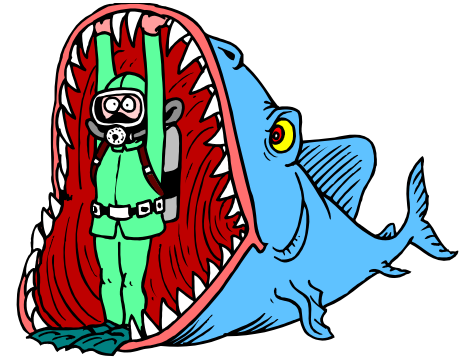


We need your help!

We have always viewed the development and production of our PTTs as a collaboration between ourselves and you, the field biologist, to produce transmitters that fill the specific requirements of your research. With each passing year, we are manufacturing more and more PTTs. As production increases, we cannot and will not sacrifice the quality you have come to rely upon.

As we continue to strive to improve customer service, we also juggle the demands of increased production. In a continued spirit of cooperation and collaboration, please help us with the following:

- Always fill out a two page form to initiate any work order. A completely filled out form gives us all the information we need to properly build your transmitters in a timely manner. It is your assurance that all information about your order is in our hands and in one place.
- If we are sending items to Sirtrack for you, give us plenty of notice. We need to build the extra time into our production schedule so that you receive your PTTs from Sirtrack on time.
- Please take the time to read the *Field Manual* included with each order. You will find the answers to most of your questions there.
- When you deploy your pop-up tags, be sure to arrange for all of the data to be sent to you *and* to us, so that we can process the data and send your reports. Should you opt to retrieve your data yourself, it is only available on the system for a period of ten days, after which it is archived. If you need to retrieve it later, you will be charged by Argos.
- Be sure that any IDs you give us are indeed active (i.e., not in backup mode) and are still in your program!
- Please don't wait until the last minute to ask for help with your Argos forms. Coding in the PTT IDs comes early in the production process and may cause us (and you) to lose valuable time.



Contact us at microwt@aol.com if you have any questions—we answer every e-mail. Our goal, as always, is to give every customer priority treatment and excellent service.

New Duty Cycles for Solar PTTs

We have changed the recommended duty cycle for all solar powered PTTs to 10 hours ON 24 hours OFF. Originally, the duty cycle was set for 10 hours ON and 21 hours OFF.

We recommend the new duty cycle because Service Argos gives a discount if the PTT transmits for no more than twenty-four hours in a three day period. Previously the discount was given for duty cycles of less than one third ON time.

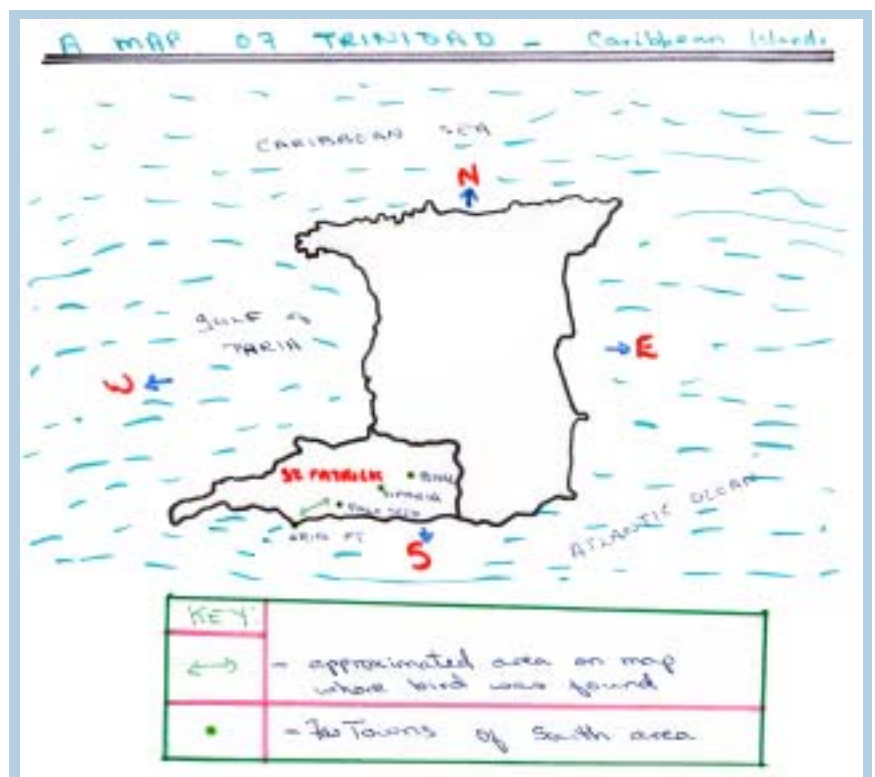
Additionally, the longer duty cycle allows more time for the battery to charge up. Please let us know if you require a different duty cycle.

Couple in Trinidad finds an unusual bird

Henri Weimerskirch
Centre d' études Biologiques de Chizé

In April 2002, we initiated a study of the foraging movements of magnificent frigatebirds off the coast of French Guiana. It was the first time that the life at sea of this enigmatic group of seabirds was investigated. We were able to track the movements of eight birds, incubating eggs or brooding chicks, during forty-two foraging trips. The frigatebirds foraged at maximum range 261 km from the breeding island.

During their post-breeding dispersal, birds moved quickly from the breeding island, and one of the PTTs stopped working at 1200km from the island along the coast of Trinidad. A few weeks later we were informed by Lauren at Microwave that a 20g solar PTT was found on a dead frigatebird by Mr. and Mrs. Balgobin living on the coast of Trinidad (just where the PTT stopped transmitting). Just from the address on the side of the PTT, the Balgobins wrote to Microwave and reported finding a strange bird in their garden. After an exchange of mail, Mr. Balgobin kindly sent the PTT back to us in France. The transmitter is working perfectly, and will be redeployed on the same species next March.



Map of Trinidad, hand drawn by Mr. Balgobin, indicating the location of the dead frigatebird