

Monitoring of the colony renewed each year, using the same methodology, shows steady growth of the colony since its installation in 1939. In 2011, the breeding population is estimated at 22,395 pairs. Gannets arrived on average of their site of wintering on January 26th and laid on April 19th.

In 2011, various tags were again placed on the reproductive individuals, to a lesser extent to limit the pressure on the colony, given the importance of the data collected the previous year.

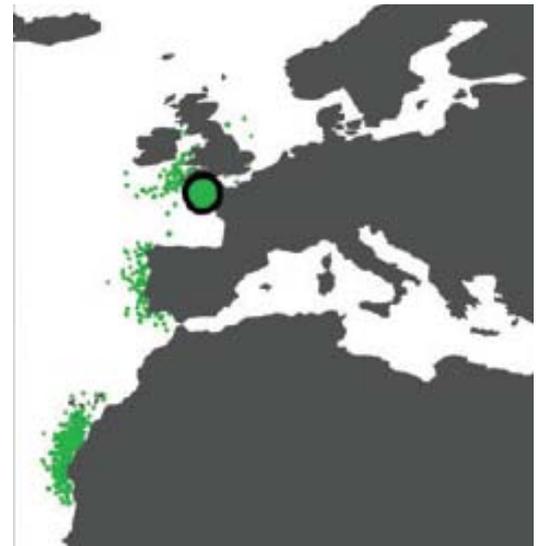
Of 22 GPS and TDR tags deployed on breeding birds, 21 datasets were returned, adding up 24 trips of a period between 5 and 45 hours, for an average distance of 445 km. Those data confirm the 2010 results on foraging trips, showing an exploitation of western English Channel with some researches along the French coasts (average distance from the colony = 116 km). The trips are very directional, and axes are chosen right from the start. The characteristics of those movements (distance, duration ...) and dives are currently being analyzed.

20 new GPS will be install on Gannets at the end of June 2012.

On the other hand, first results on the wintering areas of Northern Gannets are now available. The data extracted from the GLS recovered in 2011 were analyzed. On 33 tags, 9 had been deployed in 2008, and contained data of the dispersal of Gannets probably over three consecutive winters (2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011). This allows to highlight a great fidelity to wintering sites, as it has been shown to feeding areas. So, harvest data on a single wintering period should be sufficient to know the destination of individuals.

The map below indicates the position of some breeding Gannets in Sept-Iles, on their wintering areas in December (from England to Mauritania). Other studies showed that some birds winter to Italy and Turkey.

At the same time, the first results of the diet show that Gannets which are present on the Rouzic Island fed mainly of garfishes.



Positions of Northern Gannets in the colony of Sept-Iles in December •  
FORT *et al.* 2012. Meta-population evidence of oriented chain migration in Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*). *Front Ecol Environ* 2012.