

# ★ Happy Retirement, Cathy! ★

Cathy, with whom many of you are familiar, first joined our team back in 1993. She and Chris Howey met while volunteering at their children's school. At the time, Microwave Telemetry was still in its early years (the company was founded in 1991) and had only a few staff members. Eventually, Chris asked her if she'd like to have lunch and suggested Cathy work part-time in our office. Cathy agreed to give it a try and see if it worked out.

Needless to say, it worked out. For many years, she helped Chris with a variety of administrative tasks and eventually became our main customer contact representative. She has helped keep us connected and on track (no pun intended), and after 26 years of heartfelt dedication, we would all like to say THANK YOU!

Cathy, we are forever grateful for the hard work you have contributed to Microwave Telemetry, the relationships you have fostered with so many of our fellow researchers, and the compassion which you have shown each of us as we've worked side-by-side. We will miss seeing you each day, but are excited for your retirement adventures to begin!



A dynamic duo – Cathy (right) and Tracy



As Cathy heads off to enjoy her retirement, we would like to introduce **Tracy** as our new main customer contact representative. Her vibrant personality has already brought so much joy to our office and we're sure you'll enjoy working with her as well!



*If you would like to extend your own good wishes to Cathy, email or mail them to our office and we will make sure she receives them.*

## Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *continued from page 2*

the threat of illegal mist netting at sites in southern China with local conservationists informing Chinese authorities who removed the nets – direct and immediate on-the-ground action. Sites on the Yellow Sea coast of China have recently been designated as World Heritage Sites, including the most important staging site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper – Tiaozini in Jiangsu Province – which was included after tagging data had confirmed its importance.

To date, our star bird has been Lime 07. After leading us to the new moulting site in North Korea, we expected his tag to fall off. However, he continued south leaving North Korea on 17 October 2018 for a non-stop 51 hour 2,400km flight to the south coast of Guangdong Province,



Screenshot from Argos website of Lime 07's 9,000km migration from the far north of arctic Russia to the tropical heat of northern Sumatra.

China, where he settled on 19 October at a previously unknown staging/wintering site on the west coast of the Leizhou Peninsula. In the evening (local time) of 28 October, after 9 days in southern China, Lime 07 set off once again. We expected him to head to Bangladesh where he had spent the previous winter, but when his next fix eventually came in 19 hours later he was off the coast of Cambodia! He had continued on his south-westerly bearing and was still flying. And on he flew, eventually making landfall in northern Sumatra on the morning (local time) of 30 October after a non-stop 49 hour flight of 2,300km – almost the same distance in the same length of time (and thus at the same speed – 47km/h) as the previous leg of his migration. After a marathon 3½ month, 9,000km migration from the far north of arctic Russia to the tropical heat of northern Sumatra, he was subsequently located in the field, alive and well, by Chairunas Adha Putra (Nchay) – the first record of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Indonesia.

In autumn 2019, we fitted another four tags to Spoon-billed Sandpipers at Tiaozini to try to locate more of their missing staging and wintering sites. At the time of writing, we have lost contact with two birds – AH in China, and EH as it was nearing Bangladesh – two others continue to transmit from southern China and Vietnam. Their migration can be followed on our live map (updated every ten minutes):

<https://www.saving-spoon-billed-sandpiper.com/satellite-tracking/>