

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

A New Era in Satellite Telemetry: More Than Just Migration

Dear Customers and Friends,

New Yorkers watched with bated breath as Captain Sullenberger safely brought down his US Airways Airbus A320 into the Hudson River on a clear January afternoon. It was a miracle that all 155 passengers and crew on board survived. The video of this water landing, watched around the world, brought home the possible danger of an encounter between bird and jet aircraft. We thought that our readers would like to read about a current study on this very subject. We thank Brian Washburn for his article on his study of bird-strike risks of migrating and breeding Ospreys.

The last few years have seen the use of satellite telemetry in studies we never thought possible when we started in 1991; researchers then were just trying to find long range migration paths. We are delighted to spotlight in this newsletter various other ways that satellite telemetry is now being used: to study possible placement of wind farms, the day to day management of relocated California condors and last but not least, the fine scale habitat use of sage-grouse. We wish to thank Larry Griffin, Mike Wallace and Bryan Bedrosian, respectively, for their excellent articles.

At the recent MTI Bird & Fish Tracking Conference in March, Eric Hoffmayer's presentation included an interesting suggestion that two of his tagged silky sharks had been predated. We would like to thank him for sharing this with our readers. Our conference in March was deemed a success by all who attended. We thank all of the attendees, especially all presenters; the talks were very informative and interesting. Attendees were given a glimpse of the next generation of PTTs and fish tags as we introduced future products now in development. Abstracts of the presentations have now been posted on our website.

We thank our customers for the opportunity to work closely with them; it is a privilege that we appreciate. We hope to be part of their professional journey for many years to come. Have a safe and productive field season.

Sincerely,
Paul and the staff at MTI



Photo by Mike Wallace/San Diego Zoo

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Above:
Juvenile condor in flight with 50g Patagial
GPS transmitter.