

Tracker News

Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Hedging Against Extinction – Populations and Migrations

Dear Customers and Friends,

Paul has been very busy lately (more so than normal). Lucy has been away teaching science in India, and Russell has been engulfed in a variety of interesting projects. As a result, I have been asked to write the letter for this edition of Tracker News. While reviewing the articles submitted for this issue, I noticed a recurring theme: many species tracked with our devices exhibit broad geographical distributions comprised of unique populations, with many of the wide-ranging species undergoing long-distance migrations. However, some species have evolved an alternative approach whereby all individuals are somewhat confined in a particular region during certain times of year. Both strategies appear to function; yet, the latter approach seems particularly vulnerable to extinction.

In this issue of our newsletter, we see clear examples of species having near-cosmopolitan distributions (and multiple populations) and species somewhat limited to a single geographic region during certain seasons. Dennis Jorgensen discusses migration of long-billed curlews, a species that has undergone a human-induced range reduction. Ben Koks and Raymond Klaassen reveal results from their work on Montagu's harriers, once again shifting a paradigm of a "known" migration pattern. Brett Falterman and Jennifer McKinney explain Gulf of Mexico yellowfin tuna movements and how they have adapted new tag attachment techniques. Using our GSM/GPS devices, Jesse Watson provides an update on his ferruginous hawk project. And, lastly, Szabolcs Solt, Péter Fehérvári and Péter Palatitz describe their work on migrations of Amur and red-footed falcons using 5g PTTs. To the authors: thanks very much for your submissions. It's clear that much effort was put forth in your studies.

As always, we are grateful for your patronage and truly enjoy working with you to help your projects succeed. We hope 2015 brings great joy in your work and personal lives.

Sincerely,
Lance and your Team at MTI



Photo by Dennis Linghor

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Above: Long-billed Curlew