

Tracker News

Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Technology – Friend or Foe?

Dear Customers and Friends,
 Throughout my lifetime I've been fortunate to witness some amazing technological advances. Many of these have enhanced humankind's quality of life and the understanding of our physical world. However, some of this technology, while making processes faster and more efficient, have lasting environmental impacts. We built dams for harnessing hydroelectric power not realizing or ignoring the effects on native fishes. We used insecticides to increase our crop production without understanding how bioaccumulation of these chemicals would affect higher trophic levels on the food chain. We deforested millions of hectares of diverse tropical forest to increase agricultural production not knowing its effect on Earth's atmosphere. We can only hope that future attempts to introduce new technologies will come with more environmental foresight.

Many researchers use our devices in an attempt to restore populations devastated by our past technological "breakthroughs." And, amazingly, for many species there is hope. Understanding migration patterns and habitat use can be a powerful tool. We are thankful for our customers' efforts to make conservation windfalls and proud that our products can help.

In this issue of Tracker News: Gilles Lacroix shares his findings from tracking Atlantic salmon, we learn from Sonja Krüger and Ian Rushworth how the foraging behavior of Bearded Vultures makes them vulnerable to wind-turbine strikes, Reese Pedler explains the movement behavior of Banded Stilts, and (last, but certainly not least) Roy Dennis updates us on Scottish Osprey equipped with GPS/GSM transmitters migrating through Europe on the way to Africa. Thank you all for your contributions!

Lastly, we've had a fun time here judging pictures submitted for our 2014 Photo Contest and also evaluating proposals for the 2014 Rising Scholar Award. I know that Chris would have really enjoyed seeing all these. Thanks for the submissions. If you didn't win this time, don't despair; there will be other opportunities in the future.

Wherever the New Year takes you, safe travels.

Sincerely,
 Paul and the Team at MTI



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