

Microwave Telemetry Book of Records

Over the last 20 years, we have had the pleasure to watch our customers track many creatures, small and large, ugly and cute, scary and beautiful. This issue would not be complete without looking back at some of the more memorable species tracked. Of course, this is meant lightheartedly and the monikers are given with affection.

Cutest Marine Creature

Is there any marine creature cuter than a baby turtle? We think not! Kate Mansfield and Jeanette Wyneken's neonate loggerhead sea turtles, tracked with 9.5g modified solar PTTs, win this category hands-down.



Photo by Jim Abernethy

Fan Favorite

Over the years, no story has generated more comments and inquiries from readers than that of Max, the White Stork tagged with a 35g solar PTT in Switzerland by Adrian Aebischer in 1999. Max has been tracked for years from her breeding site in Germany to her wintering sites in Africa.



Photo by Adrian Aebischer

Cutest Bird

The recent development of our 5g solar PTT has made it possible for Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry to track what we believe is the cutest bird ever to carry a PTT: the Burrowing Owl. It may be a killer, but it's so darn cute!



Photo by Gordon Court

Most Tracked Fish

The most tracked fish has been the bluefin tuna, no doubt due to its commercial value and overexploitation. Molly Lutcavage has been tracking these fish since 1997 in New England.



Photo by Nuno Fragoso

Largest Bird

The largest bird tracked with our PTTs is the Andean Condor, tagged in 1997 by the Andean Condor Conservation Project of Argentina. Since then, in a Binational Program of Conservation with Chile, more than 42 satellite transmitters have been deployed on condors in Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.



Photo by Herman Pepe

Largest Creature

Try this on for size: the largest creature tracked with one of our tags is the largest fish in the sea, the whale shark, a gentle giant which can reach up to 18 meters in length. This was tracked by Alex Antoniou then of SRI, in 2001.

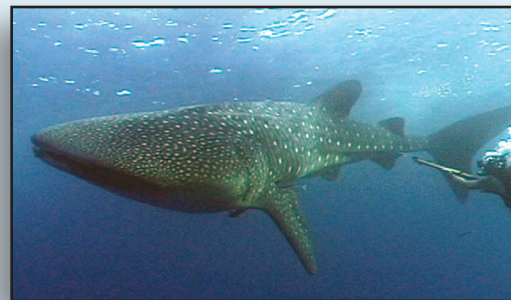


Photo by Alex Antoniou

Longest Migration

We get tired just thinking about this one! The longest nonstop trans-Pacific migration was tracked by Lee Tibbitts and Bob Gill, et al., of USGS Alaska. Their Bar-tailed Godwit flew 8 days, and an almost unbelievable 29,500 km, from Alaska to New Zealand in 2007.



Photo by Ted Svem

Smallest Bird

To date the smallest bird tracked by satellite is the Common Cuckoo, tracked with our 5g solar PTTs by Thomas Alerstam in 2010.



Photo by Raymond Klaassen

Rarest Bird

The rarest bird tracked with our PTTs has to be the California Condor, first tagged by Mike Wallace at the Hopper Mountain Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) in southern California. In the early 1980s it was determined that there were only about 22 of these birds left in the wild which led to the decision to capture the birds and begin a captive breeding program. Satellite tagged birds were reintroduced to the wild beginning in 1998.

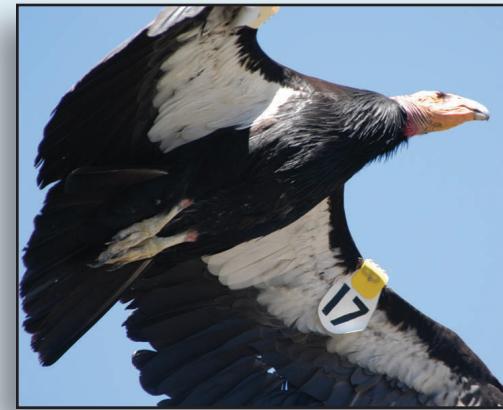


Photo by Mike Wallace

Most Tracked Bird

Most tracked bird is the Houbara Bustard, which has been tracked by the National Avian Research Center in Abu Dhabi since the mid-1990s, and was featured in a special article in 15th anniversary newsletter in Spring 2006.



Photo by Xavier Etchaker

Smallest Fish

The smallest fish tracked to date was a spiny dogfish with a fork length of 62cm tagged on August 13, 2010 by James Sulikowski and Amy Carlson in the Gulf of Maine. The man loves his work!



Photo by Angela Cicia

Ugliest Fish

This one has a face only a mother can love! Our pick for ugliest fish is the wolfish, though we must admit the choice is not unanimous. Kohl Kanwit and Tim Bennett who have tracked this beast consider it a beauty—they suggested it may be the "awesomest" fish tracked!



Photo by Trisha De Graaf

Longest Tracked

Already a prize winner in this category from our winter 2005 newsletter, a Greater Spotted Eagle tagged by Bernd Meyburg in 1999 continues to report locations confirming its migratory routes.



Photo by Dariusz Kowalczyk

Weirdest Fish

This was an easy pick! The weirdest fish tracked with our Archival Pop-up Tags has to be the *Mola mola* (or ocean sunfish) which looks like a giant head. Inga Potter tracked this unusual fish off the coast of New England in 2005 and 2006.



Photo by Josh Eldridge

Scariest Creature

Definitely the stuff of childhood nightmares! Our pick for scariest creature tagged is the Echizen Jellyfish, one of the largest medusa in the world. Dr. Naoto Honda tagged this giant with Archival Pop-up Tags in 2004. Maybe this category should be bravest biologist!



Photo by Singso Kurthara