

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Taking Biotelemetry to New Horizons

Dear Customers and Friends,
 Sometimes one has to take a step back to see the whole picture. Our conference in March gave me, and I am sure some of you, a few moments to understand the scope of what we are all involved in. We now use a vast array of technology: satellites, internet, microcomputers and solar power to mention a few, all of which we take for granted but all must work flawlessly to help us in our quest to understand the lives and travels of the animals we study. Each of the 36 conference presentations took us beyond biotelemetry horizons we could not have imagined 20 years ago; some using our latest devices that may become the standard in future important conservation studies, just as our unique 5g PTT has become the catalyst for many groundbreaking studies of smaller birds over the last two years.

As always, I would like to thank the authors of the articles we present here, especially Libby Mojica and Brian Washburn for volunteering to deploy prototype GSM units within their studies. Their excellent articles give us a glimpse into the future, as GSM-based units become a viable alternative to PTTs for some studies.

Similarly, I would like to thank Ken Meyer for his excellent article. He shows yet again how adding GPS accuracy to an existing study opens up fine-scale understanding of habitat use.

Last but not least, thanks go to Dave Kerstetter for sharing the preliminary results of his team's swordfish study.

The students of the four projects we awarded free transmitters to last year have been busy. I would like to thank Maximiliano Galmes and his team for their report on their Crowned Eagle project and wish them well as they follow the eagle chicks. In due course, we will report on the other three school projects.

Thank you again to every one of you who attended our conference. I wish you a successful field season.

Sincerely,
 Paul and the MTI team



Photo by Rob Bennetts

A New Kind of "Tweet"
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Tracking Swallow-tailed
 and Snail Kites
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Tracking Bald Eagles with
 GSM/GPS Transmitters
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Tracking Swordfish
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Microwave Telemetry, Inc.
 8835 Columbia 100 Parkway
 Suites K & L
 Columbia, Maryland 21045
 USA

Phone 410.715.5292

Fax 410.715.5295

Email support@microwavetelemetry.com

www.microwavetelemetry.com

Above:
 Adult male Snail Kite extracting
 Apple Snail from shell