



News

Christiane Howey Award

Chris had a generous nature. In the 21 years she was at the helm of this company, she found many opportunities to help people. Chris always believed that it was important to “give back” and she did so, in both her personal and professional life. In addition to granting many educational awards for transmitters over the years, Chris quietly found ways to help young researchers and start-up programs. To honor Chris, and to carry on in her spirit of generosity, we are proud to announce an annual award in Chris’s name: the Christiane Howey Award.

This award is intended to provide researchers who are starting out their careers with the means to get their projects off the ground. It will provide the recipient with five transmitters of his/her choice. Proposals for the 2014 award will be accepted before November 1, 2013 and reviewed prior to the publication of the Winter 2013 issue of Tracker News. The award recipient will be notified in late December to schedule a production slot. Proposals will be judged by an internal committee. Applicants are encouraged to include an educational component in their research but this is not required.

2013 MTI Photo Contest

This year, we will be holding another photo contest. First prize is a free transmitter. Second prize is a free refurbishment of a transmitter. All photo entries must depict animals tagged with MTI transmitters in the animal’s natural environment. We will have two contests, one for marine transmitters and one for avian transmitters.

Groups or organizations, as well as individuals are eligible to enter. Be sure to include the photographer’s name and affiliation. Please send all entries in high resolution digital format to: lhowey@microwavetelemetry.com.

GSM Telemetry, a Quantum Leap

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What is the advantage of the GSM transmitter?

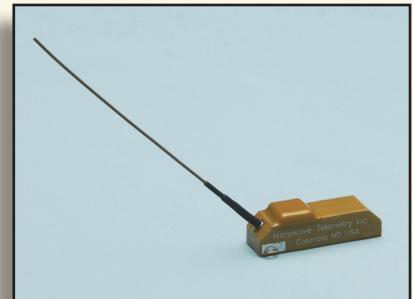
With the new GSM transmitters, basic questions about migration, which could not previously be clarified, can now be answered. Whether, when and where the bird feeds on migration are questions that until now have remained open for most species. Due to the large number of fixes at very short intervals, as well as data on flight speed and height, it can be determined whether the bird is migrating or if it has temporarily broken off its migration flight to forage for food. In addition, the flight height throughout the complete migration phase can be established for the first time. The previous transmitters only enabled heights of up to some 2,050 m ASL to be registered. For instance on 28 September in Turkey, Panni flew three times at heights of over 3,000 m ASL. The migration routes are of course recorded much more precisely than previously, which can be important to establish whether the birds are threatened by existing or planned wind farms on migration. Finally, the home ranges in the breeding area can be recorded much more accurately.

Put “Photo Contest” in the subject line. Please submit your entries no later than October 1, 2013.

Photographs will be judged anonymously, and all winners will be announced and featured in our winter newsletter. Photos previously used in our publications are ineligible. All contestants submitting entries grant permission for the future publication of their photos by Microwave Telemetry, Inc.; appropriate photo credit will be given. Multiple entries are permitted.

Retirement Party

Since Microwave Telemetry’s inception in 1991, we have been busy developing tracking devices utilizing the latest in technology to meet the needs of researchers and their study species. Our product line includes 24 unique models of avian PTTs, GSM transmitters, and archival pop-up tags. We continue to expand programming options, to better address the varied requirements of tracking studies. At the same time we have retained many of our older, time-proven models. Although it is a lesser-used model now, we still manufacture our first model of transmitter: the 95g battery powered PTT-100. Also, we are happy to refurbish recovered transmitters as time and their condition allows (see page 8). Unfortunately, due to lack of demand and parts limitations, we are formally retiring the 40g LC4 which was introduced nine years ago. This battery powered GPS PTT was designed for birds that couldn’t be tracked with solar powered PTTs, due to habitat or preening behavior. It will have a permanent home in our museum collection!



40g LC4 Transmitter.



Comparison of the density of the GSM-GPS fixes (red) of Lesser Spotted Eagle 0024 (Panni), fitted with the GSM prototype transmitter and the female 52030 (Peggi), fitted on the same day with a conventional GPS Argos transmitter (yellow) during migration along the north-eastern Mediterranean.