

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Back to the Future

Dear Customers and Friends,
 Our last newsletter looked back over the first 20 years of our company and highlighted many of the achievements and discoveries you, our customers, have made during those years. As we begin the next 20 years, our thoughts are "back to the future."

We live in interesting times; as guardians of our planet and everything that lives on it, we scientists have an enormous responsibility to guide the conservation of the many species we encounter. The devices that are produced here at MTI have helped track hundreds of highly migratory species over the last 20 years, revealing the critical habitats of many. These are often the starting points of important conservation efforts.

It has always been our goal to stretch the technology to its limit in order to make smaller and lighter devices, suitable for the study of smaller species. Just as we never imagined it possible 20 years ago to build a 5g PTT, where will advances take us 10 years from now? Presently, the 5g PTT allows birds down to about 150g to be tracked. This is only about 30% of the bird species alive today.

In 2012 we will introduce a smaller (17g) Argos/GPS backpack PTT for birds and a smaller pop-up fish tag, together with a range of GSM devices. As we introduce these new devices we are already working on still smaller, more advanced products for the future. As always, our goal is to help you, the scientists, conserve the life around us.

I would like to thank Chris Hewson for his article on the travels of five European Cuckoos from England to Africa. Frequent updates on their travels by the BBC have gained each bird an enthusiastic "fan club." Thank you also to Fletcher Smith for his fascinating article on tracking the migration of Whimbrels that revealed the hazards of migration are more than the great distances travelled.

John Rodenhausen put a lot of effort into taking one of our GSM units for a ride around the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thank you John, for sharing your story. I look forward to meeting many of you at our conference in March and to discussing your needs, your findings, and how we can help you. Until then, I wish you a happy holiday season and a successful 2012.

Sincerely,
 Paul and the Team at MTI



Photo by Phil Atkinson/BTO

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Above:
 Lyster the Cuckoo with a 5g PTT.