

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Towards the Holy Grail...

Dear Customers and Friends,

A customer once asked me what has kept our company and me going over the years through recessions, setbacks and the interminable wait for new electronic components that would allow us to miniaturize our transmitters further. In my haste, I told him that I wanted to do the impossible: make a satellite transmitter that weighs nothing and lasts forever. I just hope that nobody holds me to it!

Seriously though, I look back with satisfaction at the progress we have made over the 19 years we have been in business. Two years ago, as I held the prototype of our 5g solar transmitter in my hands, I could not help but think that we have come a long way from our original 95g battery powered transmitter. After all, out of the approximately 10,000 species of birds, only about one third of them are heavy enough to be tracked using a transmitter weighing more than 5g. As you can see, there is much work left to be done.

We are delighted to feature four stories where our smallest packages have played a crucial role in providing information on several species, namely the Hobby and Amur Falcons, the Burrowing Owl, Kittlitz's Murrelets and tiny sea turtles. We wish to thank all of the authors: Bernd and Christiane Meyburg, Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry, John Piatt, Erica Madison, Mayumi Arimitsu, David Douglas and Michelle Kissling, and last but not least, Kate Mansfield and Jeanette Wyneken, respectively. In addition, thank you Sean Williams and Edd Brooks for your article on the unexplored deep water shark species that were tagged with our X-Tags.

2011 will mark our 20th anniversary. This journey would not have been possible without you, our customers and friends. So, please stay tuned for the celebration we have planned. A few details are included in this newsletter.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you over the years and look forward to many more years together. We wish you much happiness, health and joy in 2011.

Sincerely,
Paul and the staff at MTI



Photo by Gerry Sanger



Photo by J. Abernethy



Photo by Bernd Meyburg



Photo by Gordon Court

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Above from the top:
Kittlitz's Murrelet
Juvenile sea turtle
Adult male Amur Falcon
Burrowing Owls