successful site. Alladale is now home to three pairs, with a new successful eyrie rearing an eaglet in 2026, which is also being satellite tracked. Two new pairs at Alladale Wilderness Reserve are helping to boost the population and supporting Golden Eagles in Scotland to recover their former range.

A special thanks to Innes MacNeill, the Alladale Wilderness Reserve Manager, for his ongoing protection of Golden Eagle eyries on the reserve; to Norman Strachan, for monitoring the behaviour of the Eagles throughout the breeding season and for kindly donating his photographs for use in this report; and to Paul Lister, for his commitment to wildlife and ongoing support for the nature restoration work carried out by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation.





Image: John Wright

About The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation

The Foundation was established by Roy Dennis OBE in June 1995 and has since undertaken innovative species restoration work, been at the forefront of bird migration research using satellite telemetry, and become a leading advocate for the restoration of natural ecosystems.



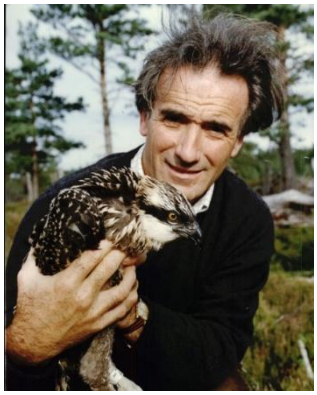
The Foundation is a non-membership charitable trust dedicated to wildlife, with a special emphasis on species recovery projects and the restoration of natural ecosystems. The small expert team of four ornithologists are recognised leaders at home and abroad. Our main projects are funded by wealthy individuals, majoring on key species, as well donations from many supporters, often by Paypal, – see our website www.roydennis.org. For larger funding involvement in our wildlife projects, please email Roy at roydennis@aol.com.

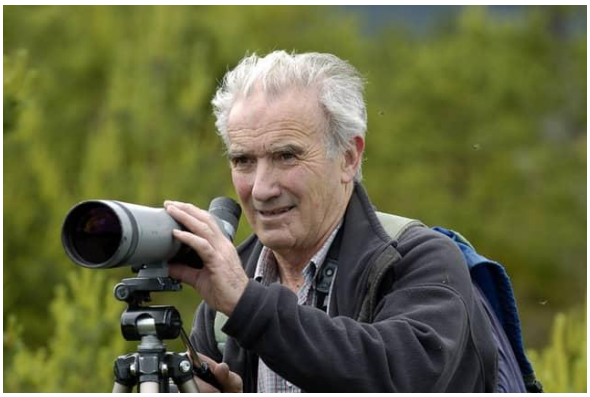
Recent successful projects include the restoration of White-tailed Eagle to southern England via translocation from Scotland, which in 2023 resulted in the first successful breeding in Southern England for over 240 years; and the population restoration of

Ospreys in England, boosted by successful translocation projects to Rutland Water (which also resulted in the recolonisation in Wales) and Poole Harbour in Dorset.

Roy Dennis OBE DSc is an internationally recognised field ornithologist who has worked as an ecologist and wildlife consultant since 1959. Throughout his life he has worked on the restoration and protection of rare birds, most notably White-tailed Eagle, Osprey and Red Kite. Roy is still President of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust after multiple roles dating back to 1959. He is a specialist in raptor species recovery projects in the UK and abroad, and his satellite tracking research broke new ground in the 1990s. He is also a writer, broadcaster and lecturer, featuring on BBC Autumnwatch and Springwatch. He received an MBE for services to nature conservation in Scotland in 1992, was voted the winner of the RSPB Golden Eagle Award in 2004 and received an OBE in 2024 for his lifetime services to wildlife and the reintroduction of lost species. In 2025, he received Honorary Doctorates of Science from Aberdeen and Abertay Universities.









Dr Tim Mackrill – Conservation Director & Ornithologist

Dr Tim Mackrill leads the Foundation's work in England, including the White-tailed Eagle reintroduction. He joined the Foundation in 2017 from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust where he managed the Rutland Osprey Project, as well as other initiatives, including a successful water vole reintroduction. He completed a PhD on Osprey migration at the University of Leicester and is author of The Rutland Water Ospreys and RSPB Spotlight Ospreys.

MEET THE TEAM



Zoe Smith – ornithologist

Zoe Smith joined the Foundation in 2021 with a decade of raptor fieldwork experience, in UK and worldwide, and now manages the Exmoor White-tailed Eagle reintroduction project in Exmoor National Park.



Naomi Johns – ornithologist

Naomi Johns joined the Foundation in 2025 and now manages projects in Southern England including the ongoing work to restore breeding Ospreys to their former range, and a proposal to restore Montagu's Harriers.



Photo by Norman Strachan

Roy Dennis
Wildlife Foundation

Working for wildlife

www.roydennis.org